

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 44

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CC: "Barb Rauckhorst (HnP Sportsmanship)" <BarbRauckhorst@gmail.com>

To all umpires

and special note to Division Directors: the "black shorts in the Equipment Room" note, which I encourage you to share with your Managers?

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We have the best view of the game.

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

#### **UNIFORM RULE 2.4**

We had a situation this morning. Player who had been off for five weeks, bought new shorts, thought our rule was "black or gray". Wore the gray.

I instructed his manager to send him to the Equipment Room for the plastic bag with pairs of black shorts that Secretary Evans procured a couple years ago.

The opposing manager graciously called out "We waive, let him play."

But in my head was that Umpire-In-Chief' somber warning against ~ 'just this once...' or ~ 'agreement between managers...'

So I thanked the opposing manager but still sent the gentleman in search of shorts to borrow.

To assist you should you encounter a violation -- send him:

Equipment Room.

Left side.

Far in.

Passed the rack holding the orange bags of pitcher's screens.

Kinda low, hooked on an iron pipe.

White plastic bag.

Instruct him not to screw up a good deal: wear today, wash tonight, return to the bag on **next** game day.

#### **BASE MECHANICS**

An umpire who sets up on the foul side of First Base risks having the fielder's body block his view of catching the ball or bobbling it.

Because he loses sight of one of the four elements of the play: base, batter-runner, fielder, **ball!**

Start on the line. With the hit, move toward the mound to a position where you see all four

elements. Allowing the ball to bring you to the base.

## SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Barb Rauckhorst reminds us:

- she presents an award in her dad's memory
- in each Division
- to a man who displays notable "sportsmanship"
- and she needs our help: please make recommendations, with some specifics, to her at [BarbRauckhorst@gmail.com](mailto:BarbRauckhorst@gmail.com)

## SCHEDULING

My thanks to those who, in the last week of July, sent me their un-avails for August.  
Made things easier.

All-Star Game assignments follow, as soon as I can get the final Roster, so I know who's available.

## IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Thanks for the outreach and good wishes. Had pretty much all his cardiac plumbing redone.

This morning, was back coaching third base. And **telling us** to keep our attitudes up!

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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