

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 27 -- and updated SCHEDULE
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BCC: umpires

We have the best view of the game.
Here are a couple thoughts to make it even better? Hopefully this helps:

SCHEDULE -- Updated -- attached

D3 NON-RUNNER BATTER

So he gets in the Box but forgets "must declare at each at-bat".
He takes a pitch. THEN declares!

Rule says "he becomes a non-runner when he announces"
Even after he's taken a pitch, if he declares, you cross your wrists.

Now, you wonder:

-- he doesn't announce

-- pitch is delivered

-- he HITS the darn thing!!??

Then: he took the pitch as a Runner, defense can throw him out.

INFIELD FLY

Well hasn't THIS been a fun topic these two weeks!?

"Runners at first and second, or first second and third, less than two outs, and the umpire calls Infield Fly"

-- it is just like any other judgement call, just like plays at bases.

In one game, we can have one called, one a non-call. We would have been right no matter how we called them.

Often they are marginal and *require* the umpire's judgement. So let's talk.

A.

In D1, a ball needing an infielder to take 5 strides -- probably.

In D3, same pop up: oh no way am I calling it.

Moral of story: consider the environment for the required: "caught ... with reasonable effort".

B.

Umpire calls an infield fly when the rule does *not call* for an infield fly -- the ball remains Live, play continues.

Often the ball will be caught and no one is put at a disadvantage.

One scenario: runner at first and umpire mistakenly calls infield fly -- ball *not* caught and the defense turns a double play because the batter-runner didn't run.

The umpire has the authority to negate the Out and place runners where he thought they could have safely gone.

There are no do overs -- we can't go back. We just make the best of the situation by owning the mistake and being fair in our ruling.

Keep learning, people.

AND IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Finally know none of this is life or death. It is serious enough -- but if you can relax enough you will see that you can do this job well and still have fun. When I work a good game or play a good game the feeling is the same -- I am usually smiling when they are over. Do the same.

AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

While we've lost a few guys, we've picked up a few new, and we're doing well.

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

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail -- but if it makes you a better umpire ...

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