

**Oregon School Activities Association**  
**Softball SRI Bulletin / April 10, 2015**

**UNWRITTEN RULES TO FOLLOW**

- **Take Control of the game:** It's important to take charge and control of the game. Don't be a dictator, but a take charge umpire. ***Command but do not demand.***
- **Be a good listener:** When a player or coach comes out to argue a play, allow them to talk. ***Listen calmly and without interruption.*** They will talk themselves out if you do not add to the conversation. That will allow you time to collect your thoughts and then explain yourself with poise.
- **Hustle:** Never fail to hustle. ***To err is human, to not hustle is inexcusable.*** Hustle to each position.
- **Be consistent:** When an umpire is consistent the player's know what to expect. When an umpire is inconsistent, pitchers don't know how to pitch and batters don't know when to swing.
- **Don't scream at a player/coach:** Go to the problem player or coach, and as discretely as possible take care of the situation, or use a nearby player to assist you. ***Avoid direct confrontations whenever possible.***
- **Be confident, not cocky:** There is a fine line between confidence and cockiness. Having self-confidence is an asset and is invaluable in game control when properly used. ***A confident umpire is respected and appreciated, but a cocky umpire is detested and often challenged.***
- **Look the part:** You will gain more respect if you look like an umpire. That means keeping yourself in good shape, dressing with pride and presenting yourself in a professional manner.
- **Use a strong voice:** ***A good strong voice is essential in officiating.*** The voice tone, pitch, and volume help make calls more convincing; a voice that is clear, positive and authoritative is an asset in communicating.
- **Establish consistent timing and rhythm:** ***Credibility*** is important in umpiring. You must practice to develop smooth timing and rhythm in your voice and signals so they are exactly the same on every pitch. ***(A called third strike does, however, require a bigger call than strike one or two, but the timing must be the same.***
- **Have courage to make the tough call:** Can you make the tough call that will decide the game? ***Everyone wants the umpire who can take the pressure and make the tough calls.***
- **Know the rules and how to use them:** Study the rules and become an expert on them. You have to know why the rule is in the book (***the intent of the rule***). A blend of ***common sense*** and ***rules knowledge*** makes for a good umpire.
- **Learn from your mistakes:** Everyone makes mistakes, but the same ones over and over? When you blow a call, are out of position or too quick with the call ask yourself why? ***Be honest with yourself if you want to be the best that you can be.***
- **You are an important part of the game, but not bigger than the game:** ***Never embarrass or humiliate a player.*** Sell calls in a dramatic way, but never at the expense of a player.

## CASE PLAYS

**Does the Run Score? – Play:** R3 occupies third base with *two outs* when B4 hits a ball to F6. B4 beats F6's throw to first base but step completely over the base before F3 catches the throw while standing on first base. R3 scores. B4 is considered to have touched the base she passed and is called and signaled safe. However, F3 makes an *appeal* that B4 missed first base before she returned to it and the umpire declares B4 out. **Does the run score? Ruling:** Because the *third out* of the inning was made by the *batter-runner* before she touched first base, *the run does not score. NFHS 9-1-1 Exception "a"*.

**Batter-Runner Intentionally Interferes with F3 – Play:** Fast Pitch. R1 is on third base and R2 is on second base with no outs when B3 pops a fair looping fly ball toward F3. As F3 is about to catch the ball, B3 *intentionally* bumps F3 to prevent a double play, causing F3 to miss the ball. **Ruling:** In **NFHS** the ball is dead and both B3 and R1 are *out*. **Play resumes with two outs and R2 on second base. NFHS 8-2-6 Pen**

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