

WYBSL Fall 2013 Umpire Training

Agenda: Sign-up sheet WYBSL Rules Quiz Mechanics

WYBSL Program- wybsl.org; weather Hot Line 523-6220 should be updated by 4:30 on weekdays
Central Ohio's largest program of its kind; Established 1951; ~2700 players/year
Baseball & Softball; OSHAA certified (Black & Blue); WYBSL-trained (Green & Red)
Resources: Baseball: Steve Mygrant 882-1133 (hm) 668-8887 (cell)
Softball:

Compensation- *new: no games will be assigned w/o participation or completion of concussion training*
First Season = "C" = \$24/\$22game- **note** if a 2-man crew (play-offs & in preparation for) = \$22
B = \$26/\$23 A = \$28/\$25 AA = \$30/\$26 Game cards = pay ★
On-call = \$15 - show up @field prepared to umpire game, if all games covered, free to leave



Role of a WYBSL Umpire- be a **P R O**

- P**rofessionalism- Know the rules- look and act the role; calm confidence w/o arrogance;
- R**esponsible- show up on time & prepared for game, you are league representative
- O**bjective- you are the most objective person at the game- stay that way; no favoritism

Perception is Reality? Harvard study on perceptions of you as an official

- 7-10% What you said
- 30% Tone of voice and delivery
- 60% Non-verbal clues- How you delivered it- how would you look on Sports Center?

Communication Strategies*

Stay calm- (2) things to NEVER say to a coach or parent- "Calm down" or "Shut Up"

Coaches want umpires that control themselves & game; they don't want umpires that can be influenced (by themselves, or the other coaches)... Friendly, but not your friend.

Trouble- don't go to the coach- let him/her come to you- it makes them look like the aggressor

Deflectors-

- "I appreciate that but..."
- "I completely understand your concern but..."
- "If it happened exactly the way you're describing it I would agree but this is how I saw it"

LEAPS strategy- **L**isten..**E**mpathize..**A**sk professional questions..**P**araphrase..**S**ummarize

Demonstrates listening

Allows you to take control

Allows clarification/correction of communication

Listen- people want to be sure that they are heard

Empathize- "Let me be sure that I heard what you just said"

Ask questions- "What was that?" ... "I'm sorry, I couldn't quite hear you, can you repeat that?"

Paraphrase- restating issues/concerns

Summarize- "Coach, as you know by rule..."

Concluding- after LEAPs (if needed)...

- Ask for compliance
- Tell them why you are asking for their compliance
- Give coaches Options (first the good, then the bad)
- Confirm the option
- ACT- (at this point the coach is choosing ejection)

Pre-game/Ground Rules: Starting the Game Out Right!

Arrive 15 minutes before game start time- get equipment on, inspect field

- Watch Way of keeping time), pen/pencil, clicker/brush
- **Guys**- are you properly equipped?

Both head coaches meet you at/near home plate

- Introduce yourself, shake hands, get game card from home team
- Establish Out of Play,
- ASK: Are all players properly equipped? **INSIST** on answer from coach
- ASK: Is your tem only using **LEGAL** Equipment- **INSIST** on answer
- Hustle: Less waiting= more baseball

Things to note on game card

- Start time of game
- Pitcher's number & innings pitched
- Defensive conferences (which inning)
- Thrown bats- player & inning- note new rule
- note ejections or concussion removal - call **umpire coordinator the same day**



Rules: NFHS vs. WYBSL Supplemental

Key NFHS Baseball/Softball Rules

Pitching: In Play  [you tube](#) Strike zone Bounced Hit by pitch (dead ball)

Substitution- only starting pitcher can come back in

Hitting: Helmets (always) Batter's box Foul tip   KO-HBP

Fielding: Out of play  Catch/no catch Infield fly 

Fair/Foul: Ball location not fielder "Demarcation line" Bases & line are in play

Base Running: Base path (3ft rule) Malicious contact
Sliding Rule (don't have to slide, but if they do, it must be legal)

Obstruction: by DEFENSE: Offense has the option of taking play or penalty before the next pitch

Minimum of 1 base award; can be multiple runners awarded bases- if all base runners have reached a base, obstruction is ignored



Interference: by OFFENSE- immediate dead ball runner is OUT [Interference](#)

Base Awards: Most Common

- **Infielder** (first play) throw out of play- runner awarded 2 bases from time of **pitch (baseball)**; softball award is 2 bases from time of **throw**
- **Outfielder or infielder's (2nd) play**- runner awarded 2 bases from time of **throw**
- **Pitch strikes batter**- batter-runner awarded 1 base from time of **pitch**

Dropped Third Strike: advancement (Red Hat only)

- Less than 2 outs- 1st base must be unoccupied at time of pitch
- 2 outs 1st base can be occupied

CONCUSSIONS:

- It is responsibility of both the coaches & umpires to remove players from game (or practice) if player is exhibiting symptoms of a concussion- this could include unconsciousness, headaches, vomiting, disorientation, short-term memory issues.
- The action precipitating symptoms of concussion may NOT have occurred at game
- When in doubt, sit them out.
- http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html

Key WYBSL Supplemental Rules: all leagues

- 15 minute “grace period” from scheduled start of game
- Lightning/Thunder: leave field/dug-outs; restart 20 minutes after last occurrence
- A team can start (and must finish) with a minimum of 8 players (OSHAA is 9); if there are 8, the (phantom) 9th batter is an out each inning- coach should notify you
- A continuous batting order is used
- One batter in the batter’s box & one batter in the on deck circle (outside field of play)
- Players arriving late can enter game but at end of line-up; can leave for cause without penalty
- No jewelry (metal or otherwise, includes wristbands, ear rings)
- Thrown bat rule (NEW)- 1sttime is a team warning; 2nd is an OUT; 3rd time is Bench restriction of the coach; 2nd time by same player is a bench restriction
- Warm-up pitches- 6 for new pitchers, 3 for returning pitchers- KEEP THINGS MOVING!
- Coach’s Challenge: Rules issues only, NOT judgment calls; must notify umpire & opposing coach before next pitch- note on your card & notify Umpire director by phone
- Coaches are responsible for players and parents- umpires should first try to deal with the coaches, and try to avoid fan conflicts (deaf ear)



Ejections: “Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in the league. Team coaches are responsible for their conduct and the conduct of their players and fans.”

No One Wins with an Ejection

- Umpire can use bench restriction as first option
- Ejected player, coach or fan must immediately leave field
- Umpire reports ejection to Umpire Director that night
- NFHS rule-
 - assistant leaves position to argue judgment call = bench restriction (or) ejection for assistant AND coach

But YOU Represent the WYBSL

Key WYBSL Supplemental Rules: Green & Red Hat leagues- baseball & softball

- Six inning games; No new inning starts after 2 hours and finished by 2.5 hrs
- Only one batter warming up at a time;
- Batting aides (hitting sticks, nets...) allowed ONLY w/in outfield during scheduled warm-up
- No metal cleats
- **No lead-offs;** advancement after pitch crosses plate (baseball) pitcher's hand (softball)
- **Defensive conferences:** 2/six innings (baseball & softball)
- With 2 outs, (if a base runner) catcher can be substituted by player making last out
- **BASEBALL-** No "slug" bunting (fake bunt & swing) PENALTY- immediate dead ball, OUT
- **SOFTBALL-** runners must avoid contact (sliding or upright) PENALTY, OUT
- **SOFTBALL-** Double 1st bases used- defense uses white base (fair); offense colored base (foul)
 - **Defense** can use either on a dropped 3rd strike
 - Offense can use either while tagging up, returning to base on pick-off

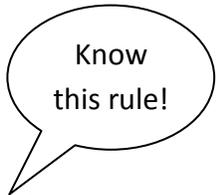
WYBSL Green Hat Supplemental Rules

Baseball

- Maximum 8 runs per inning
- Run rule- up by 9 after 5 (4.5 if home team ahead)
- All three outfielders must be positioned in the grass
- Dropped 3rd strike- no advancement
- No stealing home or advancement to upon steal attempt of 2nd or 3rd
- Pitcher hitting 3/game REMOVED
- No balks

Softball

- 5 runs per inning
- Up by 6 after 5 (4.5 home leading)
-
- All 4 outfielders 20 ft out or in grass
-
- same
- No stealing of home or second base
-
- 3/inning or 5/game must stop pitching
- No balks
- No Infield fly rule
- No walks- at ball 4, **coach pitches** w/count remaining same; maximum 3 pitches, no HB, no bunting or stealing



Know this rule!

WYBSL Red Hat Supplemental Rules

Baseball

- Maximum 10 runs per inning
- Run rule- up by 11 after 5 (4.5 if home team ahead)
- All three outfielders must be positioned in the grass
- Modified balk rule: one warning/pitcher: dropped ball (foot on plate); feint; non-continuous motion, doesn't step toward base

Softball

- 7 runs per inning
- Up by 8 after 5 (4.5 home leading)
-
- All 4 outfielders 20 ft out or in grass

Field Mechanics

- Proper positioning behind the plate
 - Keeping head steady (following ball with eyes)
 - Slot position- being able to see a ball on lower outside corner
 - Consistency- coach’s biggest complaint is a perceived lack of consistency
- Ball/Strike count- Balls on the left hand, strikes on the right- note frequently (use clicker)
- Keep home plate (relatively) clean- brush with head facing backstop
- Getting out from behind the plate- hustle; getting in position to make a good call
- Pause-Read & React- Why?
- Calling what you **see**- Safe/Out; Fair/foul
- Preventative Umpiring
- Selling the Call



- Signs:
- What if you are wrong?
- Handling situations [ejections](#)

Pass Outs- Shirts, Clickers, Brush, QUIZ

UMPIRE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Date _____ Umpire _____ Class _____ League _____

Innings Observed _____ Observer _____

<u>Category</u>	<u>Scale (1-5) 5 Best</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Appearance	_____	_____
Positioning behind Plate	_____	_____
Hustle on Field	_____	_____
Clarity of Calls	_____	_____
Proper Use of Signals	_____	_____
Any Rules Issues (Y/N)	_____	_____

Other comments: _____

WYBSL: Twenty of the Most Misunderstood Baseball/Softball Rules

- Two-thirds of the FIREWORKS in our league between coaches/parents & our umpires are due to the coaches/parents believing that they are in a better position to see a play or that they know the rules better than they actually do.
- While our umpires don't always get the calls right, they are the most objective individuals on (or near) the field, they are in the best position to see the call and they are well trained on the rules.

Twenty of the Most Misunderstood Baseball/Softball Rules in the WYBSL

Pitching:

- A pitch that has bounced in the dirt is an automatic "ball" (or dead ball). **NO:** This ball can be hit, can be swung at for a strike & can be HBP (although it should never be a called strike).
- **Girls Green Hat** (only) there are no walks- Upon Ball "4", coach comes in, strike count remains, max. 3 pitches resulting in either hit, KO or out; fouled 3rd strike results in another pitch.
- **Boys Blue/Black Hat**- Pick-off throw w/o "Pause" is a BALK. **NO:** if the ball is delivered to the plate it requires a pause (or it is a balk); if thrown to the bases, no pause is required.

Batting:

- A "foul tip" is the same as a "foul ball" **NO.**  A "foul tip" is a batted ball that goes directly into catcher's hands and legally caught-it is a strike; ball is still in play. An *uncaught* foul ball is an immediate dead ball.
- "Hands are part of the bat"- **NO.** If hands are hit upon a swing, it is a strike (if 3rd, an out) and still a HBP (batter could strike out before HBP).
- Batting out of order- if discovered while still batting, replace batter, no penalty. If defense makes proper appeal after at-bat, but before first pitch, or play, the proper batter is out
- **Dropped third strike**- (Red Hat & Above) With less than 2 outs, 1st base must be unoccupied (at time of pitch) to advance; with two out batter/runner can advance (and it's a force)

Base running:

- Tie goes to the runner. **NO.** Either the runner is safe or out- why umpires paid the BIG \$s
- Base runners can't deviate more than 3 feet from a line between bases- **NO.** When a play is being made, base runner establishes a *base path* which is a straight line to the next base, and it is from this line the base runner cannot deviate 3 ft. to avoid tag or hinder a fielder.
- Base protects the base-runner from interference- **NO.** Only on infield fly situations.

WYBSL: Twenty of the Most Misunderstood Baseball/Softball Rules

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- You have to slide- **NO**. *If* there is a slide, it *has* to be a legal slide; Diving, jumping over or hurdling a fielder is an illegal slide & an automatic out
- Interference by the base runner requires contact. **NO**. It must be considered intentional (umpire judgment). Interfering with, impeding, hindering or confusing defensive player (even waiving arms, or yelling). IMMEDIATE dead ball. Runner is out. Other base awards possible
- Force Out/Timing play- A run can never score if the 3rd out was made by the batter-runner failing to reach 1st or any other runner before reaching the base to which he was forced



Fielding:

-  "Infield fly" has to be called by the umpire (or loud enough for the coaches to hear) to be in effect. **NO**. Can be enforced after the fact (before next pitch). Requires runners on 1st & 2nd, or bases loaded < 2 outs.
- During an "infield fly", the base runners can't be tagged out. **NO**. Base runners are not forced, but can advance at own peril- if caught off the base, they can be put out.
- Defense commits interference. **NO**. Defense commits obstruction, and it's a delayed dead ball. Offensive coach has *option* of taking result of play *or* penalty awarded. If it is catcher's obstruction & all runners advance one base, obstruction is ignored.
- **Fair/foul**: It's where the *ball* is when touched, *not* fielder. Bases & line are in play. Untouched ball not advancing beyond 1st/3rd "demarcation line" then stopping in foul territory is foul.
- **Catch/no catch**-secure possession in glove or hand (not equipment) *and* voluntary release.
- **Ball thrown out of play**- Base Awards:
 - **Softball** Two bases from where the runner(s) are at the time of the throw
 - **Baseball**: On **1st play by infielder**-two bases from time of **pitch**; throw by **Outfielder or infielder's 2nd play**- two bases awarded from time of **throw**



Proper Appeal of a call

- Made to the umpire making the call; can touch the intended runner, base missed or original base if caught ball; Should be **clearly** intended verbal or unmistakable act. Appeal must be made before next pitch or play.

