

**Subject:** Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 48

**From:** "Peter E. Toomey" <peter.e.toomey@gmail.com>

**Date:** 6/6/2026, 20:03

**To:** undisclosed-recipients: ;

**BCC:** RCBrown24@yahoo.com, DonEvans.III@gmail.com, dgroversbar@aol.com, terrydempsey20@yahoo.com, GeraldBacher@att.net, TerryRauckhorst@yahoo.com, JesseWebb@msn.com, LWKeating@aol.com

Message to all Umpires  
~~~~~

We have the best view of the game.

Here are a couple thoughts to make it even better? Hopefully this helps:

### **SCHEDULING**

*Really* helps to know when you'll be gone. As vacations get planned, etc, please shoot me a note?

### **"IT'S ABOUT THE *BALL*, RIGHT?"**

Yep. So a pop-up, near the foul line: it doesn't matter where the *fielder* is, only where the *ball* is when it's touched. He can be stretched out, fair territory, prone in the dirt, glove over the foul line, ball glances off the very tip of his glove *just* over the line: "Foul".

Same for D3 Non-Running Batter. Infielder's feet (or heck, his whole body) "on the grass". Grounder. Ball is touched and stopped in the dirt: "Out".

It *is* about the *ball*.

### **MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT**

The Players supported and the Gov Bd agreed: increased to \$15 per game.

In the Equipment Room or on the Wagon on Field 5: sign in to get paid. Yes, your partner can sign you in – tell him – if he doesn't I can't help you. So best to confirm with him.

If you forget: email/text me. Every year we get complaints. Which fail.

If you work solo, indicate, then you get both stipends.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS**

Barb Rauckhorst presents at end of season. Hopes we will provide Nominations -- couple of lines of description. To her at [RocksDog4@yahoo.com](mailto:RocksDog4@yahoo.com) or through me. Any time.

### **HEALTH**

Now that the temps are up, Umpires need to be observant of **Player heat stress**, looking for confusion (more than usual!), pale skin, or an inability to sweat. Instruct his Manager: immediately to shade, drink, maybe soak his clothing.

## BALLS IN D2

No, not talking about that guy. As D1 did last year: D2 is starting with two new balls.

USA Rules Supplement, #2: if second is unused in *top* of 1st inning, rotate it in for *bottom* of 1. Each inning, pitcher can request the other ball by tossing in the one left on the mound.

Once a ball goes out of play, the replacement stays in until it goes out = there is no "game ball", they are equal.

## BAT WARMERS

It is part of our job to be aware of bats in the dugouts. Perhaps particularly the Base Umpire.

If they're in a black or reflective sleeve, warming in the sun, we need the Manager to move them and remove the sleeve.

1. I'm working with the President to improve adherence.
2. It's appropriate to answer a question with "It's not *my* rule. Or *Huff-N-Puffers'* rule. It's *USASoftball's* rule -- and they're the international governing body." Jus sayin
3. If it helps you to "encourage" a Manager or Player, you could share with him that your only **other options** are "confiscate the offending bat for the balance of the game" or "call the Batter out". Should help?

## GLOVES

No, a pitcher cannot wear a glove on his pitching hand.

Unless it is a medical device. eg: one of our guys wears "fingerless, compression gloves for rheumatoid arthritis, carpal tunnel, hand pain" etc.

But still cannot be white or yellow -- the color of the ball.

## RESOURCES

I've accumulated some of these hints into an "Umpire Guide" for you -- [www.huff-n-puffers.com/Rules-and-Regulations.html](http://www.huff-n-puffers.com/Rules-and-Regulations.html) then Umpire Info then Umpire Guide.

Highly recommended reading. And always open to improvements.

## IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

If you know you made the wrong call and the whole world knows you made the wrong call -- change it right away.

I promise you, you will get more respect if you do that instead of sticking with a bad call.

## AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

I've recently heard Players and Managers congratulating Umpires on calling a good game and thanking them for volunteering.

Your work is important.

With respect and appreciation, Peter

Huff-N-Puffers Umpire-In-Chief

[peter.e.toomey@gmail.com](mailto:peter.e.toomey@gmail.com)

440-669-0750

Schedules, Rules, Umpire Information, and the Umpire Guide are *always* at [www.huff-n-puffers.com/Rules-and-Regulations.html](http://www.huff-n-puffers.com/Rules-and-Regulations.html)

The USA Softball rulebook has not changed *for us* from 2025-25, but can be downloaded as a PDF from [www.usasoftball.com/official-rulebook/](http://www.usasoftball.com/official-rulebook/)

and the USA Umpire Manual from [https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0144/3128/2023\\_Umpire\\_Manual.pdf](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0144/3128/2023_Umpire_Manual.pdf)

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail -- but if it makes you a better umpire ...