

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 22

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

Date: 8/6/2023, 22:42

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FYI

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

Subject:Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 22

Date:Sun, 6 Aug 2023 22:41:15 -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:

"ILLEGAL" --

FLAT PITCH

Had a question Thursday: if the pitch goes "over the pitcher's screen"

(or, per the rule, outside the screen "as high as the screen when it passes the screen")

-- it meets the rule's "minimum 6 feet" --

and therefore CANNOT BE "flat".

We still have the option of deciding a pitch is TOO FAST?

Per USA Rule 6.c.3.g, slow pitch means the ball is delivered "at a moderate speed".

Wow. Thanks Rule Writers.

So we would be forced to decide that a Pitcher's speed is too fast. We could. (But personally I don't think it's likely that *I* will. Jus sayin.)

You'd call it "Illegal". If asked, "faster than the Rule's 'moderate speed'."

SPORTSMANSHIP

Barb Rauckhorst annually presents a "Sportsmanship Award". She has asked us for help. Because we observe all the Players and Managers and Umpires at various times, she's asked us to nominate men we feel are worthy. Please send her names and a few lines about why:

BARBRAUCKHORST@GMAIL.COM

PLATE MECHANICS

As far we are physically able, Plate Umpires getting out from behind Home and into the diamond -- closer to your calls at 3B, improved angle for pulled foot at 1B, able to watch for runner interference -- and heck, you just look like you're into the game!

AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Interference and Obstruction should be called immediately by whichever umpire sees it.

AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

This Wednesday, when we come to the All-Star Games, let's keep an eye on the umpires working.

Something we should do whenever we're observing a game -- what can we learn? Either to emulate? Or to avoid?

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

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