

Sunnyvale Girls Softball League

Umpire Training

February 20, 2016

Dave Hu – Umpire Scheduler &
Umpire in Chief



Agenda

- 2:00 – 2:30
 - Welcome and Introduction
 - Umpire Priorities
 - ASA Registration, Equipment & Uniforms
 - Managing the game
 - Scheduling and Pay
- 2:30 – 2:45
 - Umpire Mechanics – base and plate
- 2:45 -3:00
 - Local and ASA Rules

Welcome and Introductions

- Sign-In
- Introductions
 - Dave Hu - Umpire In Chief
 - Umpire intros (name, years umpiring)
- Session Rules
 - Will email this deck to you as PDF
 - No texting, wait for the break for calls or SMS
 - Water and snacks, help yourself

Being an Umpire

Priorities

- Player Safety
- Be in a position to make the call
- Get Outs



Character

- Be Convincing
- Be Loud
- Be Deliberate, take your time



ASA Registration

- The Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) is the national governing body of softball, established in 1993.
 - <http://www.norcalasa.org/>
 - <http://www.softball.org/>
- Once we have game assignments and you are assigned to a game, SGSL will register you with the ASA at no cost to you.
- Adults, please fill out background check and consent form and a copy of your driver's license.

Equipment

- Protective Gear for Plate Umpire
 - In a bag at each field
 - Mask, chest protector, leg protectors
 - Wear it, give us feedback on if we need improved gear
 - Put it back in bag and hang it up
- Other Gear (2 sets in field bag)
 - 3 Dial Indicator (clicker)
 - Plate brush
 - Ball bag



Uniforms

- SGSL uses ASA umpire uniforms, and provides a hat and polo shirt. Umpires must provide their own heather gray or navy blue pants and black shoes.
- If you work 5 games, the hat and shirt are yours to keep. If not you must return them at the end of the season.
- You must take care of the hat and shirt, if lost you must replace them at your own cost. If you outgrow your hat or shirt you can trade it in for a larger size. Please wear a white tee-shirt to allow shirts to last longer.
- See me after the meeting to get your hat and shirt



Managing Games

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time to gear up, coordinate with your partner, and meet with team managers at home plate.
- Home plate discussion: 5 mins prior to start, both umpires introduce yourself, drop dead time, coach pitch rules, 2A possession, 3A steal
- Know your Drop Dead Times
 - 2A – 1 hr 20 min drop dead
 - 3A – 1 hr 45 min drop dead
 - 4A – no new innings after 1'40"

Managing Games – cont.

- Keep track of official start time
- If a coach asks for clarification, call dead ball and talk to the coach, and inform the other team manager of the situation. Call in and conference with your partner to discuss, then make ruling.
- If you feel a hostile environment exists, then call dead ball, appeal to the managers about their staff, players or parents, and call Dave (650-315-4354) if you have a phone.
- Post game, be sure to stow your gear and hang the bag up or you will be wearing dirt the next game.

Team Provided Umpires

If no official arrives at the game, or if the official is not qualified to call from the plate, the teams must provide their own umpires for the game.

- Each team will provide a coach or qualified parent as an umpire
- The umpire for each team takes the field while their team is on offense, and call balls and strikes for the opposing pitcher – so a coach may very well call strike out on their own batter.
- The team umpire will take a position behind the pitcher (this is so there is no delay putting on protective gear required behind the plate)
- The team umpire will need to keep track of the count (balls and strikes) on the current batter
- The team umpire is responsible for calling all plays on the field and should be prepared to do so.
- The team umpire will call balls and strikes as strictly defined by the ASA.

Scheduling

- There are 4 levels of umpiring for SGSL, with 2 positions
 - 4 levels of play: 2A, 3A, 4A Silver, 4A Gold
 - 2 positions: plate, base
- You must work at least as many games at plate as you do at base - all umpires must work plate.
- Via email, indicate the games that you wish to umpire and a partner if any. Should have a week to do this.
- Games will be assigned round robin in the order responses are received.

Scheduling Cont.

- Schedule will be released at least twice, once at the start of the season, and once for the end of season tournament.
- Once games have been assigned, they will be entered into Assignr.com, where you can view your assignments and indicate that you accept them.
- Assignr.com will send you email and SMS reminders of your games each day.
- <http://www.assignr.com>



Moving Up Levels

- Everyone automatically qualifies for 2A.
- To move up between divisions (e.g. 3A to Silver), you must do at least 2 plate and 4 base assignments.
- You must be approved by the UIC to move up.

Umpire Pay

- Pay Scale

- 2A (8U): \$15 each if two umpires - \$30 if solo with no team umpire
- 3A (10U): \$20 each if two umpires - \$40 if solo with no team umpire
- 4A Silver: \$25 each if two umpires - \$50 solo with no team umpire
- 4A Gold: \$25 each if two umpires - \$50 solo with no team umpire

- Pay Checks

- Paychecks are mailed to your home in the umpire's name at the start of each month.
- Expect 7 -10 days to receive your check

Umpire Mechanics

- Signals
- Where you should be
- Be Convincing
- Be Loud
- Be Deliberate, take your time



Position & Signals - General

Safe



Out



**Time Out
Dead Ball
Foul Ball**



Play Ball



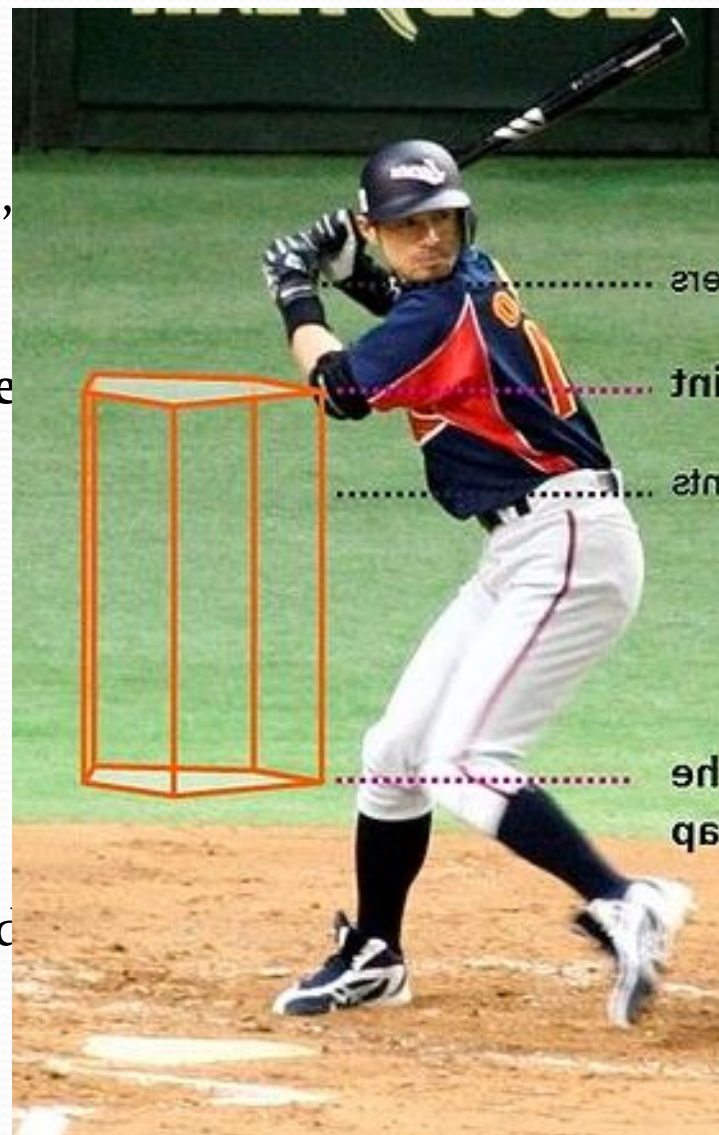
Position & Signals - Plate

- Line up behind the catcher, head near top of the strike zone, this is called “the slot”. Watch the ball in with your eyes, keep your head steady.
- Pause before making your call to be sure of what you saw.
- Call the pitch ball or strike
- Ball – no signal
- Strike – extended fist with “Strike!”
- Indicate balls and strikes, balls with left hand, strikes with right

The STRIKE ZONE

- “That space **over** any part of **home plate**, when a batter assumes a natural batting stance adjacent to home plate, **between** the batter’s arm pits and the top of the **knees**”
- By R7-S5-A, a **ball** is any pitch that “touches the ground before reaching home plate or touches home plate”

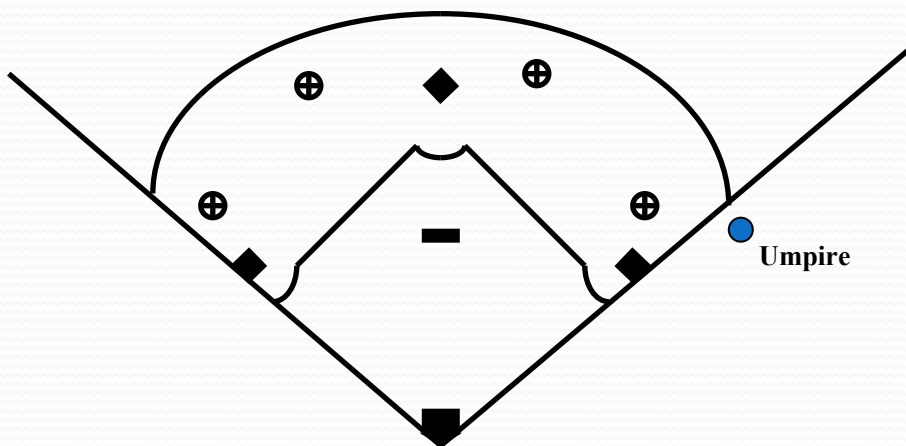
To avoid problems, please stick to between the middle of the knees to the elbows, you will probably be okay. Any high or lower and you will draw undesirable attention to yourself.



Positions & Signals - Videos

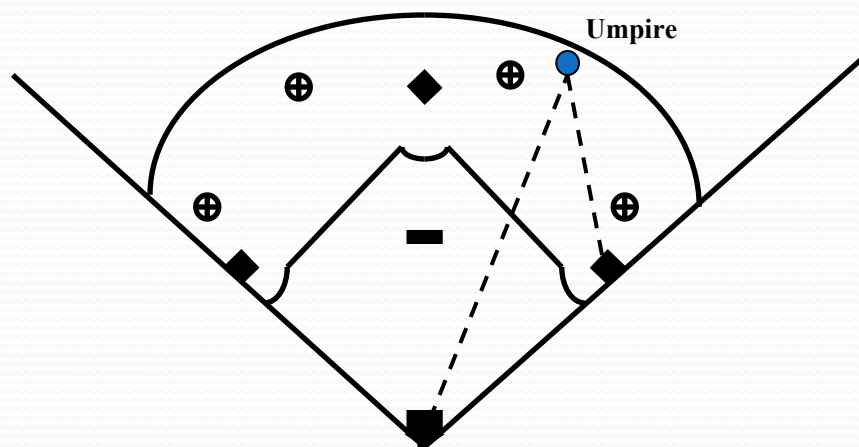
Here are a few videos demonstrating the signals

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ajewwc7qt5A>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuBLL9KG5WA>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKuHXCX1Flo>



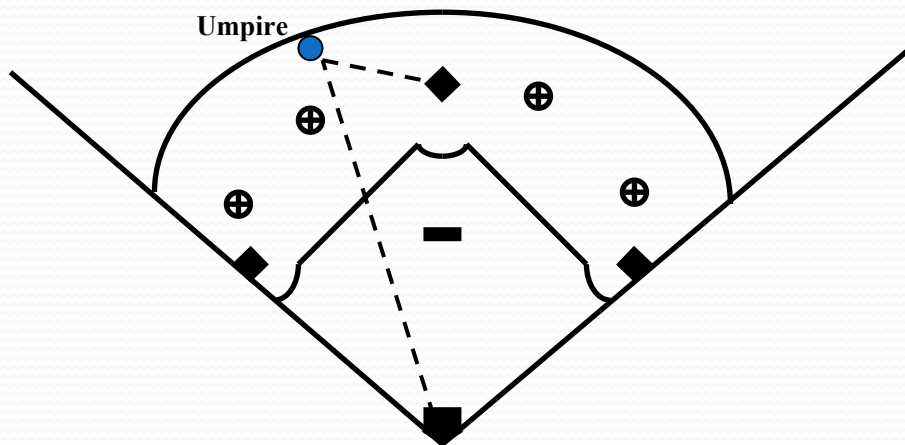
One Base Umpire – Bases Empty

Take position along foul line in foul territory just back of the 1st baseman.



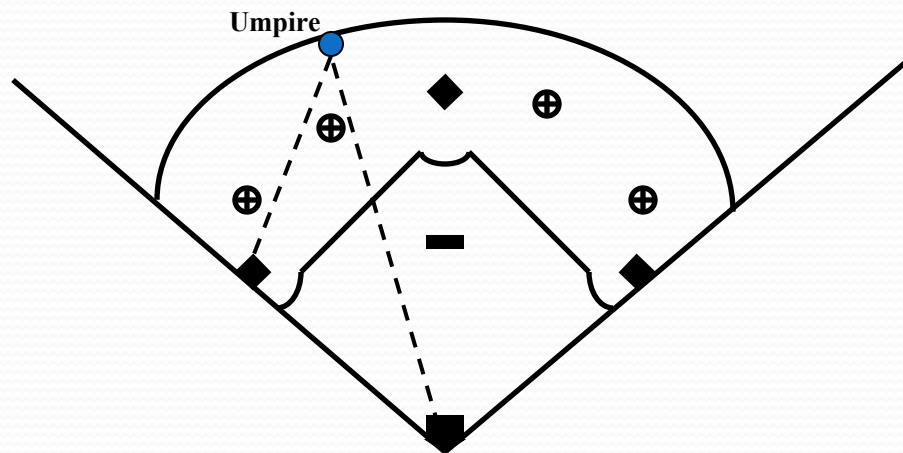
One Base Umpire – Runner on 1st

Take position about halfway between 1st and 2nd base and outside the baseline to be able to see the pitched ball reach the batter and also keep an eye on the runner on 1st.



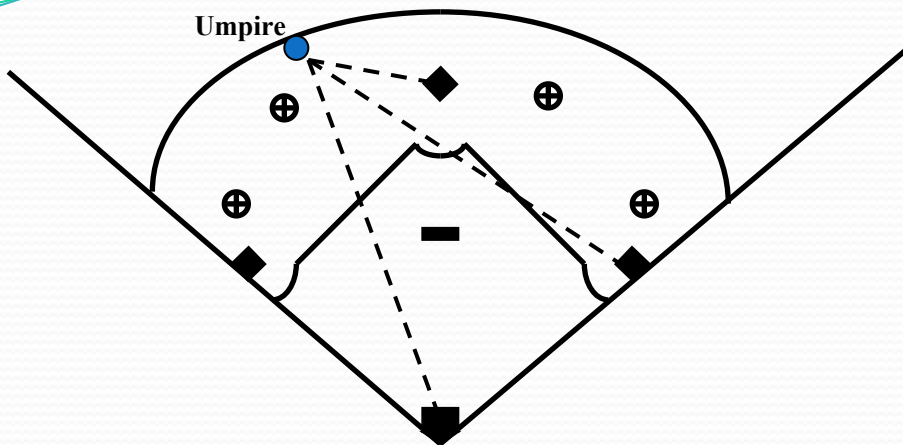
One Base Umpire – Runner on 2nd

Take position 2 or 3 steps behind and to the left of the shortstop to see the pitched ball reach the batter and also keep an eye on the runner on 2nd.



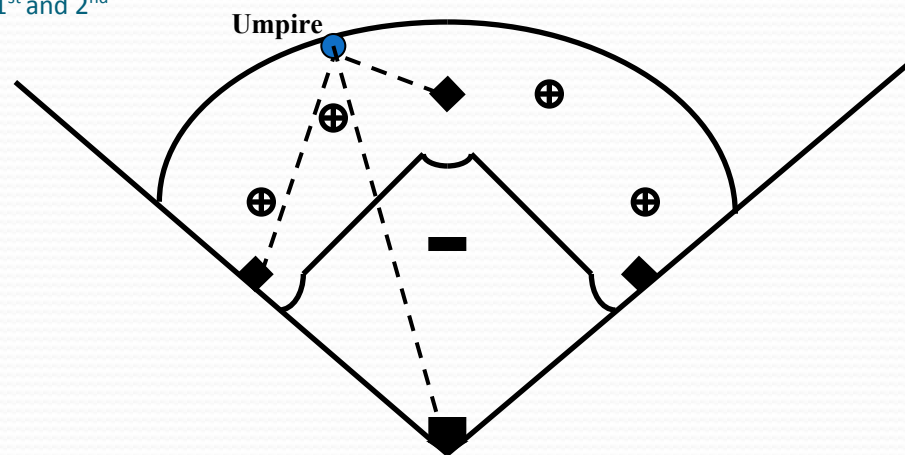
One Base Umpire – Runner on 3rd

Take position 2 or 3 steps behind and to the left of the short stop to see the pitched ball reach the batter and also keep an eye on the runner on 3rd.



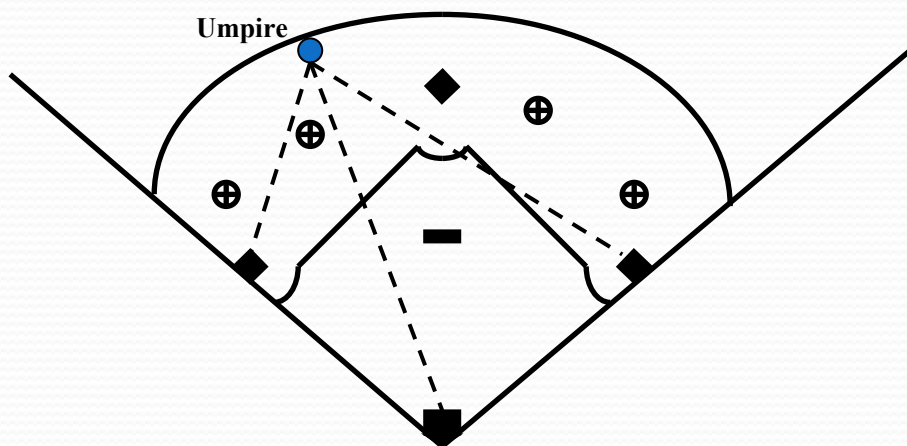
One Base Umpire – Runners on 1st and 2nd

Take position 2 or 3 steps behind and to the left of the shortstop to see the pitched ball reach the batter and also keep an eye on the runners on 1st and 2nd



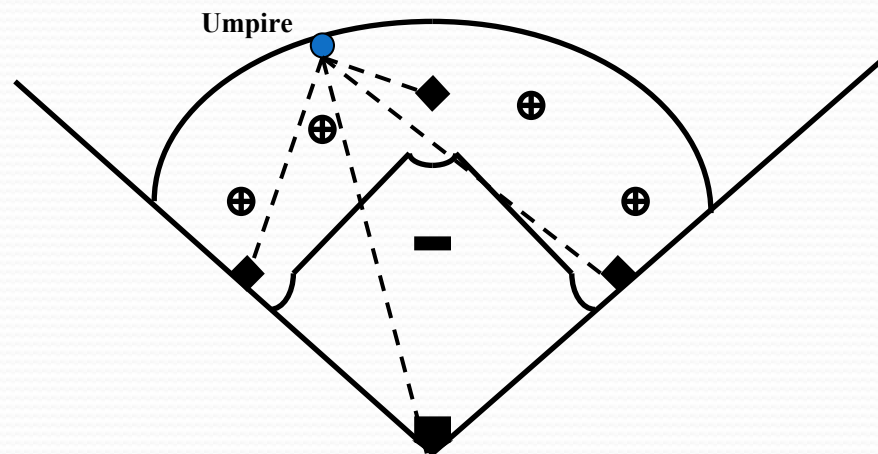
One Base Umpire – Runners on 2nd and 3rd

Take position 2 or 3 steps behind and to the left of the shortstop to see the pitched ball reach the batter and also keep an eye on the runners on 2nd and 3rd.



One Base Umpire – Runners on 1st and 3rd

Take position 2 or 3 steps behind and to the left of the shortstop to see the pitched ball reach the batter and also keep an eye on the runners on 1st and 3rd.

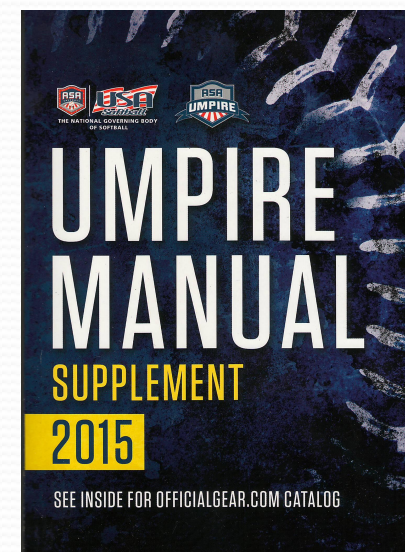
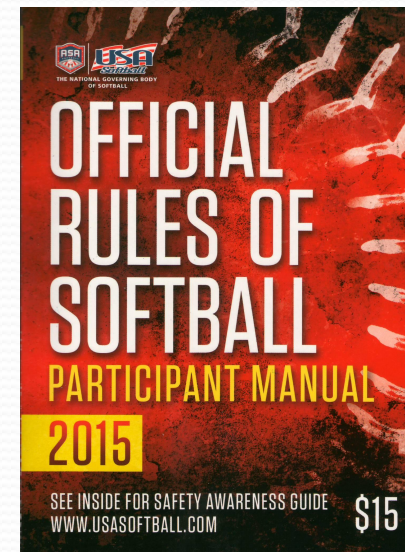


One Base Umpire – Bases Full

Take position 2 or 3 steps behind and to the left of the shortstop to see the pitched ball reach the batter and also keep an eye on the runners on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Rules

- ASA Official Rules of Softball Participant Manual + Umpire Manual Supplement
 - RULE 1 – THE DEFINITIONS
 - Many “rules” are defined in this section
 - Rules are listed by Rule number, then section, then subsections. For example RULE 7 – BATTING, Section 2. BATTING ORDER, D.2.a.EFFECT.a “The player who should have batted is out”



Terminology

See ASA Rule 1

Dead Ball - play stops immediately

Dead Ball Area - out of the field of play, e.g. dugout

Delayed Dead Ball - after play ceases

Non-batted pitch - a pitched ball that is not hit

Interference - offense gets in the way of the defense (player is out)

- base runner hit directly by batted ball
- batter gets in way of catcher throwing to third

Obstruction - defense gets in way of the offense (runner awarded base)

- first baseman reaches across orange bag to receive the ball
- first baseman stands on bag when there is no play

ASA Participant Manual

Rule 5, Sections 1 - 4

RULE 5 - THE GAME

Section 1. HOME TEAM.

The team designated as home team shall bat last in the inning.

Section 2. FITNESS OF THE GROUNDS.

The fitness of the grounds for a game shall be decided solely by the plate umpire.

Section 3. REGULATION GAME.

- A. A regulation game shall consist of seven innings. A full seven innings need not be played if the team second at bat scores more runs in six and one-half innings and/or before the third out in the last of the seventh inning, or the run-ahead rule is applied.
- B. A game that is tied at the end of seven innings shall be continued by playing additional innings until one side has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning, or until the team second at bat has scored more runs in their half of the inning before the third out is made.
- C. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if five or more complete innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in four or more innings than the other team has scored in five or more innings. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic or any other cause that places the patrons or players in peril.

2A (8U) Local Rules

- 8.7 - 4 runs per half inning
- 8.11 & 8.12 - After 3 balls and no strikes, or 4 balls with at least 1 strike, coach pitcher enters and assumes count and is allowed a max of 4 pitches (foul on last pitch is repeated). Until Spring Break no called strikes, after Spring Break all strikes are called. No bunting. Coach must remain within pitching circle. Lead offs by base runners are allowed, but cannot leave early or called out.
- 8.15 – Runners may take one base at their risk and continue to advance until **first possession on dirt occurs**, or ball is thrown out of fair territory. At that time runners may only complete running to the base they are currently running towards.
- 8.23 & 8.24 – Foul tip vs Foul ball. Foul tip goes direct to catcher's glove and is always a strike. Foul ball deflects over the catcher's head and if caught by catcher the batter is out.

3A(10U) Local Rules

- 10.8 - 4 runs per half inning for first 3 innings
- 10.9 - NO dropped third strike or infield fly rule
- 10.15 & 10.16 – NO walks. After ball 4 coach pitcher enters and assumes count and is allowed a max of 3 pitches (foul on last pitch is repeated). All strikes are called. No bunting or stealing. Coach must start pitch on the rubber. Lead offs by base runners are allowed, but cannot leave early or called out.
- 10.21 – NO stealing home on passed balls or return to pitcher. Catcher or pitcher must possess and throw the ball attempting to put out a base runner before runner at third may score.
- 10.20 - Player may advance only 1 base between non-batted pitches. Does not matter if there are overthrows attempting to put out a baserunner attempting to steal.
- 10.29 & 10.30 Foul tip (strike) vs caught foul ball (out)

3A (10U) Other Local Rules

- 10.27 Thrown Bat - first time dead ball is called and the player and manager warned. Second time batter is called out and base runners returned to their last base. Batter is not allowed to bat again in the game.
- 10.22 Lookback Rule - effect is dead ball and return base runner to their base.
- 10.28 Bunt Attempt - batter must pull the bat back before the ball passes the plate or it is always a called strike, regardless of whether the ball was in the strike zone.

See "Summary of Local Rules By Division" and "SGSL Rules FAQ" on the league website.

Rules Quiz

- Let's try a few now...

Question 1

The ball is hit and rolls fair until it hits the white bag at first or third base and bounces foul. How is this called?

- A) Fair ball
- B) Foul ball
- C) Foul ball but runners can advance

Answer: A) Fair ball [ASA-R8-S2-M1]

Question 2

A pop fly ball is caught in foul territory. Is the play called:

- A) Foul ball, batter is out, dead ball, play is dead.
- B) Live ball, batter is out, base runners may advance
- C) Dead ball, strike unless the batter already has 2 strikes

Answer: B) Live ball, batter is out, base runners may advance [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-A] [ASA-R8-S2-C]

Question 3

The batter swings and makes glancing contact, the ball bounces off the catcher's mitt and hits the backstop. This is called:

- A) A foul tip, play remains live, batter receives a strike unless they already have 2.
- B) A foul tip, play remains live, batter receives a strike regardless of count.
- C) A foul ball, play is dead, batter receives a strike unless they already have 2.

Answer: C) A foul ball, play is dead, batter receives a strike unless they already have 2. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-ACG]

Question 4

The pitch crosses over home plate at the batter's shoulders. This is:

- A) a strike
- B) a ball
- C) a bunt

Answer: B) a ball [ASA-R1-STRIKE ZONE]

Question 5

A batter does not move and is hit on the hands by the pitch.

- A) This is a strike if the pitch is in the strike zone.
- B) This is a ball if the pitch is not in the strike zone.
- C) Both A and B

Answer: C) Both A and B [ASA-R7-S4-H] [ASA-R8-S1-F]
(batter must make an attempt to avoid being hit)

Question 6

With a runner on 1st and 3rd base and one out, the catcher drops the called third strike on the batter. The batter runs to first base before being tagged or the ball making it to first base.

- A) The batter is safe.
- B) The batter is out.
- C) The base runner that advanced to 2nd base is called out.

Answer: B) The batter is out [ASA-R8-S1-B] – must be 2 outs or first base unoccupied

Question 7

The batter bunts, the ball hits home plate and then the bat a second time while held by the batter in the batters box. This is:

- A) Dead ball. A strike is called unless the batter already has 2.
- B) Live ball, play proceeds.
- C) Batter is called out.

Answer: A) Dead ball. A strike is called unless the batter already has 2. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-F] [ASA-R7-S6-K1]

Question 8

Base runner leaves her current base before the ball is released by the pitcher.

- A) play is live and the runner must tag up once the ball is hit before proceeding.
- B) play is live and runner may continue to the next base
- C) play is dead, “no pitch” is called, and runner is called out

Answer: C) play is dead, “no pitch” is called, and runner is called out [ASA-R8-S7-S] [ASA-R8-S4-A]

Question 9

- After crossing first base, the base runner turns left to return to first base. The first baseman tags the runner before they can return to first base. This is called:
- A) Base runner is out.
- B) Base runner is safe.
- C) Obstruction on the first baseman.

Answer: B) base runner is safe [ASA-8-8-I] [ASA-8-7-H]
(runner must make a move towards second to be at risk)

Question 10

The pitcher begins her motion with only the pivot foot touching the plate, the delivered pitch is within the strike zone.

- A) This is a legal pitch and called strike.
- B) This is an illegal pitch and play continues.
- C) Dead ball is called and “no pitch” declared.

Answer: B) This is an illegal pitch and play continues.
[ASA-R6-S1-C2] [ASA-R6-S1-EFFECT]

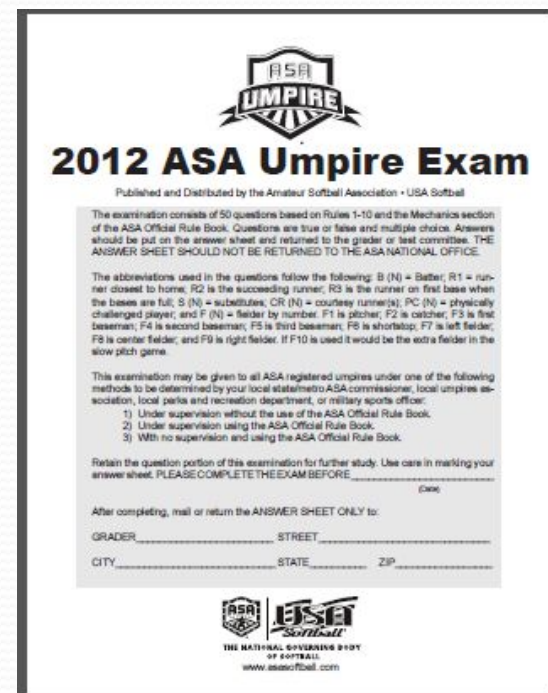
Final Round Up

- Questions?
- Dave Hu (650-315-4354)
- Uniforms and equipment
- Forms

Backup Slides

ASA Umpire Exam

- The ASA has an official umpire test available from their website, 50 T/F and Multiple Choice questions
- http://downloads.asasoftball.com/umpires/pdf/2012umpexam_withAnswerSheet.pdf
- “As R1 races toward home plate F2 blocks the plate causing R1 to slow down resulting in R1 being tagged out. The umpire rules that F2 is legally blocking the plate because F2 was about to receive the ball.”
- Great resource to help you think about what might happen in a game and how to call it beforehand.



2012 ASA Umpire Exam
Published and Distributed by the Amateur Softball Association • USA Softball

The examination consists of 50 questions based on Rules 1-10 and the Mechanics section of the ASA Official Rule Book. Questions are true or false and multiple choice. Answers should be put on the answer sheet and returned to the grader or test committee. THE ANSWER SHEET SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE ASA NATIONAL OFFICE.

The abbreviations used in the questions follow the following: B (N) = Batter; R1 = runner closest to home; R2 is the succeeding runner; R3 is the runner on first base when the bases are full; S (N) = substitutes; CR (N) = courtesy runner(s); PC (N) = physically challenged player; and P (N) = pitcher by number. P1 is pitcher; F2 is catcher; F3 is first baseman; F4 is second baseman; F5 is third baseman; F6 is shortstop; F7 is left fielder; F8 is center fielder; and F9 is right fielder. If F10 is used it would be the extra fielder in the slow pitch game.


This examination may be given to all ASA registered umpires under one of the following methods to be determined by your local state/metro ASA commissioner, local umpires association, local parks and recreation department, or military sports officer:

- 1) Under supervision without the use of the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 2) Under supervision using the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 3) With no supervision and using the ASA Official Rule Book.

Retain the question portion of this examination for further study. Use care in marking your answer sheet. PLEASE COMPLETE THE EXAM BEFORE _____ (Date)

After completing, mail or return the ANSWER SHEET ONLY to:

GRADER _____ STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

 THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY OF SOFTBALL
www.asasoftball.com