

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 52 -- Substitutions

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Date: 7/2/2026, 23:16

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Sent to all Umpires and all Managers and Members of the Rules Committee

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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:

You'll recall that --

1.

Chief Instructor Michael Blades was clear (and kinda energized!) during Umpire Clinics:

"If you blow a call, and you know it, and everybody else knows it: reverse yourself. Right away. Just do it."

Good advice. Follow it. I am.

2.

I've told you I appreciate comments on how to do this job better.

It's true. And a couple of your senior umpires have taken me up on that invitation.

### **SUBSTITUTION DURING A GAME**

My June 30 message stated that a Manager could pick up an eligible Substitute during a game. My logic: HnP Rules do not prohibit.

I've been invited to another school of thought: Because HnP Rules do not address, I now agree that one must fall back to the USASoftball Rules that underlie our local rules.

I quoted:

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

Those first three words define the use of a player already on that Manager's roster. Not someone to be added in the moment.

Therefore, I am reversing my original call and advise that **a recruit from another roster in the league would not be allowed once the game begins.**

(I fully expect that this question will be addressed in the off-season review of HnP Rules.)

## OTHER SUBSTITUTIONS

Sure, then what *is* legal?

See HnP Rules linked, *as always*, from my signature below (jus sayin) --

4.5: who may replace whom, where they play

4.6: they bat last

10.1: must play on defense at least -- D1 and D2: four innings, D3: three innings

## AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

I was gratified when President Brown's cancellation of the 7/2 games because of heat noted -- and that he cited for players -- that our umpires work twice as hard: play one and work one every day.

And you know well that players sit down every half inning while they bat -- you are on your feet both halves of every inning.

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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