

Subject: Huff-N-Puffers Umpires -- "View From Behind The Plate" Issue 30

From: "Peter E. Toomey" <peter.e.toomey@gmail.com>

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To: Bob Brown <RCBrown24@yahoo.com>, Don Evans III <DonEvans.III@gmail.com>, Grover Kistler <dgroversbar@aol.com>, Terry Dempsey <terrydempsey20@yahoo.com>, "Jim Dew (ump)" <jpd377@yahoo.com>, Jerry Bacher <GeraldBacher@att.net>, "Larry Govang (ump)" <LarryFromFord@aol.com>, Terry Rauckhorst <TerryRauckhorst@YAHOO.COM>

Gov Bd:

Sent to all Umpires -- and, as you will read, now also to all Managers.

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Had a blinding glimpse of the obvious:

these periodic love-notes from the Empire-In-Chief to the guys who call your games contain information that **you** could also use.

Part of your job is helping to form your players -- teaching them things they need to know about the game. So they can enjoy it more.

My hope is that these hints will contain things you can pull out to share with them. (Or you might even choose to forward these messages complete.)

Whatever: you'll know where the League has had issues, what the umpires will be watching for, and often interpretations/clarifications of our rules -- all to help you help your players perform better.

So:

1.

If you have thoughts or Rules questions to share, please reach out.

2.

I am always eager to hear your reactions to the men who umpire your games -- your input will help me evaluate who I assign where. And what remedial training might be helpful.

3.

Written notes or a phone call are much more likely to be remembered than a casual comment at the park.

4.

I'll prepare a quick "digest" of recent topics these messages have discussed, which I'll forward this weekend.

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We have the best view of the game.

Not too many crises recently. But.

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

COURTESY RUNNER viz RUNNER-FOR-BATTER

Rule 8.2: "That Runner cannot also Courtesy Run that inning."

INTERFERENCE

Runner on 2B only. Batter hits a ground ball to SS. The Runner on 2B, while running to 3B is directly in front of the SS at the same time the ball gets there -- jumping over the ball. The SS does not field the ball cleanly and the batter beats the throw to 1B.

Your call?

At our level and under our rules (as in USA Rule 8, Section 7, item J) --

-- if he *intentionally slows down* in front of the ball -- that is Interference

-- if he *unintentionally interferes* with the defense attempt to catch the ball in any way -- that is Interference

Always a *dead* ball. Always an *Out*.

Who? Well, as always, we refer to the Effect in the Rule:

"B. Interfering Runner is Out." "C. Batter-Runner is awarded 1st Base."

What if situation were Runners on 1B and 2B?

"E. If the interference, in the umpire's judgment, is an attempt to *prevent a double play* and occurs before the runner is put out, the immediate trailing runner shall also be called out."

Cool stuff in that USA Rulebook (which is a subliminal hint that the link -- for *you* -- is below in the signature block!).

EXPECT YOUR MANAGER TO SUDDENLY BECOME SMARTER

Wow, now that I have the attention of all the Umps who also Manage!!

Recently had the thought that the stuff I share with you is *also* valuable information for *them*, as they lead their teams. So effective with this issue, I will also copy all Managers.

TWO-WAY COMMUNICATIONS

If anything I write is unclear, or you need an answer to something else, or there's something you see that I should address -- let me know?

AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

During the change at half-inning, overheard an aware and intelligent Player comment to the Base Umpire "Good call on that bang-bang at 2d." Smiled, 'cuz that was thoughtful. Then heard the BU reply "Not that hard as long as I get into good position." Grinned, 'cuz that's why I do this.

(NB for those of you who don't do 'subtle': Get into good position. Link to the Umpire Manual is below ... oh, you get the point.)

With respect and appreciation, Peter

Huff-N-Puffers Umpire-In-Chief

peter.e.toomey@gmail.com

440-669-0750

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 ...

From Message-I