

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 29

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BCC: umpires

We have the best view of the game.

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

UMPIRE GUIDE

You know, the one that's linked in my signature block? Since the dawn of time? Chock full of hints for happiness?

Now expanded and completely updated! Maybe worth a peek?

OF > 2B > 1B: OUT?

Under 8.8, an "Outfielder cannot throw out a Batter-Runner at 1st..."

Question: what if the "relay" is through a double-play at 2nd?

Nope. (Although there's enough interest that the Rule *will* be discussed in the off-season.)

RUNNER-FOR-BATTER

You know, the one who's supposed to stop at 1st?

Well the recent brouhaha has had one good effect: I've heard Managers and Players tell their RFB "run *straight* thru 1st, don't even *look* left, come right *back* to the bag..."

So that's progress.

And the reminder:

If he *does* round 1st:

-- Defense must tag/force him back at 1st

-- heaven forbid he secures 2d: Defense must appeal, then Out

-- (it'd never happen with *our* league's *gentlemen*, but) should a RFB be obnoxious enough to warrant it, you could call "Runners Interference" (USA Rules Supplement 33 - INTERFERENCE)

ME. AND YOU.

I love this job. Because it's about working to make things easy/good/simple/fun/productive/etc. So I'm more than happy to take the time to send these silly notes, update the Guide, take your calls, chat when we're at the diamonds.

You saw President Brown's 6/17 All Members memo about "UIC's Role" -- especially "during game days".

It was excellent.

It simply reinforces --

-- once you call "Play", the game is *solely* in your hands.

-- if Peter-Toomey-ballplayer happens to be *in* your game: you betcha he's going to be watching how

you work it! BUT: he's just a *ballplayer*.

-- but after you call "Ball Game", he's happy to answer any question, offer any opinion, support you in any other way you feel you need. Ask?

AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Outs should be deliberate. Make sure he has control of the ball. Count one thousand two thousand in your head before calling the out. This will prevent changing an Out call to a Safe call.

Just because it is a bang-bang Out does not mean it needs to be called immediately. The only Out called immediately is the front end of a double play -- the tail end is almost always a Sell Safe or a Sell Out.

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>

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