

Subject:	Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 49
Date:	Tue, 16 Jun 2026 18:07:32 -0400
From:	Peter E. Toomey
To:	Bob Brown Don Evans III Grover Kistler Terry Dempsey Jerry Bacher Terry Rauckhorst Jesse Webb Larry Keating

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:	Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 49
Date:	Tue, 16 Jun 2026 18:05:35 -0400
From:	Peter E. Toomey
To:	Jim Kosakowski Bob Brown Tom Mays Karl Genda Pat Fleming Frank Yaroshak Grover Kistler Bill Edelburg Ken Neczypor Tom Stopak Nick Schepis Don Evans III Al Dewerth Bob LoParo Scott McKernan Bob Duray Barry Sherwin

Managers: sent to all Umpires.

Shared with you -- especially "Guy Gonna Be Late" and following.

As always, questions and comments are valued. PET

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We have the best view of the game.

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

### **COURTESY RUNNERS**

Got a question from a manager: Yes the words "first pitch" are ***in the rule***. But.

8.1 ... must replace the Batter-Runner at the base he safely occupies, but BEFORE the next pitch, he is official when he touches the base. A first Courtesy Runner may be replaced by a second, only before the first pitch.

Effect: Once officially in after the first pitch, if discovered as illegal, Courtesy Runner is out.

So: Mike hits. Coach Joe steps on 1B. Mgr sends out Tom -- BEFORE FIRST PITCH.

Yes. Legal.

And: *both* Joe and Tom have "used up" their right to run that inning.

### **HOME PLATE MECHANICS**

Nothing new here -- unfortunately including that some of us are not doing our best for the players.

-- Voicing "Ball" or "Strike" on every pitch

-- Right arm raised to indicate Strike for the outfielders

-- Coming out from behind the plate to observe throws to 1B, watching for Fielder pulling his foot or Batter-Runner missing the base

-- Announcing the Count (N balls, N strikes, 1 foul, 1 screen) **just before** Pitcher is ready -- and that timing is better than saying it just after the **last** pitch, especially if that resulted in a foul ball being chased down -- do it when most meaningful to both Batter and defenders

## GUY GONNA BE LATE

It's about the Roster becoming Official.

USASoftball Rule 4, 1, A, 1: roster is official when you review it at your Pre-game Meeting.  
USASoftball Rule 4, 1, A, 2 and Rules Supplement 51: the late guy can be added at any time.

Practically, we could postpone "officialness" until the first pitch is thrown.

If Manager says "Joe is late: **I am putting him** at the bottom of my order" -- ensure he knows that Joe is officially **in the game**. Could be trouble: that means --  
-- when Joe shows up before his **first** Turn At Bat, he bats  
-- if Joe misses that, he is Out -- and will be *each time* his Turn At Bat comes up.

Therefore, so much better for Manager to simply --  
-- scratch Joe  
-- wait for Joe  
-- when Joe arrives, advise the Plate Umpire, who advises the Opposing Manager!

Being shared with all Managers and Officers.

## TALKING

Recently observed a vigorous extended vocal exposition by a Player. Towards the Umpire.  
Make your life simple: only talk with Managers.

## IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

"Ask your partner?" on a bang-bang play:

1. This is not an official "Appeal". It's an ask. (And if it sounds like a command, you shouldn't even *hear* it!)
2. No one but the Manager.
3. These are judgement calls and are Not subject to discussion unless umpire is blocked.
4. If you are blocked, make your best call, then immediately go to your partner and see if he can help.

If you are not blocked or caught way out of position you WILL NOT involve your partner. Instead, very briefly share with the Manager: "This is what I saw. It is not going to change. I am not going to my partner. Let's play." Clear but non-confrontational.

5. If you decide you do need to consult: It's a private one-to-one. He will tell you what he did or did not see. He will not tell you what to do -- and he most certainly will not attempt to "overrule" you. When you break your huddle, remembering it was *your* call, you will simply confirm or reverse your call with a verbal "Safe" or "Out" and the appropriate hand signal.

6. "Play!"

**AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:**

When the Umpire controls the game, everybody has more fun: fans, players, managers, and umpires. Oh, yeah, and the U-I-C.

With respect and appreciation, Peter

Huff-N-Puffers Umpire-In-Chief 2022-  
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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)

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