



Coach's Training Program

Virginia District 7 Umpires Association



Purpose



- Review Little League Rulebook and expected code of conduct for upcoming 2019 Season
 - Rule changes
 - Highlight observations during 2018 Season
 - Identify changes to equipment and execution of play
- Solicit assistance in procuring additional bodies to supplement District 7 umpire staff
- Answer your questions



Rule Changes for



Pitchers (Baseball) Regulation VIa

- A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more (**15- and 16-year-olds: 31 pitches or more**) in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day.
- **EXCEPTION:** If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit (**15- and 16-year-olds: 30-pitch limit**) while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game.



Rule Changes for



Pitcher (Softball) 8.01g

- **A.R. 2** – For the pitcher to remove himself/herself from the pitching position after the hands have been brought together but prior to the start of the pitch as noted in 8.01(k), the pitcher must legally step back from the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot first.



Rule Changes for



Pitcher (Baseball/Softball) 8.02 a1

- **Baseball:**

(1) bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in contact with the pitcher's plate. **EXCEPTION:** The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in the 10-foot circle (**Intermediate (50-70)**

Division/Junior/Senior: 18-foot circle) surrounding the pitcher's plate provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.

- **Softball:**

(1) apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball, pitching hand, or fingers. The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.



Rule Changes for



Pitcher (Baseball/Softball) 8.06 AR

- **Baseball:**

A.R. 1 – When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player. **Intermediate (50-70)**

Division/Junior/Senior: This applies when a pitcher moves to another position and returns as a pitcher later in the same game.

- **Softball:**

A.R 1 – When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player. This applies when a pitcher moves to another position, **Junior/Senior:** or removed from the game, and returns as a pitcher later in the same game



What you should expect



- Equipment checks: **Rule 1.09** (balls), **1.10** (bats), **1.11**(cleats), **1.16** (helmets), **1.17** (catchers gear)
- Plate meeting/lineup exchange: **Rule 4.01**
- Move the game along: **Rule 8.03**
- Open to questions: **Rule 9.02 (b)**
- Try to get the call right: **Rule 9.02 (c)**
- Professionalism: **Reg. XIV**
- Enforce the rules: **Rule 3.01 (a)**
- Safety: **Rule 1.00**



What we expect from you



- Be on time: **Rule 4.15 (a)**
- Have equipment ready for inspection: **Rule 3.01 (a)**
- Hustle on and off the field: **Rule 8.03**
- Be ready with lineup changes: **Rule 3.06**
- STAY IN THE DUGOUT: **Reg. XIV (d)**
- Keep parents in line: **Rule 9.01 (g)**
- Professionalism: **Reg. XIV**



2018 Observations (Areas of emphasis)



- Leaving the dugout with no remaining adult supervision: **Reg. XIV (d) and Rule 4.16 (b) and 4.05 (b)**
- Leaving the dugout prior to obtaining umpire approval (usually when ball is still in play) **Reg XIV d**
- No throat guard on catchers helmet: **Rule 1.17**
- Proceeding out of coaches box to give signals/guidance to batter: **Rule 4.05 (c)**
- Sitting on a bucket positioned 1/2 in 1/2 out of the dugout not allowed: **Reg. XIV (d)**
- Coaches warming up pitchers **Reg XIV f and 3.09**
- Coach's inquiry of whether the equipment has to be checked prior to play: **Rule 3.01 (a)**, coaches need to do this when no District 7 umpire is present



2018 Observations (Areas of emphasis)



- Uncaught 3rd Strike with runner on 1st—Batter is out and runner does not have to run: **6.05 (b)2 with A.R.**
- Appeal plays: Rule **7.10 (d)**, specifically state which rule is in question
- Reminder to call your umpire if game reschedule/cancelled:
Rule 1.01, Rule 3.01, and Rule 4.01



Infield Fly Rules 2 and 6.05 (d)



- A fair ball which can be caught by a fielder ***with ordinary effort*** when first and second, or first, second and third are occupied before there are two outs.
 - When it is apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly the umpire will declare “Infield Fly” for the benefit of the runners.
 - If a ball is near the base line the umpire will declare “Infield Fly, if fair”
 - The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught or retouch and advance after the ball is touched



Obstruction & Interference



- **Obstruction: Rules 2 and 7.06**
 - The act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner
 - A fake tag is considered obstruction
 - When obstruction occurs the umpire will call “Obstruction”
 - Time is called after the play and bases are awarded accordingly
- **Interference: Rules 2 and 7.09**
 - Offensive
 - Defensive
 - Umpire
 - The ball is dead on an interference call



Appeal Rule 7.10 (d)



- Act of a fielder in claiming a violation of the rules by an offensive player
 - Ball must be in play
 - Pitcher steps off the rubber and throws to the appealed base
 - If a play is made before the appeal, an appeal cannot be attempted
 - Only one attempt at an appeal



Fair and Foul Balls



- **Fair Ball:** is a batted ball that **settles** on fair ground between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that is on or over fair territory when bounding to the outfield past first or third base, or that touches first, second, third base or that first falls on fair territory on or beyond first or third base, while on or **over fair territory touches the person** of an umpire or player or passes over the playing field in flight **Rules 2, 6.09, and 9.02 (a)**
- **Foul Ball:**— foul ball: A foul ball is a batted ball that **settles** on foul territory between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that bounds past first or third base on, or over, foul territory, or that first falls on foul territory beyond first or third base, or that while on, or over, **foul territory, touches the person of an umpire or player, or any object foreign to the natural ground.** Note 1: A foul fly ball shall be judged according to the relative position of the **ball and the foul line**, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on foul or fair territory at the time the fielder touches the ball. **Rules 2 and 9.02 (a)**



Training Events



- Umpire Training - March 10 from 1-3 at Richneck Elementary
- Umpire Training - April 14 from 1-3 at Richneck Elementary



Solicitation for Umpires



- 2 person umpire team ideal for effective game calling
- Downward trend in District 7 Umpire Staff/availability
- Soliciting assistance in sourcing coaches and volunteer parents to fulfill 2-person teams
- Training and equipment is available to prepare volunteers
- <https://www.vadistrict7.org/Default.aspx?tabid=844004>
- <https://www.littleleague.org/umpires/>