

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 43

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Date: 7/15/2025, 10:06

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Gov Bd -- FYI, shared with Managers
PET, UIC

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

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 43

Date: Tue, 15 Jul 2025 10:05

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

Managers --

As sent to Umpires.

Lots of interesting stuff this time. For your info -- and perhaps some things to share with your players?

PET, UIC

~~~~~  
We have the best view of the game.

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

## THE DISCARDED BAT

Yeah, nobody had ever seen it, but yeah, it happened.

Depends upon whether the batter's discarded bat is in fair or foul territory when the fair hit ball makes contact with the bat. If the contact happens in fair territory keeping the ball from rolling foul, it's in play. However, if the contact occurs with the bat in foul territory, the ball has gone foul -- it's a foul ball.

## BASE UMPIRE MECHANIC: BEHIND THE PITCHER?

Nope. USA Softball Umpire Manual (Pages 17 and 59) says "always be positioned behind the infielders" (or, if they're deep, out of their line of sight).

The logic: any infield play will be within your 90-degree field of view -- *without moving*. (Remember "angle over distance" is preferred.)

If you were behind the pitcher, you may *need to pivot* to pick up either the ball or the runner.

## AND THAT EVER-PESKY INFIELD FLY

"fair... can be caught by an infielder ... ordinary effort ... 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd occupied ... less than two outs."

Gotta call it early and loud.

## SOMETIMES, YOU GUYS WRITE IT FOR ME:

### CALLING THE HIGH PITCH "ILLEGAL"

An extremely-experienced ump told me he failed to get on his pitchers right at the beginning of the game. He realized it. But also realized that "it's hard to correct that later and begin calling".  
Uh. Yeah.

### HELPING YOUR PARTNER

Another pro said "tell 'em don't butt in." Well, that's pretty direct.

The Umpire Guide (linked below) reminds us --

-- If he asks our opinion, we meet privately and give it, then he affirms or reverses his call

-- If he doesn't ask, we don't offer

-- No umpire can "overrule" another umpire

-- If a Manager asks (only the man who made the call) for a consult, that Ump has the right to decline if he feels he saw the play and that the partner would not have a better angle to give him that opinion (USA Softball Umpire Manual -- yep: linked below, Page 61)

### BASE UMPIRE'S VOICE

We do not add a second voice to the Plate Ump's on his calls.

### DON'T ANTICIPATE THE CALL

Usually the more-experienced umps are better at making Safe/Out calls. But sometimes even they fall into the habit of "knowing that guy is going to be \_\_\_\_". The danger is that our experience is colored by the Division *we play* in. Yet we work games above or below us -- with guys who are faster or slower. So we can get surprised.

A guy yesterday asked me to remind you: **Don't anticipate the call.** Get an angle. Stop and get set. If he's safe, only then call it. If he's out, give it that 1-2 count to ensure the foot's on the bag and the ball isn't bobbled, *then* "Out".

### GROUND BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

Second Baseman and Outfielder approached the ball. Infielder picked it up from the grass and threw to 1st in time. Ump didn't allow.

Nope. Is *not* an automatic award of 1st Base in Div 1 and 2 (as it is in Div 3).

Rule 8.7 "An **outfielder** cannot throw out ..." But this was the Infielder.

### INFIELDER / OUTFIELDER

And 20 minutes later, an ump asked me for clarification. I reminded him: that definition occurs at the *time of the pitch*: standing on dirt or grass?

## FOUL TIP / POP-UP

"height of the batter's head ... no longer applies ... in 2006"

"batted ball that goes sharply and directly from bat to catcher's glove" = foul tip, strike  
"foul ball with "perceptible" arc ... catcher moves their glove / mitt" = pop-up, batter is out  
(USA Rules Supplement 22, Page 134)

## IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Get set before the play happens. You do not want to be moving as the play happens and  
you do not want to make the call on the run.

## AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

I have been gratified by the willingness of some to work shifts that aren't their preference.  
We've lost men to injury and debilitation and some even withdrew. So we need you all.  
Thanks.

With respect and appreciation, Peter

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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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