

IOWA ASA CASUAL PROFANITY/UNSPORTSMANLIKE "TEAM OUT" RULE

Casual Profanity Rule - The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT per play against the offending team for the use of CASUAL PROFANITY which shall be defined as expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language), which is not appropriate in a recreational sports setting, used by a player, manager/coach or team representative on the field or in the dugout. Words are not directed at any one individual, but rather are made out of frustration or loss of self-control. In the opinion of the umpire, if these words are audible to the umpire and surrounding players or spectators to the extent that it detracts from the values of softball competition based on good sporting behavior and fair play, the umpire may assess a Casual Profanity Out. Actions of players and/or coaches during the teams final out of their term at bat and/or prior to them taking the field on defense shall be carried over to that teams next term at bat. Actions of players and/or coaches during pre-game activities, which occur after the umpires have entered the field of play, will be enforced during the teams first term at bat. All outs (*charged either while on offense or defense*) will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only ONE "Casual Profanity" out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will subject the individuals to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. A player ejected from the game for exceeding these limits will not have a casual profanity out charged to the TEAM. The Casual Profanity penalty "out" will be assessed as a TEAM OUT and will not affect any batter or base runner (*all action stands*). For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.

Sportsmanship Rule - The umpire has the authority to assess one out per play against the offending team for excessive protests, arguments, complaints or behavior not appropriate in a recreation sports setting. Throwing a bat, glove, rude gestures, insulting or disparaging remarks, or baiting or taunting opposing players or game officials would be examples of such actions. Such conduct exhibited by a player, coach or team representative will be penalized. Actions of players and/or coaches during the teams final out of their term at bat and/or prior to them taking the field on defense shall be carried over to the teams next term at bat. Actions of players and/or coaches during pre-game activities, which occur after the umpires have entered the field of play, will be enforced during the teams first at term bat. All outs (*charged either on offense or defense*) will be assessed against the offending TEAM during their term at bat. Only one "unsportsmanlike" out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of continued or excessive unsportsmanlike conduct will subject the individual(s) to ejection from the game. A player/coach/ or team representative ejected from the game will not have a un-sportsmanship out called against them. The Unsportsmanlike penalty "out" will be assessed as a TEAM OUT and will not affect any batter or base runner (*all action stands*). For scoring purposes, the putout will be credited to the catcher.

* For the purposes of these rules a **Play** refers to the duration of one players time at-bat and a teams **Term** at-bat refers to a teams half-inning, which begins when the third out of the previous inning is made and continues until the third out of the team at-bat occurs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FAO's

Three simple things to remember when using the rule for Casual Profanity and Unsportsmanlike TEAM OUT Rules. 1). Use this rule as an aid to help enforce game control and actions that do not belong in the game of Softball. This rule provides a lesser penalty for the area between a warning and situations where the offender must be ejected. 2). Use common sense, if a player says something under his/her breath that no one hears, a warning may be a more appropriate ruling. Umpires should use the rule as a tool and not a weapon. Be consistent in how and when it is assessed. 3). No **PLAYER** is OUT. All players still bat. A TEAM OUT is assessed against the TEAM and all action that occurs during any play STANDS. The TEAM OUT is credited to the catcher.

When is the TEAM OUT for Casual Profanity or Unsportsmanlike Conduct assessed during a play?

Answer: AFTER THE PLAY IS FINISHED AND THE BALL IS RETURNED TO THE CIRCLE, OR TIME IS CALLED IN SLOW PITCH. THE TEAM OUT IS ASSESSED TO THE TEAM AND THE UMPIRE WILL INFORM BOTH TEAMS OF THE CALL. **ALL PLAY THAT OCCURS DURING THE PLAY STANDS!**

Example: A batter pops-up to the second baseman and in his disgust uses profanity on his way toward first base. A gust of wind comes up and the ball strikes the ground and stays fair. The runner remains at first base and after all play is complete, an out is assessed to the TEAM for using profanity and informs both teams of the call that has been made.

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Does the Umpire have to give a warning prior to issuing a TEAM OUT for the Casual Profanity?

Answer: NO, A WARNING CAN STILL BE ISSUED IF WARRANTED OR THE PLAYER MAY BE EJECTED IF THE ACTION IS SEVERE ENOUGH. THESE TEAM OUTS MAY BE USED WHERE CONDUCT IS NOT DIRECTED TOWARD AN UMPIRE OR THE ACTION WARRANTS MORE THAN A WARNING BUT NOT ENOUGH FOR AN EJECTION. THE RULE IS DESIGNED TO HELP THE UMPIRE CONTROL THE GAME AND PENALIZE INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT OF PLAYERS.

Should the umpire keep issuing Team Outs for repeated actions by the same player? IF THE SAME PLAYER IS REPEATING ACTIONS OR THE ACTION WARRANTS AN EJECTION, EVEN IF IT IS A FIRST OCCURRENCE, THE PLAYER SHOULD BE EJECTED. NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN THE EJECTION RULE AND PLAYERS THAT CONTINUOUSLY REPEAT ACTS OF UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT OR ANY ACTION THAT IS SEVERE ENOUGH THAT WARRANTS AN EJECTION SHOULD BE PENALIZED ACCORDINGLY.

With two outs, a player hits a pop fly out and uses profanity. Is the rule enforced differently A). if a violation occurs during the play. B) After the third out is made. Answers: In A & B) NO, THE THIRD OUT IS MADE BY THE DEFENSE. THERE IS NO TIME PLAY FOR THESE TEAM OUTS AND ALL RUNS WOULD SCORE., HOWEVER, A PROFANITY OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT TEAM OUT DURING OR AFTER THE PLAY **DOES** CARRY OVER TO THE NEXT HALF INNING IF THE THIRD WAS MADE BY THE DEFENSE.

Can there be an out for Casual Profanity and Unsportsmanlike Conduct on the same play? Answer: YES. THERE CAN BE A MAXIMUM OF EITHER TWO OUTS PER PLAY OR PER TERM AT BAT (ONE FOR CASUAL PROFANITY AND ONE FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT) BUT NO MORE THAN TWO OF THESE TYPES OF OUTS EITHER SEPARATE OR COMBINED WOULD APPLY TO ONE TERM AT-BAT.

Is there a situation where a team may not come to bat because of these TEAM OUTS? Answer: NO. A TEAM MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE PERSON COME TO BAT. THE TEAM CAN BE ASSESSED NO MORE THAN TWO TEAM OUTS PER TERM AT BAT. EXCEPTION: IF YOU ARE PLAYING WITH THE SHORTHANDED PLAYER RULE WHERE THE NEXT MISSING BATTER WOULD BE THE THIRD OUT FOR THE SHORTHANDED RULE, THE HALF INNING WOULD BE OVER. Example: If one or two outs have been assessed to a team on defense and then the team is then assessed one or two Team Outs on Offense during that team's at-bat, the team can not be assessed any more than two TEAM OUTS for one term at-bat. Additional misconduct would apply to a possible warning or an ejection.

How is this play scored on the scorebook? Answer: YOU WOULD MAKE A DOUBLE ENTRY IN THE SPACE WHERE THE BATTER WHO LAST BATTED OR IN THE NEXT BATTERS SPOT IN THE LINE-UP IF THE OUT OCCURRED BETWEEN INNINGS OR ON DEFENSE. THE CREDIT FOR THE OUT WOULD GO TO THE CATCHER. ALL PLAY WOULD STAND AND YOU WOULD SHOW THE RESULT OF THE PLAY BY THE LAST BATTER AND ALSO A TEAM OUT ON THE PLAY. SHOW THE NUMBER 2 FOR THE CATCHER FOLLOWED BY THE NUMBER OF THE OUT CIRCLED IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS SCORE BOX. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO MAKE A NOTATION AT THE BOTTOM OF THE INNING TO GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAPPENED AND THAT A TEAM OUT WAS ASSESSED.