

**Subject:** Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 41

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Managers: An FYI copy of part of today's message to Umpires.

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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: "ATTIRE"**

"Pants or shorts must be dark blue or black in color"

Recently found three players in illegal pants. Heard "...but so-and-so said they were OK."

Umm. **No.**

This isn't the biggest crisis in America right now -- but it *is* a violation of the League's Rules. Which we enforce.

As noted in our Umpire Guide (linked below), there are a couple pair of black shorts, in the Equipment Room, in a bag, on a high shelf.

Because you are looking (in your pregame checklist that I shared last month) for compliance, while teams are warming up, you can direct offenders there.

(And this is a prime example of where we are all smarter than to fall for "just this once".)

Tell them to wear, wash, return before the next play date.

#### **BALL ROTATION IN D1**

D1 starts with two new balls. Under USA Rules Supplement 2A, in the bottom of the 1st, use the second ball. Thereafter, when either ball goes out of play, the "other" ball goes in, and stays in even when the original ball gets returned (to the Umpire).

In D2 and D3, with the second ball starting out "used-but-good", when the new ball goes out of play, it is more common for *it* to be returned to the Pitcher and the *used* ball to the Umpire...

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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