

Subject: Fwd: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 5

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Date: 5/13/2023, 14:42

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FYI

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

Subject:Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 5

Date:Sat, 13 May 2023 14:41:05 -0400

From:Peter E. Toomey

We have the best view of the game.

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

DOCUMENT ARCHIVES

Because we have a few new men working this year, I should have noted that these e-blasts to you are always posted at the link below my phone number. Log on, > "Rules and Regulations", click the blue box, top right, "Umpire Information".

D-3 CLARIFICATION

We are correcting a typo in the 3/22 Rules doc -- removed the "non-running batters" -- now reads:

32.1 Running Batters

No more than eight (8) players on the infield dirt, includes pitcher and catcher.

THE OLE "CAN I STICK OUT MY FOOT OR THROW MY GLOVE TO STOP A GROUND BALL" QUESTION

Yes, it's come up again, this time about the D3 Non-Running Batter, but it applies everywhere -- because it's in USA (upon which we base our local rules).

Rule 8, 5, F: When a fielder intentionally contacts or catches a fair batted, thrown or pitched ball with any part of the uniform or equipment that is detached from its proper place.

Effect: Delayed dead ball. The batter and runners are entitled to:

-- Three bases from the time of the pitch on a batted ball.

-- Two bases from the time of the throw on a thrown ball.

-- One base from the time of the pitch on a pitched ball.

So it's true in D1 and D2: Stopping the ball with one's foot is USA legal, because the foot's not "detached".

But our local D3 rules declare the foot illegal.

However, our local rule 31.1 says the Non-runner Batter is awarded ONE base (not three in USA for D1-2).

And the same goes for tossing one's glove or hat.

INFIELD FLY

USA:

A fair fly ball, not including a line drive or an attempted bunt, which can be caught by an infielder, pitcher or catcher with ordinary effort when first and second or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two outs.

Automatic?

Yes: 'automatic' -- WHEN the Umpire judges that "ordinary effort" would catch the ball -- he'll call it.

Does a fielder have to "TRY"?

No: once the Umpire has made his judgment that it "CAN be caught" (not will, not might, not should, not if-only), it is an out.

And as long as we're wasting ink on this: remember to call it at the highest point of the ball's arc.

AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

"Once the umpires begin the game they have almost absolute power in the handling of the game.

In a Cleveland-area game once, an Umpire-In-Chief was asked by a league official to remove an umpire whom he felt was not impartial. That was an improper request because neither he nor the official had the authority to remove an umpire during a game. Umpires must be shielded from outside influences. They may remove themselves from a game for physical reasons or if they feel they cannot carry out their duties — but that decision is theirs and it should not come from any pressure outside the game itself. League officials and even the U-I-C have no authority to intervene in that instance. During the game, the U-I-C is available for rule interpretation and advice — when asked."

Just sayin'

Updated Schedules will follow soon.

With respect and appreciation, Peter
Huff-N-Puffers Umpire-In-Chief

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All Rules and 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.teamusa.org/USA-Softball

[/Umpires/Official-Rulebook](#)

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