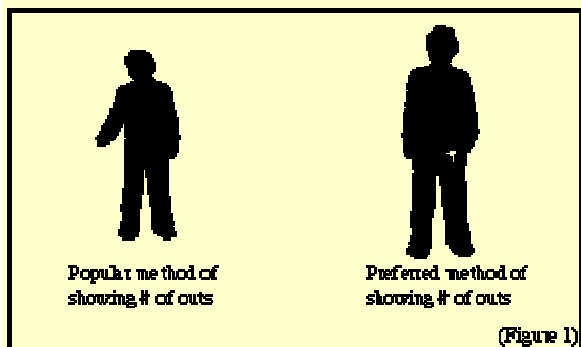


The proper way to request & give the number of outs to your partner...and why.

Taken from the "Cactus Umpire"



A lot of umpires have picked up the habit of verifying the number of outs with their partner by indicating the number of outs with their fingers on their hand held down and off to the side of their body. While it is an excellent and preferred technique to communicate this information—especially with runners on and two outs—it does no good at all if partners cannot see the signal. The background of our glaring Arizona sun, with shimmering heat waves from a distance of 70 plus feet does not offer much contrast for discerning the number of fingers displayed.

Our manual actually tells us to simply verbalize the situation to each other. However, since this situation occurs continually throughout the course of a game and we do not want umpires continually drawing attention to themselves by hollering at one another, a better way is to show the number of outs with your fingers on your hand held down and against your thigh. This affords the best contrast possible and ensures each umpire has seen the correct number of digits (see Figure 1).

Sweeping the Plate...or anything else on the field



- Notice the umpire has a solid, balanced base with his feet. He is not stooped over or crouched down.
- Notice that his brush is very small.
- Notice that his mask is in his hand...not on his face or on his head as in the cartoon.
- Notice that his butt is facing away from the stands. Whether you are sweeping the plate, the pitcher's plate or a base - your butt is always pointed away from the spectators.
- Realize that the game is played on dirt. Bases will get dirt on them. Sweeping is not an umpire's priority. If you can see it clearly...it's clean enough! To stop a game to sweep can interrupt the momentum of the game and it always draws attention to the umpire.

