

Subject: FYI: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 45

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Gents -- message sent to Umpires. Please note the "**PLAYOFFS**" below, it applies to you. -- Peter

"Tournament Edition !!"

We have the best view of the game.

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

PLAYOFFS

My annual reminder that we conduct these playoff games under "tournament protocols". ie:

1. There are no Protests. Any objection to Rules Interpretation or Application will result in Time Out, Umpires (or U-I-C) pulls the Rules Book, decision is rendered, game continues.
2. If a player is Ejected, he is entitled to his Hearing that same day, so he (and his Manager) know whether he is playing the next game.

To that end, we encourage all Governing Board and Rules Committee to NOT LEAVE the fields until they confirm with the U-I-C that their presence is NOT NEEDED.

From our Playing Guide:

- A. No Mercy Rule
- B. Same Run Rule: 5 until last inning, then unlimited (including Extra Innings)
- C. No runner starting on 2B.
- D. No Player can sub from another team.

STARTING TIME

Had a question about Rule 4.8 Forfeit: "A team must be ready to play ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time..."

No, this does not change the Start Time.

Yes, an Umpire could --

-- grant a Manager's request to delay (especially useful if a missing Player is Umpiring!)

-- inform Manager who has a full roster, start, add the late player to the bottom of the roster when he arrives

INFIELD FLY

If the pop-up looks to be within a few feet of foul line, we call "*If Fair, Infield Fly*".

An uncaught, untouched ball rolling Foul, being a live ball, would be Foul and Dead Ball.

"SCREEN" vs "FOUL"

Reminder that they're different. And need to be "counted" separately.

Rule 7.2: the first batted ball that hits the screen = "dead ball" with no change in the count.

A second batted ball (in same at-bat) hits the screen = Strike.

Rule 6/2: 2 fouls after 2 strikes = Out.

Because 'foul' and 'screen' are different, I (privately) use both of my index fingers: extend left for Foul and right for Screen. I have actually made this announcement: " __ balls, 2 strikes, 1 foul, 1 screen" -- because the guy had used up all his options!

PLAYOFF ASSIGNMENTS

I have appreciated all who have shared their availability (or not!) for the Playoffs.

Please continue to update whether you *do* or *do not* want to work.

I'm continuing our past practice of not assigning umpires to work on games in their Division, wherever possible.

And am grateful for men who are stretching to help us cover everything.

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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