

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 54

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Date: 7/19/2026, 19:04

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FYI

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

Subject:Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 54

Date:Sun, 19 Jul 2026 19:03:20 -0400

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

Managers --

FYI and guidance for your players.

Always happy to have questions. And comments about Umpires.

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:

Not new rule -- I don't make rules and I don't make up questions, I just address issues you've faced last week!

### WHO OWNS THE BASE?

Joe on 2B, Mike on 1B. Batter hits ball. Joe steps toward 3B, stops. Mike charges to 2B. Two guys on 2B. ??

USA 8, 3, E: Two runners may not occupy the same base at the same time.

Effect:

The runner who first legally occupied the base is entitled to that base, unless forced to advance.

If the Batter had flied out, Mike was not forced, so Joe owns 2B.

If the Batter had singled to the outfield, Mike was forced, Joe gotta go to 3B.

A smart infielder will tag both and *look at **you**!* A mantra that might work: "Owner owns until forced."

### HAVE TO TOUCH THE NEXT BASE?

Let's look at situations:

A.

Four runs in. Runner on 3B. Batter hits single to Right Field. Runner goes Home = 5th run.

Does Batter (and any Runners on base) need to touch the next base?

Closest I can find that's similar:

USA 8, 3, I: All Adult ...Slow Pitch. On any fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run or on a four base award, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter and any runners on base are **not required to run the bases.**

I see a parallel. So:

Runners on 1B or 2B and 2 out: if either is forced, "inning over on force-out, run does *not* score". So yes, runners need to advance.

But: no runners on 1B or 2B \or\ less than 2 outs: "run scores / 5 / **dead ball** / inning over." So Batter-Runner really doesn't need to.

(And allowing them into the dugout saves a few minutes, which might help our overly-long-running games!)

B.

Batter gets base-on-balls, tells PU he's getting a Courtesy Runner.

HnP 8.1: "must replace the Batter-Runner *at the base he safely occupies*". So yes, he must go to 1B.

#### **IN CLOSING:**

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Judgement calls

We do not litigate judgement calls with anyone. We will -- if calmly approached by a manager or co-manager -- explain that the call will not change and no I will NOT ask my partner. This should last no more than a minute -- then you should walk away -- he should not follow.

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

Thanks to the guys who catch me at the fields with important updates -- and *then confirm* by email/text later.

Makes it so much easier to do what you want when I have your message *while* I'm on my laptop!

With respect and appreciation, Peter

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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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