

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 51

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Sent to Umpires and Managers

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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:

### INTERFERENCE

Great question last week: "Isn't the ball *dead*?"

USA Rule 8, 7, When a runner interferes:

- 1 With a fielder attempting to field a batted fair ball or a foul fly ball, or
- 2 With a fielder attempting to throw the ball, or
- 3 With a thrown ball.

Effect:

- a The ball is **dead**.
- b The **runner** is out.
- c The batter-runner is awarded first base.
- d **Runners must return** to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- e If the interference, in the umpire's judgment, is an attempt to prevent a double play and occurs before the runner is put out, the **immediate trailing runner** shall also be called out.
- f If the interference prevents the fielder from catching a routine fly ball, fair or foul, with ordinary effort, the batter is also out.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

Remember that Barb Rauckhorst is looking for us (meaning: *you*) to provide names of guys who are worthy of her award.

A name and a few lines about why: [<BarbRauckhorst@gmail.com>](mailto:BarbRauckhorst@gmail.com)

### SUBSTITUTION DURING A GAME

Question arose: Player injured during the game. Team is short and wants to recruit a substitute. HnP Rules do not address.

USASoftball Rule 4, 1, A, 2: "Eligible roster members may be added to the available substitute list at any time during the game".

So if the substitute requested meets the stipulations of 4.5, the Substitution is legal.

## THE JULY SCHEDULE

Thanks to everyone who got me their *un*-avails.  
Follows as a separate message!

### IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

When moving to see a play -- think angle first -- we can't always get as close as we should.

### AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

Recently, while walking to the parking lot, a spectator commented to me:

"I really enjoyed watching that game because the umpire was calling out the count after every pitch, so we could keep up with the game."

1. What you do matters.
2. When you are loud and clear enough.
3. Just before every pitch (which is even better than just *after* the last pitch because it gets everybody refocused).

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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