

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 53

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

Date: 7/13/2026, 22:37

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CC: "Barb Rauckhorst (HnP Sportsmanship)" <RocksDog4@yahoo.com>

FYI

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

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 53

Date: Mon, 13 Jul 2026 22:36:23 -0400

From: Peter E. Toomey

Managers --

Sent to all Umpires.

So you know and can coach your players.

And I invite you to consider sending Barb any "Sportsmanship" names you admire.

PET UIC

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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:

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

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

A name (or two) and a few lines about why. And she has an updated e-address:

[<RocksDog4@yahoo.com>](mailto:RocksDog4@yahoo.com)

## **D3 SIGN-INS AND SCHEDULES**

We've created a separate Sign-In Clipboard for Field 5. It is strapped onto the red cart that brings equipment out. Look for it there.

If you're coming up to the Equipment Room, of course you may also sign in there.

## **UMPIRE SCHEDULES**

You've noticed I no longer scurry around to tape one on every diamond. (Wait. You *did* notice, right?)

The current Schedule is --

-- inside the glassed-in board next to the Men's Room door

-- on Field 5's clipboard on the cart, underneath all the sign-in sheets.

-- available on the web, as you know, linked below in my signature block ( ... you *do* use those resources, right?)

## **BATTER-RUNNER TO FIRST BASE**

(I love your questions.)

Batter receives a Base On Balls or hits a ball to the outfield, from which he cannot be thrown out at 1B. Expects a Courtesy Runner. Does he have to **go** to 1B?

I cannot find a stipulation in the rules. (Open to any "citations" [not just opinions].)

However:

HnP Rule 8.1: "Courtesy Runners ... replace the Batter-Runner at the base he safely occupies"

USASoftball Rule 8, 7, U: "Batter is out when ... enters the team area or leaves live ball territory"

First implies that he must "occupy" and second that he must not "leave" -- so, yes, the Batter **must proceed to 1B**.

(And, remember our overarching principle: "We *call* the game, we do not *coach* the players." Were a Batter to ask us "Do I have to touch First?" my encouragement is to politely answer "I'm not your coach.")

Were they to fail: 8, 7, U applies.

## **COURTESY RUNNER AT FIRST BASE**

Similar logic. Many teams are anticipating replacing Joe at 1B with Tom. Send Tom ahead to Coach at 1B. Wonderful, this keeps the game moving.

But Tom cannot assume the bag until Joe touches, receives your "Time", announces "Courtesy", receives your acknowledgement, and yields the base to Tom.

## **COMMITMENT LINE**

(Another great Player question: His tournament last weekend.)

Runner on 3B, not forced. Hit to outfield, Runner broke toward Home, not passed Commitment Line, stopped, backtracked, broke to Home again, 3d Baseman got him in rundown, Runner passed Commitment, 3d Baseman tagged him.

"Is the Runner Safe at Home?"

No. But.

HnP Rule 8.2: "No tags by a defensive player are allowed on Runners that have crossed the Commitment Line."

USA 8, 9, B, 2, C: "Runners tagged by a defensive player instead of touching the original home plate will not be out."

So the Runner was not "out". But that doesn't make the Runner "safe" -- the 3B could still then throw

to the Catcher on Home.  
(Yes. He scored.)

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

One of us received a couple chuckles (and some appropriate Player compliments) when he called a Courtesy Runner out because he had already served as a CR that inning. Players asked "Never seen that. How did you know?" Umpire quietly responded "Because I write down every Courtesy Runner's name every inning."  
Yup.

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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