

# HUFF-N-PUFFERS

## Official Guide and Playing Rules for 2026

### Changes for this season.

New text is in RED. Notes are in [[brackets.]]

### 2026 RULES COMMITTEE

Jerry Bacher, Chair

Dave Berry Bob Duray Larry Govang Tom Mays John Teron  
Peter Toomey, Umpire-In-Chief

#### 2.4 Uniform Requirements

... Pants or shorts must be solid dark blue or black in color, stripes and logos are permitted. [[NOTE: Pinstripes are specified as not acceptable.]]

No Jeans.

#### 4.2 Division II

Division II teams will field a maximum of thirteen (13) defensive players.

In Seasons when draft is fewer than 15 players, Division Director will poll Managers to decide whether to field a maximum of twelve (12).

#### 5.5 Injured Player

When a player becomes 'injured/out for the rest of the season', his Manager may:

A) retain him on the roster and await his return, or

B) declare him out and seek a replacement if available. If the Player recovers and wishes to return, he goes into the fill-in pool, to be assigned by the Division

Director to the area of greatest need.

#### 10.9 Designated Hitter

Each team has the option for only one (1) Designated Hitter. If he is able he must run for himself. ~~DH does not play in the field.~~

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... Different players can DH for any game, but you cannot change the DH during the game and they cannot play in the field unless even if your roster falls below thirteen (13) players because of an on-field injury. Divisions I and II follow the same rule.

## 13.1 When to Make a Protest

... All protests shall be presented in writing by both Managers and Umpires ...

## 14.1 ~~[[Deadlines]] For Rosters~~

~~No player can be added after the middle week of the regular season, unless approved by the Governing Board.~~

## 15.2 ~~[[Playoffs]] The Season~~

... Should cancellations result in leading teams playing an unequal number of games, before Playoffs, Governing Board will schedule make-ups to even up opportunities. [[NOTE: This addresses the early game being played, the late game rained out, resulting in an unequal number of games being played.]]

## 15.3 ~~[[Playoffs]] Format~~

... Tie breakers: Head-to-head record between the teams tied. Then if needed, head-to-head run-scored differential. Then if needed, season run-scored differential. Then if needed, flip a coin.

## 15.4 Complete Game

Suspended Playoff games will be re-scheduled to continue from the point of suspension. [[NOTE: this differs from Regular Season.]]

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## 15.5 **Playoff Protocols**

We conduct our playoff games under “tournament protocols”. ie:

1. There are no Protests. Any objection to Rules Interpretation or Application will result in Time Out, Umpire pulls the Rules Book, decision is rendered, game continues.

2. If a player is Ejected, he is entitled to his Hearing that same day, so he (and his Manager) know whether he is playing the next game.

## Division III

### **31.1 Runners and Non-Runners**

... Non-Runner Batters will be called out if the ball does not ~~leave the infield~~reach the outfield grass ...

### **32.2 Non-Runner Batters**

... outfielders will stay in place and not move in for Non-Runners. ~~Short fielders must move to outfield depth~~, leaving three basemen, shortstop, ~~the~~ extra infielder, short fielder, pitcher, and catcher for a total of ~~seven~~ eight (8) on the dirt.

### **33.1 Non-Runner Batters**

A Non-Runner Batter may decide and must declare to the Plate Umpire at each at-bat:

– if ‘non-runner’, Plate Umpire extends both arms over his head and crosses his wrists;

– if ‘runner’, PU spins his hands over his head.

~~A Non-Runner will remain a Non-Runner for the whole game.~~

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## 33.2 Non-Runner Out / Safe

... A fly ball caught by:

Outfielder (fair or foul) or Infielder (foul) is an Out/Live Ball.

Infielder (infield) is an Out/Dead Ball.

## 34.1 Home Runs

... On Field 5, ball is Dead and Batter-Runner and Runners are awarded two bases for a fair ball, passed the sideline fence –

⇒ passing beyond the Out Of Play line before passing the outfield fence

– passing foul beyond the home run fence.

OneThree (3) home runs s over the fence per game, per team...

## Rule 36 Strikes

A pitch striking the home plate board/mat on the fly, even if concurrent with dirt, is a strike.

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