



Friends of Vintage Base Ball, Inc.™

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ROLE OF THE UMPIRE

A successful umpire is 50% Management & Rules,
50% Theatrics

By Ed “Honest” Searle
Umpire, Akron Black Stockings Base Ball Club

PREPARATION

- * Field Layout
 - Ample area for the behind
 - Chair for umpire, if desired
- * Players
 - Review rules - final decision is the umpire's
 - Remind them of purpose of activity
 - Answer questions
 - Remind them to enjoy themselves

PRE-GAME

- * Set the Stage
 - Explanation of vintage base ball and history of base ball
 - Explanation of historical time period (era, politics, social issues, etc.)
- * Brief Explanation of the Rules
- * Introduction of Team Captains and Clubs

GAME

- * Explain the Calls as They Are Made
- * Only Indicate Foul Balls NOT FAIR BALLS
- * Review the Rules (forget all you know about the present day game)
- * Announce the Score
- * No Hand Gestures
- * Interact with the Fans
- * Levy Fines
- * Be Sure You Can Be Heard
- * If Programs/Handouts, Remind Fans

POST GAME

- * Remarks From Each Club
- * Appreciation to the Tallykeepers
- * Appreciation to the Fans
- * Reminder of Upcoming Matches
- * Opportunity For Children to Try Striking

See reverse side for Umpire Wardrobe



UMPIRE WARDROBE

These are but some of the garments and accoutrements that provide an Old Time aura to the role of Umpire:

- top hat, straw hat, bowler
- long coat
- string tie, bow tie, cravat
- waist vest
- collarless longsleeve shirt
- suspenders
- dark trousers
- high shoes/boots
- pocket watch with chain
- coin or flat rock for tossing
- gentleman's cane or walking stick
- megaphone
- flask

