



# 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 long-sleeve 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

