

3/30/24

To: Huff-n-Puffer Umpires
From: Peter Toomey, Umpire-in-Chief
Re: Clinics 2024

First, thanks to Chief Instructor Michael Blades for caring so much about the honorable profession of Umpiring. And for sharing his experience with us.

Then, to you for your commitment to the task.

VIDEO

One out-of-state man asked us to record. Not professional, shot on the run, edited as best we could. More like 'battlefield documenting'. But you can now revisit any time, hopefully to answer your questions.

In this, as in everything, we welcome your suggestions?

Videos will remain online through the season. Feel free to come back at any time if you'd like a refresher.

If you cannot access, reach out and we'll figure out another method for you to watch?

Peter 440-669-0750

OUR ONLINE ARCHIVE

www.huff-n-puffers.com/Rules-and-Regulations.html .
> Upper right corner, blue box: "Umpire Information"

There you can always find:

- the current Umpire Schedule
- copies of my previous messages keeping you updated
- links to Rules Documents
- our local Umpire Guide with helpful hints
- for a while: "Changes Only" document that highlights just *current* Spring 2024 rules changes

HIGHLIGHTS (BUT YOU SHOULD STILL WATCH THE VIDEOS!)

We should position ourselves to keep within "90 degrees" in front of us: the Runner, the Ball, the Base, the Fielder.

Plate Umpire: responsible for all tag-ups.

Play at plate: position a few feet up 1st base line

Division Directors: remind your Managers: we can't start a game without a written lineup. Opposing Manager has the right to request a copy. It would help your Plate Umpire to also have a copy.

Runner-For-Batter not stopping at 1st: when Defense appeals, is a force-out because RFB must return to 1st, so "forced".

VIDEOS AVAILABLE (RUN TIME)

1 Intro (1:15)

Philosophy: League wrote rules, just apply. [click here](#)

2 Changes – All Divisions: (12:30) [click here](#)

Gov Board reviewed all change inquiries. We have Rules, just enforce them.

Pitcher's Screen.

Courtesy Runner: once per inning, before the first pitch.

Write down batting order and courtesy runners.

Runner-For-Batter.

Illegal contact.

Outfield relay. OF > 2B > 1B double play *is* legal.

3 Changes – Division III (02:45) [click here](#)

Infielder can go to grass to field ball.

Non-Runner: ball to grass: live ball. Fly caught by IF on grass: awarded first, dead ball.

4 Other USA Rules (09:45) [click here](#)

Batter's Box.

Speed of Pitch.

Location of ball (not fielder) determines fair/foul.

Line-ups and notes on Courtesy Runners.

Observing pitcher.

5 Plate Mechanics (11:00) [click here](#)

Magic's Intro: Important, not Essential.

Plate Umpire responsibilities.

Walk the Pitch: Stepping ONTO the rubber as he releases the pitch.

Plate position in "the slot".

Responsibilities.

Interference/Obstruction. Into 2d Base.

Play at Home: a few feet up the 1B line.

Holding zone: half way to 3B in foul ground.