

<b>Subject:</b>	Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 23
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 10 Aug 2023 16:54
<b>From:</b>	Peter E. Toomey

We have the best view of the game.

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

### **FOUL BALL?**

Play this morning:

Line drive outside the 3B line. 3d Baseman reached into foul territory, touched but did not catch.

The ruling Fair/Foul depends upon the position of the BALL, not the FIELDER.

Apologies to those teams: we should have called it FOUL!

### **BAT BOYS and GIRLS**

Who doesn't love having their grandkids come watch us play.

But we need vigilance to keep them safe!

Managers are being instructed to advise Players:

- Grandpa is responsible for oversight 100% of the time: on *every* play, when it is safe to go chase a bat
- the responsible party, hopefully the parent, must sign a waiver with a member of the Governing Board, BEFORE play begins
- at the pregame conference, Manager will advise the Plate Umpire of compliance
- helmets are STRONGLY encouraged

Umpires:

- will observe actions
- if necessary, will counsel grandpa, not the minor
- if in the Umpire's sole discretion actions are unsafe, will politely remove the minor from the field and dugout

### **AND IN CLOSING:**

A THOUGHT about a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Last issue, I quoted Michael:

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

My thanks to the talented umpire who challenged the statement. And an apology to Michael, for I took that one line out of a longer message he had once shared.

Actually: USA 2023 Umpire's Manual, p 67:

## 5D6C "Interference"

1. Step forward while giving a strong "Dead Ball" signal while emphatically calling "Dead Ball".
2. Point to the interference then give a strong "Out" signal and a verbal "Out" call.

## 5D6D "Obstruction"

1. Give the "Delayed Dead Ball" signal and verbally say "Obstruction".
2. If the obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the bases they would have reached had there been no obstruction, the umpire shall call "time" and award the obstructed runner and all other runners the base they would have reached had there been no obstruction...
4. When the play becomes dead, make the proper obstruction award.  
Be prepared to explain your ruling.

So "should be *called* immediately" was correct -- but the timing: Interference is Dead Ball and Obstruction is Live.

(Of course you know the "Delayed Dead Ball" signal is left arm extended horizontally!)

## CALLING BALLS AND STRIKES

Thanks for the question today:

Your choice whether to announce every Ball when it hits dirt. I usually don't. Because I think it gives my Strike calls better hearing.

When the ball is back in the Pitcher's hands, let's be loud enough with "N balls, N strikes" to the entire infield.

And, if there's been a foul after two strikes, then it's "N balls, 2 strikes, 1 foul" so everyone knows the next ball must be fair (which we do not say because of course we don't want to be 'coaching'.)

## PLAYOFF SCHEDULES

Please be attentive to your Inbox -- as soon as I learn who's playing when, I'll schedule you to work those games.

## AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

### SPORTSMANSHIP

Please remember Barb Rauckhorst's "Sportsmanship Award" and nominate men we feel are worthy. Please send her names and a few lines about why:

[BARBRAUCKHORST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BARBRAUCKHORST@GMAIL.COM)

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](http://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/](http://www.usasoftball.com/official-rulebook/) and the USA Umpire Manual at [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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