

A good game is when the umpire is seen and not heard and players walk!

If we can learn anything from experience, it's that: "Umpires have to learn to control the game", the whole of the game; from when they arrive at the ground to the signing of the match report; or even after if it is required. This is our window; nothing should happen without our knowledge. Nothing reportable should happen that we can prevent with basic man management. Look for problems and stop them. Do not let any problems get out of hand or simmer, they may and can blow up in your face when you least expect it or when you are busy with something else. Yes, we also require eyes in the back of our heads. Be pro-active!

Good Impression: The impression the players have of you starts when you arrive at the ground. I know that jackets, white coats, White shirts & ties are near enough a thing of the past to a lot of modern umpires, but they did help create the authority that you require and should have. You should always try to dress the part on and off the playing field. Check who you are standing with for the next game and find out what they will be wearing, come to an agreement and both wear the same clothing.

Authority: You and your colleagues are the sole authority for the entire day of cricket. After your report it is out of your hands, but for those few hours you are in charge. Do not abuse your authority!

Respect: **You are an umpire:** You immediately have the respect of the players. This is a much needed and a big requirement when you are controlling the game. The impression that you make on and off the pitch, with your authority, knowledge of the laws and the respect that the players have for you, help you control the game, neither the game nor the players should have control. It's a fine line to walk; you can work hard and keep and increase that respect or you can lose it very easily, with a few hastily spoken words or actions. Be very careful.

Communicate with: **Colleague(s) (Both Umpires and Scorers).**
Captains.
Players

Colleague(s): The first person that you turn to! The eyes in the back of your head! Your support, your help and backup throughout the game! Somebody to talk to whilst on and off the field of play and at the fall of a wicket! Players notice that umpires talk to each other and that they communicate. Players sometimes need to see that you are talking to each other, you may be talking about the latest football scores or you may be talking about them and how to handle a certain situation or just be looking for advice. There is no harm stopping the game for a minute or two if you are not sure about something, sort it out and then concentrate on the game.

This also applies to the scorers; they are an integral part of the game, talk to them before the game and let them know what you expect. **Whenever possible the scorers should not change.** The scorers should also sit at the same table, this way they can talk to each other and help each other and make sure that everything is correct. If they are sat at the same table whenever you approach them you can talk to them both at the same time, rather than repeat yourself. The scorers should not keep the scoreboard up to date. Their job is to take note of the score. Talk to the captain at the toss about the scoreboard being updated.

Captains: These are your contact with the players. If anything happens during play call across the captain(s), if it's serious you can also call over the player(s), but always go through the captains. If it concerns the batsmen, after talking to him, inform his (off field) captain what has happened at the next opportunity. If the situation persists, talk to your colleague and discuss the best thing to do.

Players: If players start to pester you, call across the captain. There is no problem having a quick discussion with the players during the over change, a fall of a wicket or at the drinks break(s), it could just be a quick question about the laws. Remember two things (1) umpires should be approachable at all times; if players do want to talk to you, do not make a barrier. We must also be approachable because (2) players do not know all the laws, they just have their own interpretation of how they think that the game should be played, remember that they watch it on TV and social media. (The game on the TV and our game is entirely different). It's part of our job to educate the players. Even the captains and experienced players do not know all the laws, or will try interpret them to their own ends. Never let the situation get out of hand, even if you're only having a chat, do not let them bully you or coerce you into doing what they want you to. Try to: *Never raise your voice to anybody!*

You will learn more every game, you will gain more experience, you will learn how to handle players and situations better: but remember it is only a game of cricket, you are there to enjoy yourself and to help the players enjoy themselves.

So! Do go and enjoy yourself!

Remember the boy scout's motto and always "Be prepared" for anything!