

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 8

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Date: 7/11/2023, 15:06

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FYI -- to all umpires

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

Subject:Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 8

Date:Tue, 11 Jul 2023 14:59

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:

QUICK REVIEW OF THINGS YOU LEARNED FROM STUDYING "THE UMPIRES MANUAL"

At the Plate, we DO:

Call Catch or No Catch

Call Foul

(but not Fair, because all the Fielders have their back to us
and they easily mis-hear, so we remain silent,
arm horizontal toward the infield)

Call plays at 3d

(after moving out front)

Announce the count before each pitch

(loudly enough for Infielders to hear
using that 3 balls/2 strikes/1 foul format

Call Illegal or Infield Fly as the ball reaches its highest point in flight

On the Bases, we DON'T:

Add a second voice to the Plate Ump's on his calls, above

Lose track of balls/strikes/outs/runs

And it goes without saying that:

We support our partner Ump

We might OFFER a kind suggestion, privately

(but if he declines, of course we swallow it)
We NEVER criticize him. EVER.
If we have a real concern about him, we reach out to the U-I-C

(Yes, of course I know that **you** know this. This note is for *that guy* Monday . . .)

AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Tag Plays -- our toughest calls

When moving into the play, know in your mind that this a *not* a *force* play. This may be painfully obvious, but if you go into this play thinking 'force out' you will be caught completely off guard.

You do not want to make a call on any tag play from seventy feet -- twelve feet would be optimal.

DO NOT see the play on the run. DO NOT make the call on the run. Get there, get set, but be prepared to move some to get a better angle.

This is always a big play and is always a sell "out" call or a sell "safe" call.

This is where we shine -- the key is being close and being forceful.

A "safe" call is always immediate -- hesitation looks as if you aren't sure. On an "out" call, take your time, make sure of the tag, then sell it.

You look stronger on the out call when you are being deliberate.

Two things to remember -- USA rules state that a defensive player cannot block the bag unless he HAS the ball -- otherwise we have obstruction -- delayed dead ball and the runner would be entitled to the base. The runner must have a clear path to the base if the defensive player does not have the ball.

The offensive player must slide or give up. If he comes in standing up and interferes in any way with the defensive player's ability to catch the ball it is interference -- dead ball and he is out. If he crashes into him forcefully he is out and ejected.

AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

One of our Managers sent this to two of our Umps -- take heart, take the inspiration:

"I know our umpires take a lot of criticism in our league but I wanted to say that you [two] called an amazing game yesterday. You both were active and right on the calls behind the plate and on the bases. You were both fully engaged during this fast paced game. A lot was going on and you guys were right on top of it. I just wanted to reach out to you to tell you both 'job well done'."

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

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Schedules, Rules, 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

and the USA Umpire Manual at https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0144/3128/2023_Umpire_Manual.pdf

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