

Date: Fri, 30 Aug 2024 21:47:54 -0400

From: Peter E. Toomey

Managers -- sent to all Umpires. FYI. And to help you lead your players. -- PET

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We have the best view of the game.

Even this late in the season, here are a couple thoughts to make it even better? Hopefully this helps:

### **NICE JOB**

All of you stuck with it. Many of you improved your work. Most of you said you enjoyed it.

Not all was easy. Not all was without kerfuffle. But you know, gentlemen, *that's* why they pay us the big bucks!

I appreciate you for that.

### **SIGNING IN**

You've heard from Day 1 that the League Treasurer pays your "mileage reimbursement" off your SIGN-IN SHEETS. Not off my Schedule.

So I hope you've been either --

-- signing the sheet before or after you work

-- even if it's 'next week' and you remember: just write the correct date you worked

-- sending an email or text or voicemail: I can mark you in

-- but not thinking that you can holler at me in the parking lot, like I'm going to *remember*?

(Or yes, guy who has NOT, if you have a list of dates you worked, you can email me that and I'll catch you up. Won't be tickled. But I'll do it.)

### **RULE BOOK**

Was a little surprised when a guy quoted me a rule from ASA or USSA or SSUSA or wherever...

Every governing body differs.

Page 1 of our Rules Guide says "the current edition USA Softball Playing Rules".

(Hint: see the link in my sig block below!)

### **PROTESTS**

We had one protest this season that went off the rails.

Yes, it's always "he said/she said". But this one The Rules Committee was stumped because of info from the umpires. So:

From the Umpire Guide (the first link in my sig block below):

[It already said] "...protests shall be presented in writing by both Managers" means that the guy being protested should write up his side of the story, his 'defense'.

[We just added] **Both Umpires working the game must record their notes:**

- 1) halt the game long enough to ensure you have a clear grasp of the situation,
- 2) you should capture, strongly preferred in writing:
  - “What happened” – Who was where? Describe the situation (inning, outs, count, runners, etc)? Write a step-by-step of the complete action?
  - If you made the call, what was it? Who made it? Did you request consultation with your partner? What did the partner say? If so, did you uphold or reverse?
  - If you were the partner: What was his call? Did he request your consultation? If so, what did you say? If not, what did you see? Either way: was the call upheld or reversed?
  - What Rule is being Protested as being violated? How did you apply it? To your understanding, with what part of your call does the Manager disagree?
  - Any other observations that might be helpful to The Rules Committee?
  - File your report *within hours* of the game, while your memory is *fresh*!

### D3 NON-RUNNING BATTER

Recent question: What is “outfield depth”?

Well, the HnP Umpire Guide (first link in my sig block below) says:

- We don't paint a line.
- It is not [some number] feet.
- It is A) where the Outfielders were playing for the previous Batter; B) where the Umpire judges it to be!

### SCHEDULES

Remember the current Umpire schedule is always available at the *first link* in my signature block below.

### IN CLOSING:

a thought from Chief Instructor Michael Blades:

Professionalism -- An Umpire:

- cannot overrule a call or ruling by another Umpire.
  - should not insert himself into a call by his partner. Or into a discussion his partner is having with a Manager. Unless his partner invites him.
  - need not honor a request by a Manager to "consult your partner" unless he feels he was blocked -- otherwise, he stands by his call.
  - should not involve his partner unless he was blocked or (heaven forbid) is unclear of the correct application of the rule.
- [but the U.I.C. is forced to insert, from last Thursday's brouhaha] -- but **should**, if his partner is being surrounded by an angry mob, move to join him: 1) provide silent presence, 2) enforce "only managers talk to umpires", 3) be judicious but not hesitate to eject a player who needs it.

### AND TO END ON A HIGH NOTE:

Note from a Manager after a hilarious five-minute "time out" recently:

"Sir, you need to update the Umpire Code Book.

"Your crew needs to fully understand and implement the proper procedure on removing Canada geese from the ball field. Thank God no one was injured in this freakish encounter.

"Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Safety should always be our first priority."

It's not all life-and-death!

And many instances recently, as the season wound down, where Players have expressed to me -- several by message, many vocally, a few emotionally -- "Thanks for what your guys do for us. It isn't an easy job. But we need them to do it."

With respect and appreciation,  
and excitement for next year, 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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