

FSS Basic Umpire Guides

*Anyone volunteering to umpire should be willing to make ALL calls loudly and clearly for all players and spectators to hear!

All pitched ball calls should be loud and enhanced with a left hand signal for balls and a right hand signal for strikes.

Safe/out calls should be made immediately and may be qualified that assistance is requested from base coaches to make a final determination after time has been called.

A fair ball is NOT verbalized. Pointing towards the playing field is recommended. A foul ball MUST be loudly verbalized to all fielders.

Illegal pitches must be called while in flight.

Umpires should update the scoreboard at the end of each inning.

“Infield Fly Rule”: With less than two outs and runners on at least first and second, the IFR is in effect. It can be announced before each eligible at bat. This rule, if in effect, should be loudly verbalized while the ball is in the air. However, the IFR can be made after the play is over, returning players to their original bases with the batter out.

Umpires should move out on the field after a hit ball to make calls at the bases and see catches more clearly in the outfield.

“Time” should be called at the end of each completed play.

Updating the count total during each at bat is recommended as well as the outs registered and runs scored.

Clarification: A fly ball or line drive touched over foul territory is foul even if the fielder is in fair territory. It is where the ball is located that determines fair or foul. A ground ball that bounces in fair territory and passes over any part of first or third base is fair even if it lands in foul territory after passing the base.