



Northern California Officials Association

Long-Term Instruction Program Goal:

- Make the High School Baseball Group a major player for instruction & training of local baseball umpires of all levels.

Short-Term Goals of the Instruction Program:

- Create a progressive training program that starts simple & builds step by step towards the mastery of the two-man system.
- Work towards matching teaching material to the learning level of members.
- Inform, demonstrate, practice, critique, test and promote members through various levels of instruction.
- Create a rating & testing system for the newer half of the group that emphasizes learning, participation & mastering of skills within each instruction level.
- Create instruction levels with detailed requirements for advancement.
- Encourage umpires to not only participate in the high school level but work beyond it as well as give back to the youth programs that feed our high school program.

Existing Instruction Program Elements:

- Email Reading Material
- Monday Night Classroom Activities
- Rules Pre-Test
- Rules Final
- 3-Day clinic
- Fall program

Create a multi-year instruction program designed for newer members: (Examples Below)

Year 1 (spring only for now) Teaching Content:

Have the members complete proficiency exams for rules, mechanics and game management skills. Have students perform through a combination of evaluated "shadow" drill, "fungo" drill or live fall scrimmage. When students pass requirements, they are promoted to the next instruction level. The 1st year instruction could comprise of basic baseball rules & HS rules differences, developing signals presentation, one-umpire mechanics system, basic plate work, and strike zone history, evolution, usage & philosophies and game management survival skills.

Year 2 (Fall & Spring) "Text Book" Teaching Content – 2-Man Basics:

The 2nd year could be comprehensive plate mechanics, basics of the two-umpire system - concentrating on responsibilities & individual skills of the two-umpire system (angle/distance at first base, "working area", foul fly ball coverage, single runner run-down coverage, etc.), "team" approach to handing arguments and other situation management skills. Develop an intermediate level of rules instruction. Have students perform either an evaluated "shadow" drill, "fungo" drill or live fall scrimmage. Again, when students pass requirements, then they are promoted to the next level.

Year 3 (fall & spring) Expanding on "Text Book" Teaching Content – Mainstream with Good Foundation of 2-Man Knowledge:

More advanced two-man coverage – "Trouble" fly ball coverage, multiple runner coverage & rundowns, R1 to 3rd, R2 & R1 fly ball with R2 tagging, double plays positioning, etc. Develop a rules package that prepares students for main streaming to the 1-3 rated officials. Have students perform either an evaluated "fungo" drill or live scrimmage during fall. If they pass requirements, then promote them to the next level.

Program would entail instruction materials, homework, quizzes, tests, classroom & field evaluation (probably "shadow" drill, "fungo" drill or live scrimmage. Do evaluations periodically – maybe at president's day clinic, before or after play-offs in May or maybe a couple of times during fall training at SCC.

Tenured members would focus on skill maintenance/enhancement and refining knowledge:

Move members to a "conceptual" level – encourage more dynamic thinking. Create program to more hone skills, develop more advanced and in-depth knowledge of basic "textbook" methods taught to newer members. Teach umpires to handle 5% of plays that aren't in the textbook. Teach umpires how to think the game and adjust to rapidly changing game action based on fundamental concepts instead of memorizing the text book.

