

# Introduction

- This module shows the most common signals used by umpires.
- Umpires use a combination of voice and hand gestures to signal a call or play. These signals help all those involved in the game understand what has happened.
- You will find each umpire has their own style, especially when they are at home plate, so these pictures are a guide only.
- Balls or obvious fouls may not be called.
- The same hand gesture may be used for more than one call or play – listen out for what the umpire says.
- During a game, scorers will need to be able to see and hear all the umpires, but usually only speak with the home plate umpire.
- Remember, you can ask the umpire to repeat or clarify a call if needed.

# Batter in the box

Strike – called or swinging.

The umpire will extend or raise their right arm (usually as they stand up). They will say 'strike' and may add the strike number – 1, 2 or 3.



Count on the batter.

The umpire will indicate the count on the batter by raising the corresponding number of fingers – balls on the left, strikes on the right



# Batter hits the ball – fair or foul

Fair ball.

When the batter hits a fair ball that is close to the foul line, the umpire will point into fair territory.



Foul.

If the batter hits a foul ball, the signal may come from the home plate or field umpire. Both arms will be raised while saying 'foul'. They may then point into foul territory.



# Safe

Safe.

If the batter or runner is safe, the umpire will raise both arms in front, then out to the side.



Safe – fielder off the base.

If the batter or runner is safe because the fielder did not have contact with the base when they caught the ball, the umpire will give the safe signal, followed by both arms out to one side.



# Out

## Out.

If the batter or runner is out, the umpire will raise their right arm with a clenched fist and say 'out'. It may be followed by pointing into foul or fair territory if close to the foul line.



## Out – tagged by fielder.

If the batter or runner is out because they are tagged, the umpire points at the player, say 'out on the tag' followed by the out signal.



# Other signals

Home Run.

When the batter hits a home run (out of the park), the umpire will raise their index finger and make a circling motion.



Infield fly.

For an infield fly, the umpire will point to the sky and say 'infield fly'. They will then either say 'the batter is out' or 'if fair' if close to the foul line .



Balk, Interference, Obstruction.

For a number of plays, the umpire will point to the offending fielder while saying the play.



# Time called, End of game

Time called or the game is finished.

When time is requested (by a player or coach), the umpire will raise their arms (like the foul signal) and say 'time'.

When the game has finished, the home plate umpire will say 'game' or 'time and game' and also raise their arms.

