

# ASUA Webinar



*CONFERENCE*

# Meet Your Education Co-Chairs

## Frankie Billingsley and Kris Hartley



- Edmonton, AB
- Softball Canada Level V (2011)
- WBSC Certified (2013)
- Assigned to Tokyo 2020 Olympics



- Calgary, AB
- Softball Canada Level V (2019)

# Agenda



- Context and Rationale
- Being Prepared (Pre-Game)
- A Guide to Conferencing
- When To & When Not To Conference (Video examples)
- How to Avoid Conferencing
- Food For Thought
- Conclusion
- Question & Answer Period

# Context



- Observed tendency to conference too often or at wrong times.
- Issue affects all umpires from beginners to our International level umpires.

\*Special Thanks to the umpires from the 2020 U-18 Men's NZ

# Rationale

- Game Management
- Presence on the Diamond
- Believability, Credibility, Integrity
- Bottom Line ⇒ “Get the Right Call”
- All Things Enhance or Diminish



# Pre-Game Preparation



- Discuss how we are going to handle situations
  - Possible Situations:
    - Batted ball hitting batter in Batter's box.
    - Appeals for Tag ups and Missed bases
    - Catch/ No Catch situations
    - Fly Ball / Line drive Coverage (Rotations)

# A Guide to Conferencing



- Move to an area away from participants
- Cover your mouths with your hands. Do not use Gestures.
- Who Runs the Conference?
  - Initiating umpire.
- Use clear concise Questions.
- Who makes the call/ruling when we come out of the conference?

# When to Conference





# Scenario #1



- Situation where we had a dropped ball and crew gets together to correct obvious error.
- Quick, concise communication

# Scenario #2



- To apply or enforce a rule correctly

# Scenario #3



- 2 Calls on the Same Play

# Examples of When to Conference



- Fixing an obvious error.
- Applying/Enforcing a rule correctly.
- 2 different calls on same play by 2 umpires.

# When NOT to Conference



# Examples of When NOT to Conference



- Catcher's Obstruction
- Teams giving you "HEAT" after a close play
- Base Awards after an Obstruction
- Batted Ball hitting the Batter
- Affirmation or Appeasement

# Scenario #1



- Catcher's Obstruction

# Scenario #2



- Getting "Heat" After a Close Play





# Scenario #3



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WBSC.ORG		@WBSC	

- Base Award after Obstruction

# How to Avoid a Conference



- Have a really strong pre-game.
  - there are items you can cover in a pre-game that avoid conversations on the diamond.
- Call accuracy
  - - you will have less conferences if you have high call accuracy as a crew.
- Focus and Concentration
- Confidence
  - Fake it until you make it

# Food For Thought



# Conclusion



- Pre-Game Recap
  - Two Rules of Engagement
    - *Additional Information*
    - *Willingness to Change*
- Post-Provincial Aspirations
  - Language Barriers
- “Expect the Unexpected” / “Pre-Pitch Preparation”
  - If you employ these tactics you will be better able to incorporate the items that we just reviewed

# Questions?



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING !!

If you have any comments, questions or ideas for future webinars, please reach out to us by email at [education@asua.ca](mailto:education@asua.ca)