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To All 2023 Managers and Division Directors

Dear Managers:

THOUGHTS AS WE ENTER THE 2023 SEASON

To help you lead your Players, a few suggestions and observations from last season:

RULE 1.5 PITCHER'S SCREEN

The Umpire will set it. Nobody touches it.

RULE 2.4 UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

“proper uniform. Pants or shorts must be dark blue or black”

Not “used to be”, not “almost”, not “just this one time”. > “dark blue or black”

RULE 7.1 LEGAL PITCH

The pitch need not pass *over* the screen (like a field goal). But must be six feet from the ground *when it passes the screen*.

RULE 8.1 COURTESY RUNNER

Any guy, any number of times per game. *Once* per inning.

RULE 8.2 RUNNER-FOR-BATTER

“declare ... *one* Player”

He “must stop a 1st” (last year was “2d”)

– if he’s off first, you can tag or force him out

– if reaches 2d safely: he’s still not allowed there, the defense must appeal, then he’s out

RULE 8.8 OUTFIELD PLAY

Division III added “throw to 1st must be relayed through an infielder”

RULE 10.4

Late change: we do *not* observe the USA Softball rule of a runner being placed on second base.

RULE 10.7 LIMIT

Never was a time limit. Now we agree.

RULE 13 PROTESTS

The “defending” Manager must now write up his side of the story.

RULE 18.3 CONDUCT

I share with you, not a *note* but the *Rule* in its entirety: take the hint. Hoping you will coach your team?

“We subscribe to USA Softball’s Zero Tolerance Policy Against Abuse: ‘3 Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but are not limited to such forms of abuse as: yelling, insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person’s race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age.’

“Umpires will issue written warnings to violators, which will be reviewed by the Governing Board for potential additional discipline.”

Be nice.

DIVISION III

RULE 32.1

[revised 4/30/23] SevenEight on dirt. ~~If you want the eighth “infielder” (really: ‘defender’)- anywhere on the grass.~~

32.2 NON-RUNNING BATTERS

Outfielders do not creep in. “Short-fielders” move out to same.

RULE 36.1 INFIELD FLY

Clarified: it’s a dead ball, nobody moves.

It’s been a lonnnng off-season, but still willing to have any questions,

Peter E. Toomey
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copy: Rules Chair
Governing Board

(UmpireMssg230415Mgrs.odt)