

**Subject:** Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 6

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**Date:** 5/22/2023, 00:15

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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:

#### GAME BALLS

We had an incident where a Manager inadvertently grabbed an off-brand ball from his practice bucket and put it into play.

At the pre-game meeting, please ensure game balls are the Tattoo brand, OLT1244PC

(And, in case one gets knocked out, why not ask both managers to have the replacement selected and sequestered in the dugout?)

#### FLAT PITCHES

Pitches need NOT pass directly over the screen -- but if they do, they cannot be illegal as "flat".

If a pitch comes outside the screen -- and is not "as high as the screen when it passes the screen", you need to call it "illegal".

#### SPEED OF PITCHES

Under USA Rule 6C, Section 2, G: "released at a moderate speed. The speed is left entirely up to the judgment of the umpire."

If you feel speed is excessive, call "illegal".

#### COURTESY RUNNER

Under 8.1, should a player run a second time in an inning: "Effect: Once in, if discovered before a pitch, Runner is out."

#### SCHEDULING May 26 - June 6

I will be gone to Reunion.

Though I hope you won't have any scheduling questions then, President Bob Brown will be handling them -- [RCBrown24@yahoo.com](mailto:RCBrown24@yahoo.com) 216-372-3626.

#### AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

"When I am not playing or working a game, I will teach umpires who want teaching. At

times this will require me to be on the field -- usually briefly -- and at other times I may ask him to step off and observe me. I will let the managers know before hand. If you can't tell guys or show them DURING the game, too much has happened during the game to go back and cover."

Michael has my permission to do this.

If you want to learn, ask him.

Just sayin'

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](http://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](http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Umpires/Official-Rulebook)

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From