



Diamond Notes

The Umpire Newsletter of the Iowa Amateur Softball Association
June 2007

Welcome to the first edition of **Diamond Notes**, the umpire newsletter of the Iowa Amateur Softball Association.

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed on the latest rulings, case plays and interpretations.

If you have any suggestions for future editions of this newsletter, please email me at emurphy@umpire.com.

Thanks and enjoy this new feature.
Ed Murphy, State Umpire-in-Chief
Roger Menke, JO Umpire-In-Chief

Uniforms

The uniform for all of our championship play (includes district tournaments & qualifiers) shall be the designated umpire shirt with ASA letters and a sized cap with ASA lettering. Slacks shall be worn either heather gray or navy blue as directed by the tournament umpire-in-chief.

For invitational tournaments, the combination of uniform items will be left up to the tournament umpire-in-chief.

Under no circumstances should you wear an ASA umpire uniform while umpiring games under the operation of any other softball organization.

Fast Pitch Pitching

The pitcher in the fast pitch game does **not** have to stop for one second. While the book states this, the interpretation from the national office is that it is a legal delivery as long as they touch both hands together (ball does not have to be inside glove – just touch together) before delivering the ball to the batter

Complete Games

In championship competition, all games are played to 7 innings unless the run ahead rules or time limits (if applicable) are in effect. Games that have not reached this conclusion are suspended and picked up from the point in which they are suspended. In other competition, it is a regulation game if five or more innings are complete or the home team has scored more runs in their four innings than the visiting team has scored in their five innings. If a game is stopped in the top half of an inning, we revert back to the last complete inning to determine the score if the game cannot be completed at any time. Rule 4, Section 3 A.

Tips For Judging Interference

Umpires now need only to base their decision on whether interference occurred or did not occur, and not the intentions of the offensive player.

Situation 1: With no outs and R1 on 2B, B2 swings at and misses the pitch. R1 breaks for 3B and while F2 is throwing to 3B in an attempt to retire R1, B2, while remaining in the batter's box, backs up to readjust his/her footing and bumps into F2 causing an errant throw.

Ruling: B2 is guilty of interference. The ball is dead, B2 is out and R1 must return to 2B (Rule 7, Section 6Q)

Situation 2: With one out, R1 on 3B and R2 on 1B, B4 has a 0-1 count and on the next pitch R2 attempts to steal home. F6's throw to home plate strikes B4 who is standing out of the box preventing F2 from catching the ball and applying a tag on R1.
Ruling: B4 is guilty of interference. The ball is dead, B4 is out, R1 is returned to 3B and R2 is returned to 1B. Rule 8, Section 2 F [3]

Situation 3: With no outs and R1 at 1B, B2 hits a ground ball to F6 who fields the ball and throws to F4 at 2B to start a double play. F4 steps on 2B and throws the ball to F3 in an attempt to retire B2. R1, knows she is out and turns to go back to the dugout where the ball strikes her in the back and ricochets into foul ground.

Ruling: R1 is guilty of interference after being declared out. In this case, because B2 is the only runner and therefore closest to home plate, B2 is also to be declared out (Rule 8, Section 7 J [3]).

Situation 4: With no outs, R1 at 3B and R2 at 2B, B3 hits a long shot to the outfield fence. When F8 retrieves the ball, R1 and R2 have scored. B3 is rounding 3B and coming home when R2 moves back to home plate to instruct B3 to slide at home for a close play. In doing so, R2 is hit with the thrown ball and it deflects away from F2 as B3 scores. **Ruling:** R2 is guilty of interference. Because R2 has already scored, B3 is declared out and only the runs scored by R1 and R2 count.

Fourth Out Appeal

Rule 5, Section 5 C states "No run shall score if a "fourth out" is the result of an appeal of a base missed or left to soon on a **runner who has scored.**" With this in mind, the appeal cannot apply to any runner who has not scored.