

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 57

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

Date: 8/18/2026, 19:27

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Governing Board --

FYI -- to Umpires and Managers.

And, please note **item 2 in the Playoff Protocols**. Your help may be needed. Please check out with me before leaving on any Playoff Day.

PET UIC

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

Subject:Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 57

Date:Tue, 18 Aug 2026 19:24:30 -0400

From:Peter E. Toomey

Managers --

For your information and sharing with your Players.
Especially the "Playoff Protocols", which answer your questions I have received.

Good luck in the Playoffs.

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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:

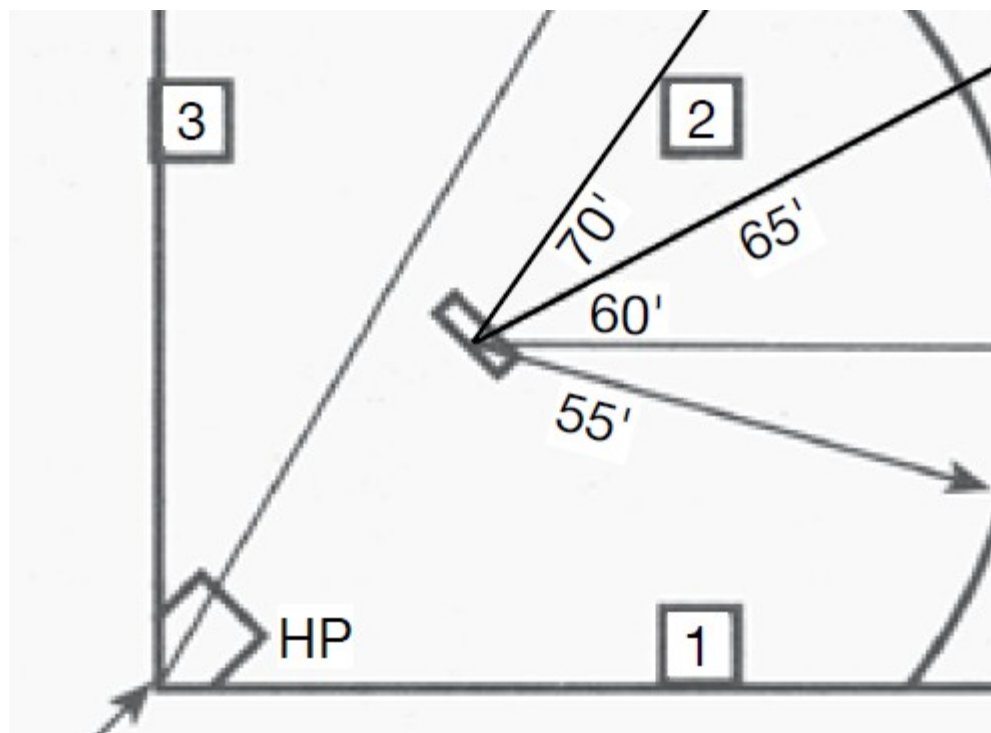
## HOME PLATE

Love your questions:

1. Fair or Foul?
2. Batted ball, straight down, hits the Plate?
3. Then dribbles a few inches into the very front of the other Batter's Box?

Talking about the *white* Plate, not the gray/black Board/Mat.

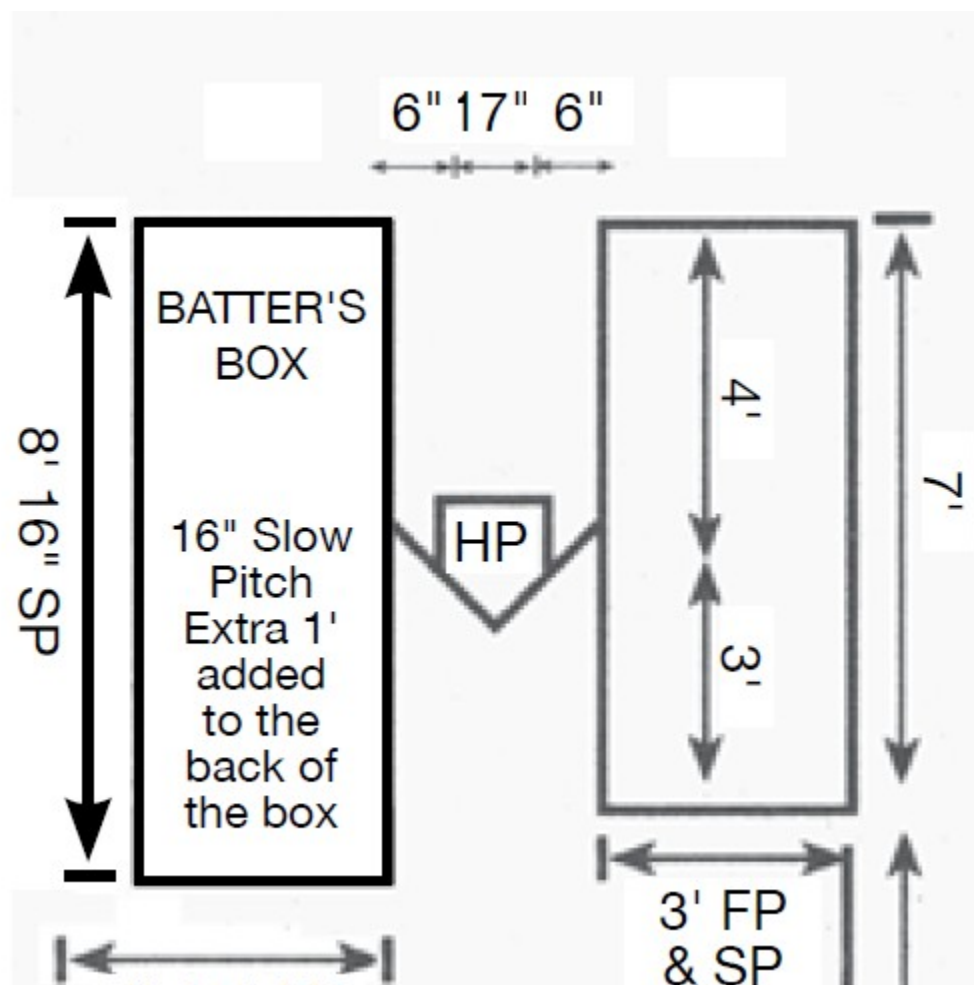
Well, when all speculation fails: you know me -- I look at Page 29 of USASoftball's Rulebook.



It's pretty clear that Home Plate is in Fair Territory -- hmmm, maybe that's why the back is pointed?

So Question 1: "Fair".

Question 2: "Fair" to start, depends on where it goes next!



Looking on our right side, extending that 1st Base line, 3'6" of the Box are in front of the front edge of the Plate, so appears that about a third of each Box is in Fair ground.

So Question 3 could very well be "Fair". The PU will apply his skills and make a judgement call. If Foul: Loudly. If Fair: extending his inbounds arm horizontally, silently!

## PLAYOFF PROTOCOLS

Under HnP Rule 15.5, we conduct these playoff games under "tournament protocols". ie:

1. There are no Protests. Any objection to Rules Interpretation or Application will result in Time Out, Umpires (or U-I-C) pulls the Rules Book, decision is rendered, game continues.

(HnP Rules are in the white bag. USASoftball Rules are in white bag on top of AED in Equipment Room. Don't hesitate.)

2. If a player is Ejected, he is entitled to his Hearing that same day, so he (and his Manager) know whether he is playing the next game.

To that end, all Governing Board and Rules Committee should NOT LEAVE the fields until they confirm with the U-I-C that their presence is NOT NEEDED.

3. From our Playing Guide:

A. Mercy Rule is Regular Season -- does not apply in Playoffs.

B. Same Run Rule: 5 until last inning, then unlimited (including Extra Innings).

C. If tied, no runner starting on 2B.

D. No Player can sub from another team.

As always, the Umpires are in charge of the game. We should act like it.

(The UIC appreciates if our more-seasoned Umpires, observing another game, would have their blue shirt with them in their bag, just in case a scheduled man should become injured, ill, or overly fatigued.)

## GETTING PAID

I know. I know. You do this for the love of the game. Cool.

But there is that little added incentive: the Players for whom we work voted last Spring to increase our mileage reimbursement to \$15. Bless them for their appreciation.

If you're worried that you might have failed to sign in, during Playoffs is the right time to make a copy of your notes and hand it to me!

Because I will shortly be forwarding my list to the League Treasurer for payment.

## AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

Delightfully few issues this season.

Good communication about availability and scheduling restrictions.

And a wonderful array of questions from you -- from which we have all been able to deepen our appreciation of the game, our knowledge, and the level of our mastery of our craft.

Thank you for your dedication and professionalism and passion.

With respect and appreciation, Peter

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

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440-669-0750

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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