



Diamond Notes

The Umpire Newsletter of the Iowa Amateur Softball Association
July 2007

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

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

Thanks and enjoy.

Ed Murphy, State Umpire-in-Chief
Roger Menke, JO Umpire-in-Chief

How Do I Get Games

For Tournaments - contact the tournament umpire-in-chief assigned to that tournament. Many times, they are looking for umpires willing to work the tournament. This makes that job much easier.

Are you available to umpire the entire tournament? Preference is given to umpires that are available for the entire tournament.

It is our desire that local umpires are given every opportunity to umpire games within their local community.

For League Games – contact the league assigner. Sometimes it is through an umpire association. Other leagues and communities are scheduled through their recreation department. If you need assistance locating leagues in which to work, please contact me and I may be able to lead you in the direction to the appropriate people.

Uniforms

Please wear the appropriate uniform. ASA championship games **require** ASA approved uniforms. This includes:

Caps – must have the ASA lettering on the cap. Both plate and base caps. The plate cap shall be either the 4 stitch plate or the 6 stitch combo cap. In either case, the cap **must** be worn properly, the bill forward under the mask. We always prefer a fitted cap.

Shirts – must have the ASA lettering on the shirt. The shirt may either be the powder (light) blue or the navy blue as directed by the umpire-in-chief. Most tournaments, the powder blue shirt is worn.

Slacks/Pants – Either navy blue or heather gray (**no other shade of gray is permitted**) shall be worn. The color worn is at the discretion of the tournament umpire-in-chief. Shorts are not an option and are only allowed by special dispensation of the state commissioner on extremely hot days.

Shoes – solid black shoes are required. If your shoes have some white on them, please darken the white with a permanent black marker. Polish the shoes.

Please contact the Iowa ASA state office (641-236-5766) to purchase your uniform items. This will insure that you are purchasing ASA approved uniform items.

Get the respect you deserve by wearing the appropriate uniform and show the participants and fans that you are indeed an ASA umpire by wearing the uniform proudly!

Shorthanded Rule

Several questions have been asked regarding the short-handed rule (Rule 4-1D).

A game may begin with or finish with one less than the requirement to start. They may thus start a game with 8 players (fast pitch) or 9 players (slow pitch). The vacant position **must be listed last** in the batting order.

An out will be recorded when the vacant position in the batting order is scheduled to bat. In **Co-Ed**, if a team plays shorthanded with either three infielders or three outfielders, at least one must of the three must be a male and at least one of the three must be a female player.

Teams that start the game shorthanded may never add the DP in fast pitch or the EP in slow pitch. If playing shorthanded and a substitute arrives, they must be immediately inserted into the game in the vacant spot. If they refuse to enter the game for any reason, that player becomes ineligible for the remainder of the game.

To continue a game started with a full team:

Teams may continue playing with one less player than what they started the game.

In fast pitch with a team using the DP, the can continue with 9 players.

Remember, the DP and the flex **cannot** be in the batting order at the same time. In the fast pitch game started with 9 players (not using the DP), they can continue the game with 8 players.

In slow pitch with the EP, they may continue the game with 10 players. If they started with 10 players (not using the EP), they may continue with 9 players.

If a player leaves the game for any reason other than an ejection, they may continue playing short that player. An **out** will be recorded when that player is scheduled to bat.

A player that has left the game under the shorthanded rule cannot return to the line-up. It does not matter if it was injury or any other reason. **The only exception is if they left the game due to the blood rule.**

In all games, teams cannot declare using the DP in fast pitch or the EP in slow pitch if they do not have those players at the start of the game. Thus, the shorthanded rule can **never** be used to start a game with the DP or the EP.

Failure to have the required number of players results in a forfeit.