

# Be the Best Team on the Field

In any given game, there are three teams on the field: the home team, the away team and the umpires. And while you can't control two of those teams, you can control yourselves.

The first thing you need to do is make a good first impression. This starts when you first arrive at the field. You should enter the field as a team as it shows unity and you are working together as a crew. Make sure your uniforms are neat and properly worn, and enter the field with confidence. Confidence should not be confused with cockiness.

Once on the field, you set the tone for the game. You should walk the field together, check equipment (if required by code), and make sure the field is well marked and in playable condition.

During this time, you should be preparing yourself to handle business. It is not a time for idle chit chat, especially with players, coaches or fans. Once you enter the field, you have a job to do. Act

like you've been there before, be professional and courteous and take care of the pregame duties. While there may be time to interact with coaches, make sure you give equal time to both teams to not show favoritism. Be polite and courteous to both coaches, but this is not the time for extended conversations.

Just prior to the start of the game, at some levels, the national anthem is played (as shown in PlayPic A). During this time, be respectful and take a moment to collect your thoughts and focus on the task at hand. For some, this is a time to get the juices flowing as the excitement of the first pitch is imminent. Try to breathe slowly and slow down your heart beat.

After the anthem, give each other a fist bump and get ready to be the best team on the field. Hustle to your positions, stay focused and alert at all times and give 100 percent to the athletes who are competing. Remember, to those athletes and

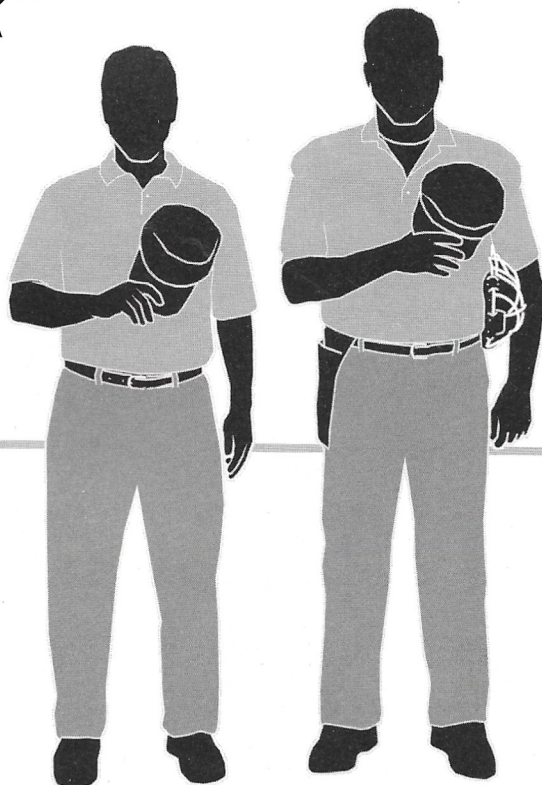
coaches, this is the most important game of the day. As umpires, you should treat it that way as well.

During the game, continue to be professional. Limit conversations with players and coaches, avoid talking to fans, be ready to go at the beginning of each half-inning, and communicate both verbally and non-verbally with your partners. Remember, you are there as a team. Keep each other in the moment and use eye contact to stay engaged. No one likes to feel like they are alone on an island. Work together and it will be a much more enjoyable experience. Whether you are working with the same partner you've worked with 100 times or with someone brand new, players and coaches should not be able to tell the difference.

Finally, once the game is over, leave the field together (as shown in PlayPic B). Know that you gave the game 100 percent effort throughout and you are leaving the same way you arrived — as a team. □

PlayPic®

A



PlayPic®

B

