

Senior Softball (SCF) – Basic Umpire Rules

ONE MAN MECHANICS

Home Plate Umpire Responsibilities:

- 1) Stand in slot between batter and catcher. Left side for right hand batter, right side for left hand batter.
- 2) Give the count – must say verbally; showing by hand is a plus.
- 3) Must call strikes and show sign (no verbal required on balls)
- 4) Must verbally call time after each play and show by raising of both hands. Time is called when the ball is returned and secured to the infield.
- 5) Foul ball - is to be called immediately.
- 6) Fair ball - is to be recognized by a point to right or left (no verbal)
- 7) Infield fly – with less than 2 outs, runners must occupy 1st and 2nd bases or bases loaded. Umpire will make the infield fly rule if:
 - a) the ball is fair
 - b) the ball, in his opinion, is a makeable catch

NOTE: the catch can go outside of the infield

- 8) Batter out of batter's box
 - a) if the batter steps his foot completely out of the lined batter's box, he is automatically called out
 - b) batter is out if he touches home plate while hitting
- 9) Umpire calls all fly balls.
- 10) Umpire watches all tag-ups.
- 11) Umpire makes all home plate and third base calls.

NOTE: Umpire's first responsibility is always the lead runner.

- 12) With no one on, any ground ball to the infield or outfield, you must trail runner towards first base and get set to call the play at first. The more angle/position you have towards 2nd base, the better you will be to make the call.

TWO MEN MECHANICS

Home Plate Umpire Responsibilities:

- 1) Give the count – must say verbally; showing by hand is a plus.
- 2) Must call strikes and show sign (no verbal required on balls)
- 3) Home plate Umpire must call time after each play and show by raising of both hands. Time is called when the ball is returned and secured by the infield.
- 4) Foul ball - is to be called immediately.
- 5) Fair ball - is to be recognized by a point to right or left (no verbal)
- 6) Infield fly – with less than 2 outs, runners must occupy 1st and 2nd bases or bases loaded. Home plate Umpire will make the infield fly rule if:
 - c) the ball is fair
 - d) the ball, in his opinion, is a makeable catch

NOTE: the catch can go outside of the infield

- 7) Batter out of batter's box
 - c) if the batter steps his foot completely out of the lined batter's box, he is automatically called out
 - d) batter is out if he touches home plate while hitting
- 8) All fly ball outs are called by home plate Umpire.
- 9) Plate Umpire watches all tag-ups (he may ask for base Umpire assistance, if needed)
- 10) Home plate and third base calls are made by home plate Umpire (exception if he has to stay home to make a call, then the base Umpire will be called to cover third base.

NOTE: Home plate Umpire's first responsibility is always the lead runner.

Base Umpire Responsibilities:

- 1) Usually, the base Umpire is responsible for 1st and 2^d base calls. However, if the Plate Umpire is busy watching the lead runner attempting to score, you may have to make the call at 3rd base.
- 2) Base Umpire watches all tag-ups to back home plate Umpire.
- 3) Base Umpire should position himself on the following:
 - a) No outs 15 to 20 feet behind the first base on the first baseline
 - b) Runners on first – split first and second base on the dirt or just off the infield (be mindful of the outfield position not to block his vision.
 - c) Runners on first and second base. Position is behind second base 10-15 feet on left side facing home plate.

NOTE: When a ball is hit to the outfield, responsibility is the outfield Umpire. He is to come inside the ball diamond to make the call.

Balls hit inside the infield stay outside the ball diamond to make the call.