National Championship Umpire Evaluation Category Components

- LEADERSHIP
  - Arrival time
  - Mobility
  - Post-Game with UIC
  - Appearance
    - Positive presence with partners, coaches, and staff.
    - Body Language during regular play and during discussions with coaches
    - Looked professional in gear and uniform.
  - Game Management
    - How they handle difficult situations themselves and as a crew-mate
    - Knows when to step in and assist partners during special situations
    - Ability to listen
    - Defuses situations before they become issues.
    - Defuse, be calm and return to game action efficiently and under control
    - Communication with Coaches/Players/Partners and Scorekeepers during the game
    - Pregame with coaches
    - Discussions with partners
    - Manages line-up card / Makes changes to the line-up card efficiently and timely
    - Adjusts to unique situations
    - Do they demonstrate the ability to elevate the performance
  - Proper Rule Application

- Speed of movement meets the level of players
- Hustles between plays.
- Has proper equipment each game
- Reaction to intensity
- Good use of calling time to help pace of play
• **PLATE MECHANICS**

  - **GPA**
    - Heal/Toe
    - Middle of outside corner
  - **Slot**
    - Ear slightly inside the inside corner
    - Same both sides of the plate
    - Step out / step in
  - **Set Position**
    - Adjusting Height
    - Time to go set
    - Square to the plate with eyes on pitcher
    - Moving while set
    - Setting straight with slight tilt forward
    - Distance from Catcher
    - Position of hands
  - **Calling Pitches / Timing / Verbalizing Balls and Strikes**
    - Too quick on verbal
    - Too quick on signal
    - Verbal in down position
    - Signal in up position
    - Consistency of Strike Zone
    - Accuracy of Zone
    - Pitcher stepping on pitchers plate with stopping
    - Strike three call with eyes on play
  - **Tracking the ball**
    - With nose and slight head movement
    - From hand to glove or ground
    - Track every pitch
  - **Proper Signals**
    - Strike Signal with correct hammer
    - Third strike signal
    - Fair / Foul / Status when needed
    - Sell when needed
    - Infield Fly / Infield Fly Off
    - Hold up play
    - Illegal Pitch / Catcher Obstruction
    - Calling Time
    - Count
  - **Pace of Play**


- Calling time to when partners need to rotate
- Working with players to keep pace of play
- Hustling teams on and off the field
- Making changes on lineup card

**Check swings**
- How often
- Remove mask?
- Step out and ask

**Trailing the Batter-Runner**
- Left of the catcher
- Right Distance
- When
- Stopping

**Movement to 3B**
- From behind the plate
  - Left of Catcher
  - Proper distance on tag plays and force plays
- From the trail position
  - Timing of when to do so
  - Straight across to angle and distance
  - Proper distance on tag plays and force plays
- Angle and Distance at 3B
- 3 Umpire stay inside
- 2 Umpire holding zone and movement inside
- Hustle
- Stop see the play make the call

**Movement from behind the catcher**
- Read catcher on pop ups behind the plate
- Clearing the catcher after reading them
- Proper calling of fly balls when no one goes out.
- Correct angle and distance for plays at the plate Tag / Force
- Correct movement on pass balls
- Use of Holding Zone when needed

**Communication with partners**
- Calling out rotations
- Calling out umpire system
- Verbal and physical

**Removal of Mask**
- Correct hand
- When needed
• **BASE MECHANICS**

   **Starting Position**
   - Distance No Runners on / Walk the line
   - With Distance Runners on base
   - Off line at 3B
   - Proper Angle at 2B when rotated in a 3 Umpire system
   - Proper position when counter rotated in 3Umpire or 2 Umpire system
   - Always square to the plate
   - Set or ready position

   **Positioning**
   - Plays on the infield
   - Pick Offs
   - Proper Angles and Distance
     - Force Plays 90 degrees to the throw
     - Tag Plays 90 degrees for the tag
     - Move to get an unobstructed view
   - Proper position on tag up responsibilities

   **Pre Pitch Preparation**
   - Determine level of pre-pitch planning for the umpire
   - Specific instances that could have been handled had their been Pre Pitch Preparation

   **Rotations / Movement**
   - Proper use of the inside outside theory
   - Proper angles and distance
   - Proper Button Hook
     - Distance inside the diamond
     - Distance from the foul line
   - Movement to 2B and 3B
   - Movement to Home Plate
   - Movement to 2B from 3B and to 1B
   - Parallel movement with runners between bases
   - Proper movement on double plays from behind 2B
   - Proper movement on double plays from behind SS
   - Obtaining proper angle and distance on tag plays and force plays
• Full understanding of the 2 and 3 umpire systems
• Hustle between inning
• Hustle while on field
• Pick up the ball and glance at the runner
• Pick up and read partners
• Does not commit to one runner when had multiple runner responsibility
• Utilize secondary position when required

Fly Ball Coverage
  • Movement on Chasing Fly Balls
    ☑ Parallel to the flight of the ball
    ☑ Stop to see the catch / No catch and make the call
  • Fair / Foul / Status when ball close to the line and is touched
  • Turn around and observe plays in the infield

Timing and Signals
  • On close calls
  • On not close calls
  • Proper USA Softball Hammer
  • Proper USA Softball Safe Signal
  • Know when to sell the call
  • Pulled foot
  • Obstruction
  • Fair / Foul
  • Stop see the play and make the call
  • Identify Illegal Pitches
  • Identify leaving early
  • Has good judgement
  • Works between pitches, moves when catcher is about to receive the ball.

Communication
  • On rotations
  • With partners
  • With teams when needed
  • Communicate if you get caught on tough play

OVERALL PERFORMANCE
  • Worked well with the UIC and Championship Staff
  • Worked well with the umpire Crew
  • Positive attitude
  • Continues Improvement
  • Watching others when possible
What they need to improve on needs to be highlighted
What they are good at
Can they umpire this classification of ball
Should this umpire go to a camp or school

**Over all Evaluation:**

**Needs improvement**
- Mechanics are not what USA Softball requires in two categories
- Has rule issues
- Has Listening issues
- Each Category does not meet the USA Softball National Championship Umpire’s Minimum requirements

**Satisfactory**
- Mechanics are not what USA Softball requires in one category
- Had no real rule issues with maybe one situation
- Listens but does not adapt
- Uses USA Mechanics sometimes
- Each category meets minimum USA Softball Umpire requirements

**Good**
- Mechanics meet the minimum required by USA Softball USA Umpires
- Knows rules
- Uses USA Mechanics all the time
- Listen and attempts to adapt
- Exceeds minimum USA Softball Umpire requirements in one category

**Very Good**
- Mechanics exceeds the minimum required by USA Softball USA Umpires
- Knows the rules and applies them properly
- Uses USA Softball Mechanics and communicate them with partners on the field
- Listen and adapts
- Exceeds minimum USA Softball Umpire requirements in all category

**Excellent**
- Mechanics exceeds the minimum required by USA Softball Umpires and goes above and beyond
- Knows the rules, applies them properly and makes the tough calls when required
- Game management is seen though out the whole game
- Uses USA Softball Mechanics, communicates them with partners on the field and adapts when needed
- Listen, adapts and helps others get better
- Exceeds all USA Softball Umpire requirements in all category

**Recommendation**

- What Championship and level of play the umpire should advance too
- What Championship and level of play the umpire should return too