

## Oregon School Activities Association

Softball SRI Bulletin / April 29, 2016

Umpires, we are well into the 2016 softball season. I hope you are all working hard at putting the best product you can on the field for the student athlete. That product is YOU the umpire and the skill you display in calling the game. If you are working at the craft of umpiring, with a consistent strike zone, a calculated hustle for the best angle to see safe/out calls, then you doing a great service to the game of softball. Thank you for the effort in calling a great softball game for the students and schools involved.

Now on to some important reminders and an update on frequently asked SRI questions from this season.

### Important Reminders:

- Perform equipment check on bats and helmets prior to all games. Rule 1 Section 5, 6.
- Make sure you are checking the playing field before the contest begins. We need to make sure the playing field is ready for the contest at hand. Once the game is under way it is the umpire's responsibility to judge the fitness of the field condition. Rule 4 Section 1 Art 6.
- DP/FELX: If the team is using this rule be sure to go over the line-up card and give them a chance to look it over again before accepting it as official. Remember corrections can be made before they are ruled official without a warning or penalty. Line-up cards must contain team members participating with first initial and last name, jersey number, and defensive position and batting position. A warning is issued when a coach adds anyone after the official line-up is accepted. Rule 3 Section 1 Art 3
- Game management: Keeping your game moving is an important part of getting a good flow to the contest. Make sure you are following the 1 minute or 5 pitches between innings rule 6-2 Art 5.
- Regular Season game ending procedures allowed by OSAA:  
*Varsity -- 10-Run Rule is allowed, per league adoption.*  
*Sub-Varsity -- 10-Run Rule and Time Limit is allowed, per league adoption.*  
*NOTE: A maximum number of runs per inning limit are allowed only at the JV2/freshman level, per league adoption.*
- OSAA Interrupted Contest Procedures: As we know it rains in Oregon during spring games, so be ready to deal with a halted game if necessary. Follow the halted game procedure in the event this happens to you on game day. Link here <http://www.osaa.org/docs/sbl/BaseballSoftballInterruptedContestProcedure.pdf>.
- Post-game review with your partner(s): This is a great way to learn about yourself and your performance. Review what you did well, and what you may need to improve upon. This is invaluable information if you want to improve your umpiring skills.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- Appeals – Know when someone can appeal, and if it's a live ball, or dead ball appeal. Rule 2 Section 1 Art 1-13.
- Awarded bases and penalties for an infraction – Know your awards. Rule 5-1 Dead Ball Tables, Pages 44 and 45 in your rules book is a great place to study awards and penalties.

- Hit by pitch – Know the rule if the batter is over the plate, or if she’s in the batter’s box Rule 8-1 Art 2.
- Batting out of order – Study this often so you get it correct. Rule 7-1 Art 1, 2 – Penalties 1-6.
- 3 foot running lane interference – Know what foot can be in fair or foul territory 8-2 Art 6.
- POE – Strike Zone – Use good judgment and call the zone on each batter at the plate. Do not pre-determine where you are calling strikes at the plate talk. Simply state the rule as printed. The strike zone is the space over home plate which is between the batters forward armpit and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a normal batting stance. Rule 2-54 Section 56.

I hope you have a great time umpiring the next few weeks prior to the playoffs and right up to the championships.

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