

We have the best view of the game.

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

JUNE SCHEDULE

I'll post it this weekend.

If you'll be unavailable, let me know (if you haven't already).

INFIELD FLY

This subject has been the hot one so far this season. And just will *not* die! So:

-- if the pop-up looks to be within a few feet from foul line, we would do well to call "*If Fair*, Infield Fly" (because if not, it's not).

-- because, in USA (for our D1 and D2), an uncaught, untouched ball rolling Foul, being a *live* ball, would be:

-Foul Ball

-Dead Ball like any foul ball

-runners return to their bases

-batter not out but picks up foul/strike, depending upon his previous count

But, in Div 3, Rule 35 affects the outcome. Because it specifies the Infield Fly is a Dead Ball as soon as declared.

So, in a recent dust-up, the umpires were correct: as soon as they called I.F., the ball was Dead.

It couldn't roll foul.

Batter was out.

Runners returned to previous base.

One way for you to be less likely to get blowback -- **in D3** -- the call should be "Infield Fly, Dead Ball, Batter is Out" with arms extended to halt play.

(And what sounds like a complication is actually simplification: for **D3 Non-Runner Batter** -- I would NOT CALL the I.F. Because he needs to get the ball to the grass. His pop-up isn't likely. I don't need to get involved.)

CARING FOR OUR SCOREBOARDS

Because: "if the notes are left on the board too long, even these markers will leave stains".

Let's make a practice of erasing the score at the end of the game to keep the boards better. (After confirming with both benches, of course.)

YOUR SHIRT

1. If it was once powder blue but now looks almost as white as the Home Team's, see me.
2. If it is tucked in, you'll look less like the grounds crew and more like the guy who's in charge of the game.

3. If it were paired with an HP Hat, it will look like "an outfit" (ask your lady), see me.

PITCHES HITTING THE PITCHER'S SCREEN

Under 7.1, of course, "A pitch striking the screen is a ball" --

-- But what if it hits the top rail, continues toward the plate, can the batter play it?

-- let's call it Dead Ball (your UIC will get that codified next winter)

RUNNING LANE

USA: Three-foot lane ... line drawn [well, not by Parma Rec, but imagine one!] in foul territory parallel to and 3' from the first base foul line. It starts halfway from home plate and goes to the back edge of first base.

The Batter-Runner must use the lane. If not, and he interferes, Out. Read details in 8.2.E.

AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

How we look and sound is 85% of our job.

We are important to the game. We are best when we are a tiny part of the game.

We let a lot roll off our back.

AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

To: U.I.C.

From: Team [nn]

Umpire [redacted] did excellent umpiring of the game.

He was consistent with his calls and was a gentleman.

He worked alone which isn't easy in Div. 3.

Much appreciated!

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

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Video of the 2024 Clinics, 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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