

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 32

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

Date: 8/6/2024, 23:08

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FYI

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

Subject:Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 32

Date:Tue, 6 Aug 2024 23:07:10 -0400

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

Managers: Sent to your Umpires: FYI ~~~~~

We have the best view of the game.

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

INFIELD FLY RULE, FOUL, DEAD ...

Thanks for pointing out that it causes confusion when a *member of the defense* yells these! Something else for us Umpires to be aware of. (Be sure to communicate with your partner.)

I'm recommending to Managers that their players do themselves a dis-service:

- it *they* call it but the Umpire *doesn't*, their teammates will handle the play at a disadvantage!
- because what sticks is the *Ump's* call.

BATTER OUT OF BATTER'S BOX

We reviewed this a couple of messages ago.

From one of our number recently: "In two years, I've never called this. On Thursday, I had to. On Monday, *twice!*"

Cries of outrage from the manager ~ "... umpire inserting himself into the game ... let the boys play the game ..."

A followup meeting from league leadership ~ "... let's not be overly fastidious ..."

I agree with all three of those statements. Completely. And you've read my invitations to you -- about all three.

But part of our job is also to help "the boys" play "the game". **Right.** (Lest I be too subtle: that means according to the rules of the game.)

Yes, there's room for judgment. I've personally -- both before and since these reports -- held back

when batters have danced over the line. The infraction was not serious enough to halt play. But you may have seen a batter take advantage on a pitch he should have let go. Clearly fully over the line at time of contact with the ball. Make your call.

1. This isn't about you, being in charge. But our job is to ensure that everybody is playing by the same standards.
2. That umpire did observe that, after those calls, several players asked for instruction on the rule.
Several more players were noticeably more reserved in the box.
(My point: enforcement enhances compliance and performance.)
3. Yes, Parma Rec lines their boxes 3" narrower than prescribed by USA Softball. (Legal front-to-back.)
But those are the lines we get -- those are the lines we play.
4. The correct call would be "Dead Ball. Out of the Box. Out."

ABOUT BEING *IN* THAT BATTERS BOX

Remember:

-- before we allow a pitch, both of Batter's feet must be *in* the box (which includes *on* the line, but heels *not* protruding outside).

-- if the Batter leans in?

USA Rule 7. 4. "A Strike"

K. When a legally pitched ball hits the batter while the ball is in the strike zone.

L. When a pitched ball is prevented from entering the strike zone by any actions of the batter other than hitting the ball.

AUGUST SCHEDULE

In your inbox yesterday.

Appreciation for the guy who awoke, sick, and called right away.

Concern about the guys who just didn't show up -- lucky I had an experienced man to pull from the adjacent diamond -- but that left two men working solo.

IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Outs should be deliberate -- count one thousand two thousand in your head before calling the out -- make sure fielder has control of the ball -- 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".

AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

From a Manager:

"Thanks Pete for all that you, and your staff, provide to the league. Greatly 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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