

“You make the Call”

The Umpire’s Corner

The Call:

A batter swings and misses at a pitch in the dirt for strike three. After missing the pitch the player heads back to the 3rd base dugout. Just before the batter is about to enter the dugout, he races across the infield heading for 1st base and reaches the base safely. You make the call?

- a. The batter is out for missing the third strike.
- b. Because the batter was not tagged on the dropped third strike, this is a legal play. Runner stays at first base.
- c. Since the batter was not tagged on a dropped third strike there is no strike out, but it is illegal to run across the infield. The batter is out!

When was the last time your boss was late for work and you knocked on his/her door and cussed him/her out for being late? When was the last time you yelled at a bank teller for having to wait in line while the teller was doing their job? When was the last time your own child berated you for not picking up your room? The answer to these scenarios is probably not very often if ever. So, what is the point? Head down to almost any CYB baseball field on any given night and you’ll find over zealous fans, coaches and spectators ‘sharing their divine wisdom’ at the Umpires working the games.

The question above is an actual occurrence from last season. It happened to one of our younger umpires. The abuse this young umpire incurred was reprehensible. In any other social situation, any of us would never berate another human being like this, much less an outstanding young person who lives and goes to school in our community. This young man was being cheered as little as two years ago as a player in our league, and now being jeered as an Umpire. (By the way, under all that pressure he got the call right!!)

CYB is always looking to strengthen our Umpire Corps. Junior Umpires must be playing age 13 (1st year Pony) to begin Umpiring. All adults are welcome. We do the training in Carlsbad and the training is free to all. Join us at our CYB Umpire Information Meeting on December 16th and get all the answers you need. Cost of uniforms, schedules and pay scales will be covered. If you are even a little interested – come check us out.

Additionally, all the CYB Umpires want to extend an open invitation to any and all coaches to join the Umpires in Training for the Rules Training Sessions that will be held in January 2005. All we ask is for you to let us know if you want to attend so we can have a seat for you.

Contact chiefumpire@cyb2000.org or (760) 434-9536 with any questions.

Answer:

- (b) This is a legal play

William L. Kemp, III
CYB Chief Umpire