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# UMPIRE NEWS

*August 2022*



## UIC JAMES COLE



# Meet Your Staff

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# It's Championship Time



Last month saw the Girls Gold and Junior Olympic Cup Championship played out. You can go online to watch some of the games that were recorded. It was some great softball and some pretty good umpiring.

This month, cities all over will be hosting all the J.O. "A" and "B" National Championships along with the Territory Championships. Check it out!



# TRAINING

# REGISTRATION

## Nor Cal Clinic Dates:

Official Nor Cal Clinics are done for the year.

USA Softball will be holding its Biennial Umpiring Clinic next February 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Sheraton Hotel in OK City, Oklahoma. If you are interested in going let me know and I'll fill you in on the details.



## QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

DO YOU WORK FASTPITCH FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME OR THE LOVE OF THE MONEY?

HOW MANY GAMES CAN YOU WORK A DAY AND STILL GIVE 100% TO THE GAME, THE PLAYERS, AND THE UMPIRE PROGRAM?

**Let me know. Let's see what the consensus is in Nor Cal.**



We hit the 509 Registrations mark in July. Great job everyone. Let's keep pushing for that 600 mark before the end of the year. UIC's, keep looking for and working on getting everyone else registered.



Safe Sport is alive and well and it's not going anywhere. Like it or not, everyone is beginning to finally accept this Federally Mandated Program. Remember, if you need help, just ask. My Staff and I will help you get it done. Who knows, maybe you'll learn something like I did.

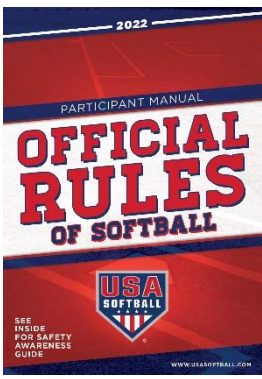


## ***JULY 2022***

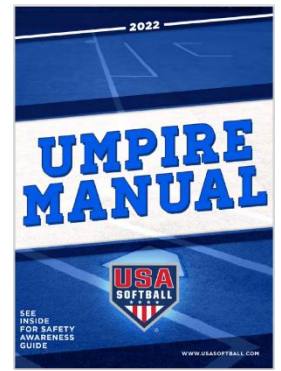
**PLAY:** B1 hits a single to center field and bumps into F3 as she rounds first base. The contact is minimal and not malicious. B1 returns safely to first and the ball is returned quickly to second base.

**RULING:** Obstruction is called on F3 and the ball is delayed-dead.

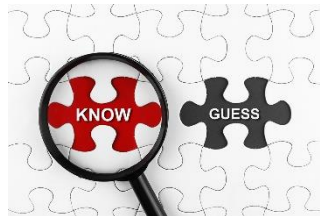
**JUSTIFICATION:** Rule 8-5b Eff



**KNOW THE RULES!**



# BATTING OUT OF ORDER



**DO YOU KNOW IT OR ARE YOU GUESSING?**

**RULES == STUDY THEM == PRACTICE THEM == MASTER THEM**

***WHEN WERE YOU NOTIFIED?***

**BEFORE THE IMPROPER BATTER COMPLETES HER TURN AT BAT**

**The correct batter must take the batter's position and assume the balls and strike count**

**Any runner advanced and runs scored while the incorrect batter was at bat shall be legal**

# ***WHEN WERE YOU NOTIFIED?***

**AFTER THE IMPROPER BATTER COMPLETES HER TURN AT BAT, BUT BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH**

The player who should have batted is out

Any advance of runners and any run scored shall be nullified. All outs made stand

The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat

If the batter declared out is the third out, the correct batter to lead off the next inning shall be the player who would have come to bat had the player been put out by ordinary play

**AFTER THE IMPROPER BATTER COMPLETES HER TURN AT BAT, BUT AFTER THE NEXT PITCH**

The turn at bat of the incorrect batter is legal. All runs scored, runners advanced and outs made are legal

The next batter shall be that player whose name follows that of the incorrect batter. No out is called for failure to bat

Players who have not batted & who have not been called out have lost their turn at bat until their spot in the batting order is reached again in the regular order

# **8 STEPS TO PRE-PITCH PLANNING**

## **1. NUMBER OF OUTS**

There are different situations for the number of outs. Each field doesn't always have a scoreboard, so it is important that you and your partner(s) stay on the same page. If there are two outs, all play after the third out is dead. If it's the third out of an inning, you may want to put more emphasis on the call, especially if it's a close play. With fewer than two outs there could be a tag-up or infield fly situation compared to a timing play with two outs.

## **2. THE COUNT**

Depending on the count, baserunners are likely to take certain actions. With two strikes and two outs, they will take off upon the release of the pitch. An umpire might add emphasis to a call if asked to rule on a checked swing that is strike three. Players or coaches will often ask a base umpire the count or number of outs. Knowing it improves credibility and creates a positive perception. If you don't know the count, don't hesitate to ask your partner.

## **3. WHO'S ON FIRST?**

Know which baserunners you need to watch and where the next play will likely take place. Will it be a force play or tag play? Tag-up situation or not? If a runner is on third base in a close game, will the defense likely make a play on that runner instead of a force out at first?

## **4. BATTER'S OBJECTIVE**

With a runner on first and one out or no outs, the batter may attempt a sacrifice bunt to advance the runner to second. A speedy slap hitter may try to do the same. There are certain situations where a steal may be more likely, especially with a fast runner on base and a good hitter at the plate. The offense may also try a hit-and-run in that kind of situation. And if you sense that runner will attempt to steal or leave as part of a hit-and-run, it's possible that the runner may be more likely to leave the base before the pitch is released.

## **5. THE SCORE**

Is the score tied, lopsided or are both teams within a run or two of each other? The inning and score may determine if an offense will attempt to squeeze a runner from third across the plate or ask the batter to swing away. Is it 9-0 in a 10-run rule game that is in the fifth inning? The team that is trailing will often do everything possible to score a run to keep the game going.

## **6. BATTER HISTORY**

Is the batter a power hitter or contact hitter? Tracking batter tendencies will help you know what to expect. Is she a long-ball hitter or will she be lucky to hit it past the infielders?

## **7. POSITION OF DEFENDERS**

Take a peek at the infielders and outfielders with each batter. Where are they set up? Is the infield in, anticipating a bunt? Are the outfielders also positioned closer to the infield? Has the defense shifted in a certain direction?

## **8. HOW IS THE DEFENSE PITCHING TO THE BATTER?**

With two outs, a runner on second and a good hitter at the plate, the defense may try to "pitch around" that batter with pitches out of the strike zone. If they walk that batter, so be it. That sets up a force play situation at first, second and third for the next batter. Perhaps the batter often pulls the ball. If that's the case, the defense may feed that batter with a steady diet of outside pitches.



# STUMP THE UMP!



All plays are for USA Softball. What is the correct result of the play and what is your Rule Reference / Justification?

## ***JULY 2022***

**PLAY:** With R1 on first and stealing on the pitch, F1 is called for an illegal pitch. The pitch hits B2 while completely in the batter's box.

**RULING:** A delayed dead ball is signaled when the illegal pitch occurs. The ball becomes dead once it hits the batter. The batter is awarded first base and R1 is awarded second because of being forced by the batter-runner being awarded first.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Rule 6A-11b-3

**PLAY:** B1 beats out an infield ground ball. B1 overruns first base and then walks back and stops on the base. F3 throws the ball to F1 who is straddling the pitching circle (One foot is completely in the circle and one foot is completely outside.) B1 notices the middle infielders are heading back to their positions and she runs to second base. Base umpire rules Look Back Rule violation.

**RULING:** Incorrect. In order for the LBR to be in effect, the pitcher must have both feet within the circle or on the lines of the circle. Once a complete foot is outside the circle, the LBR is no longer in effect and the baserunners may advance at their own risk.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Rule 8-7t-3 → R/S 34

**PLAY:** With R1 on first, B2 bunts the ball in front of home plate. F2 fields the ball and draws her arm back to throw to first. However, F2 withholds her throw in fear of striking B2, who is running in fair territory outside of the three-foot running lane. R1 arrives at second base safely and B2 is safe at first.

**RULING:** In order for there to be interference, the batter-runner has to interfere with the fielder's ability to field the ball at first base. Since no throw was made, there is no play at first base and B2 cannot be guilty of interference. The ball remains live and the play stands.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Rule 8-2e

## ***AUGUST 2022***

**PLAY:** B1 hits a triple and arrives safely at third base. After the ball is returned to the pitching circle and time is called, F1 stands on the pitcher's plate and makes a dead-ball appeal that B1 missed second base. The offensive coach claims F1 committed an illegal pitch and the appeal should be nullified.

**RULING:**

**JUSTIFICATION:**

**PLAY:** R2 is on second base and R1 is on first with no outs when B3 hits a declared Infield Fly. The ball deflects off F5's glove in fair territory and then rolls into foul territory and into the third-base dugout.

**RULING:**

**JUSTIFICATION:**

**PLAY:** With R2 on second and no outs, F1 delivers a pitch to B2. B2 fakes a bunt attempt and intentionally misses the ball as R2 tries to steal third. B2 takes a step back, still remaining in the batter's box, and is hit by F2's attempted throw to third base. The plate umpire rules no interference as the batter remained in the batter's box.

**RULING:**

**JUSTIFICATION:**

**PLAY:** With R1 on first, B2 singles to right. R1 attempts to go to third and F9 throws the ball wildly to third. The ball ends up rolling towards the dugout and hits a bucket the pitching coach was sitting on and the ball is prevented from entering the dugout.

**RULING:**

**JUSTIFICATION:**



## USA SOFTBALL WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CANCELLED !!

How does the saying go, "The Best Laid Plans Of Man" sometimes just don't work out. Due to only 2 18U teams and 8 14U teams registered and paid for, that was not enough to hold a successful National Championship. The Tournament Director and Acting Commissioner chose to cancel the tournament. It is unfair to the teams traveling here spending thousands of dollars and unfair to the umpires who would only work 4, maybe 5 games total in 3 days.

The cancellation had nothing to do with the Host Organization, tournament sponsors or the # of umpires coming. It all boiled down to the lack of "A" teams. They chose to play at other events / organizations for whatever reason. Speculation does no one any good. It is their choice and they made it. We as umpires, are the ones who have to suffer because of it.

We were really looking forward to seeing a lot of you again and will regret that very much. We hope all of you have a great summer and look forward to seeing you on the ball field in the future.



# Tournament USA Softball

As Of 1 August 2022



## Tournament Info

10 Tournaments

Date	Tournament	Facility	Divisions	Format	®	Cost
Jul 30 - 31	CSA End of Summer Tournament	Al Patch Park Vacaville, CA	•8C •10B •12B •14B •16/18-B	4 Game Guar...	48	\$595
Aug 13 - 14	Jesela's World Memorial	Ocala Sports Complex San Jose, CA	•10BC •12BC •14BC	4 Game Guar...	13	\$550
Aug 13 - 14	Wine Country Classic	Windsor Windsor, CA	•8C •10B •12B •14B	4 Game Guar...	34	\$575
Aug 26 - 28	Redwood Bash	Santa Rosa Santa Rosa, CA	•8C •10B •12B •14B	4 Game Guar...	25	\$595
Sep 17 - 18	CSA September Shootout	Al Patch Park Vacaville, CA	•8C •10B •12B •14-Open •16/18-Open	4 Game Guar...	6	\$615
Sep 24 - 25	Bash 4 Cash	Salinas Sports Complex Salinas, CA	•10-Open •12-Open •14-Open •16/18-Open		0	\$695 *
Oct 8 - 9	CSA October Shootout	Al Patch Park Vacaville, CA	•8C •10B •12B •14-Open •16/18-Open	4 Game Guar...	4	\$615
Oct 14 - 16	Eric Padgett & Bob Midgley Strikeout Cancer Memorial Tournament	Sonoma Sonoma, CA	•8C •10BC •12BC	4 Game Guar...	5	\$550
Oct 28 - 30	Halloween Spooktacular Tournament	Petaluma Petaluma, CA	•8C •10BC •12B	4 Game Guar...	9	\$625
Nov 5 - 6	Harvest Hoe Down	Salinas Sports Complex Salinas, CA	•10-Open •12-Open •14-Open •16/18-Open		0	\$695 *

**THIS IS OUR PASSION. ONLY THE BEST ARE CALLED.  
IT REQUIRES HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND  
SPORTSMANSHIP. THE PAY IS SMALL, THE REWARDS  
ARE HUGE. IF IT WAS EASY, PARENTS COULD DO IT.**

