

Subject:	Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 6
Date:	Fri, 16 Jun 2023 12:08:59 -0400
From:	Peter E. Toomey

We have the best view of the game.

Here are a couple thoughts to make it even better? Hopefully this helps:

JUNETEENTH

June 19, this Monday, the fields will NOT be lined.

Be a tad more attentive to ground balls close to the foul lines.

Use your judgement.

GAME BALLS

We had an incident where a Manager inadvertently grabbed an off-brand ball from his practice bucket and put it into play.

At your pre-game meeting, please ensure game balls are the Tattoo brand, OLT1244PC

(And, in case one gets knocked out, why not ask both managers to have the replacement selected and sequestered in the dugout, BEFORE the game starts?)

FLAT PITCHES

Pitches need NOT pass directly over the screen. But if a pitch comes outside the screen -- and is not "as high as the screen when it passes the screen", you need to call it "illegal". It IS too low.

But if over the screen, they cannot be illegal as "flat". However, read on:

SPEED OF PITCHES

Under USA Rule 6C, Section 2, G: "released at a moderate speed. The speed is left entirely up to the judgment of the umpire."

That's you: If you feel speed is excessive, call "illegal".

HEIGHT OF PITCHES

To set your mind to what "12 feet" looks like,

when you're pre-game confirming that screen is the correct distance from the rubber

(you noticed that subtle suggestion there, didn't ya?)

stand on the rubber. Spot the horizontal pipes in the backstop:

Diamonds 1, 2, 4, 5: the second pipe from the top

Diamond 3: the top of the "3" medallion

Now you "see" what 12 feet looks like. Call them if you see 'em. (BTW: "illegal", not "high" not "bring it down" -- but you remember that from the Clinic.)

SCHEDULING - June 19 and 22

I will be gone on vacation.

Though I hope you won't have any scheduling questions then, President Bob Brown will be handling them -- RCBrown24@yahoo.com 216-372-3626.

AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

"When I am not playing or working a game, I will teach umpires who want teaching. At times this will require me to be on the field -- usually briefly -- and at other times I may ask him to step off and observe me. I will let the managers know before hand. If you can't tell guys or show them DURING the game, too much has happened during the game to go back and cover."

Michael has my permission to do this.
If you want to learn, ask him.
Just sayin'

With respect and appreciation, Peter
Huff-N-Puffers Umpire-In-Chief

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All Rules and Umpire Information and the Umpire Guide are *always* at www.huff-n-puffers.com/Rules-and-Regulations.html
The USA Softball rulebook can be downloaded as a PDF from www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Umpires/Official-Rulebook

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