

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 42

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To all Managers:

Sent to all Umpires today.

We work hard to help your Umpires be the best they can be.

Happy to share all below, but I invite your attention to the "In Closing".

And, as always, I am open to hearing your questions, comments, and evaluations of the men working your games. --PET

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We have the best view of the game.

Here are a ~~couple~~ *no, a lot of*, thoughts to make it even better? Hopefully this helps:

## **EQUIPMENT ON THE FIELD**

Echoing Secretary (and great guy for caring for our gear) Don Evans's recent email:

The equipment: plate board, rubber safety plate, pitcher's screen, scoreboard, *and the white bag for umpire.*

Home teams --

-- before 9 are responsible for setting up the field

-- after 10:45 and 11:00 games "are to take all that equipment back to our room and stow it properly."

It would be helpful -- in your pregame conference and immediately after calling "ball game" in the late game -- to remind the Home Manager to put away the toys.

PS: and, apropos to my last message about "new game balls", he supplies a new ball. If he fails, it's not your job to solve his problem. Let him work it out with his opposing Manager...

## **THROW COMING TO HOME PLATE**

Rule 8.3: "touching the Strike Zone Board" -- doesn't say anything about the white shape painted on -- the whole board is in play.

### **D3 NON-RUNNING BATTER -- RULE 33.2**

Ball hit to 2d Baseman: his feet on grass, but he bends down to stop the ball on the dirt. Out or Awarded 1st?

Because it is the position of the BALL that rules: Out.

Same as a ball hit up the base line, being touched -- it is Fair or Foul depending upon the position of the BALL, not the FIELDER.

### **D3 LEGACY PLAYER DESIGNATED HITTERS**

Legacy DH accommodation was a trial in D3 to encourage our most senior players to continue.

However it was found confusing and has been cancelled.

These Members play under the Non-Runner Rules 31.1 and 33.

### **FIELD 5 UMPIRE SIGN IN**

There is a separate clipboard. Don Evans and I are struggling to find the best way to ensure it comes to the field. Anyone who brings the wagon from the Equipment Room, please ensure the clipboard comes. I've tried several ways, the current is to strap the clipboard to the cart or the AED bag. Look for it.

### **IN CLOSING:**

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

We share with the Managers: Our umpires do not have 40-year-old eyes ears or legs. They have not spent years working their way through A, AA, AAA baseball perfecting their craft. That is a standard they should not have to meet. They will miss some calls, as surely as some of your players will make errors. As with playing, in umpiring we strive to do our best.

### **AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:**

From a member: "I read your message. I always find it to the point and informative."  
Well, golly, thank you.

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](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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