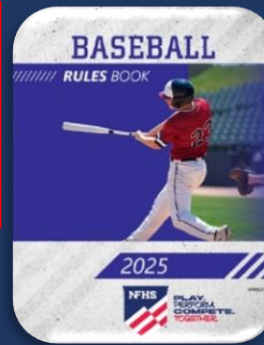


# FAIRFIELD COUNTY UMPIRES RULES IN REVIEW



2025  
Volume 2



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 9, 8 am to noon: RUS Session #6 of 10  
Feb 16, 8 am to noon: RUS Session #7 of 10  
Feb 19, 7 pm: Meeting at Notre Dame HS  
Mar 9, 8 am: Meeting at Wooster MS  
(Mandatory Rule clinic)

**CAGEWORK AVAILABLE AT ALL RUS SESSIONS**  
Come get yourself ready for the season

## LET'S GO TO REPLAY! RULES-BASED VIDEOS (click links to view)

### YOU!! THIRD BASE!!

- A base award gives a runner the right to advance without a play being made. The runner still must touch the bases in order. In this play, R1 was awarded third base and ran straight across the diamond! He will be out if the missed touch of second base is properly appealed.
- Note the position of the manager and umpire at the midpoint of the foul line while they discuss the play. Well done.  
Rules 2-2, 8-2-6-g

### INFIELD FLY! BATTER'S OUT!!

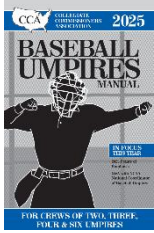
#### **2 key points to keep in mind:**

- Infield fly only matters if the ball is not caught. "Batter is still out!!" Otherwise, it's just a caught fly.
- Once infield fly is called, all forces have been removed. Any runner advancing must be tagged out.  
Rules 2-19, 8-4-2-j

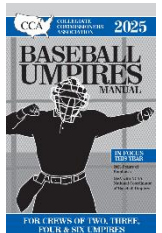
## 2025 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

*2025 Baseball Rules Book, pages 4-5*

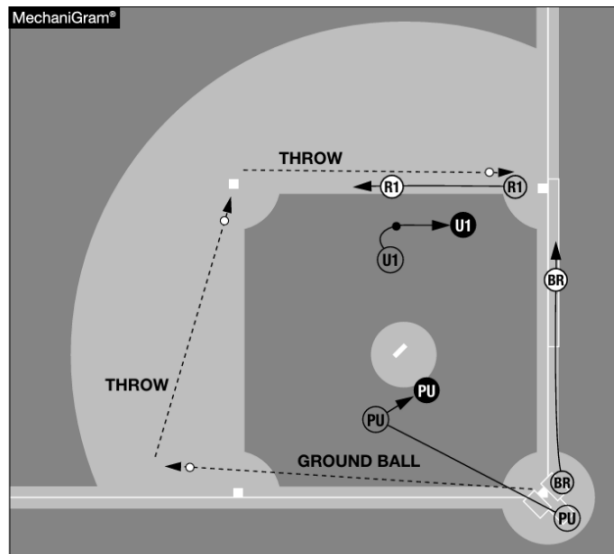
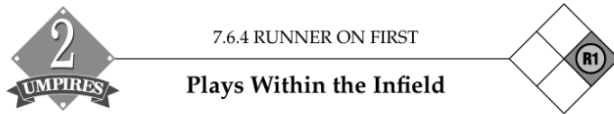
- Baseballs
  - Must have the NOCSAE and NFHS Authentication marks.
- Pitching Positions
  - Windup or Set is determined by the pivot foot's relation to the rubber
    - Parallel = Set, Not parallel = Windup
  - NFHS differs from other rule sets in this regard.
- Bench Decorum
  - Coaches set the tone for their team.
  - Our job is to manage behavior to facilitate a fair contest.
- Use of Celebratory Props
  - Are not allowed in High School baseball
- Communication Equipment
  - One way, from the dugout only, to the catcher only.
  - Devices with 2-way capability (i.e. AirPods) are not allowed, regardless if the functionality is disabled or not.



# MECHANICS CORNER



## R1 only, GROUND BALLS ON THE INFELD



Action on the field: Double-play ground ball to third base, with a throw to second base followed by a throw to first base.

**Plate Umpire (PU):** Moves toward the **THIRD BASE SIDE OF THE MOUND** to assist U1 on the slide at second base by R1.

- IF R1 IS OUT, PU stays with the slide to ensure the slide was legal then turns toward first base for secondary responsibility on a swipe tag and/or pulled foot at first base.
- IF R1 IS SAFE and attempts to advance to third, PU has responsibility for play at third if ball and runner come together.
- PU is responsible for all plays at home.

**Base Umpire (U1):** Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first or second base, including a drift toward first on the attempted double play. U1 is responsible for the illegal slide until he turns toward first base to rule on the play there.

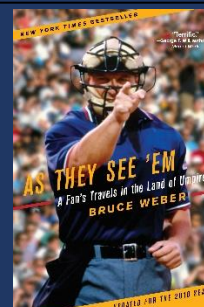
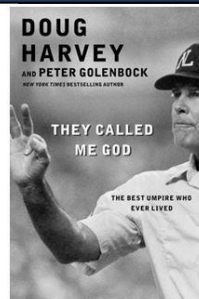
**THIS IS A DEPARTURE FROM TRAINING IN THE DISTANT PAST,  
BUT IT'S NOT NEW**

## RECOMMENDED READING:

### THEY CALLED ME GOD: The Best Umpire Who Ever Lived

2015

In a memoir that transcends the sport, Doug Harvey tells a gripping story of responsibility, fairness, and honesty.



### AS THEY SEE 'EM: A Fan's Travels in the Land of Umpires

2010

A New York Times reporter attends umpire pro school and spends a season working baseball from Little League to MLB Spring Training.

# RULES QUIZ (answers below)

1. From the Set position, the pitcher can:
  - a. Step and throw to first base
  - b. Step and feint or throw to Second or Third Base
  - c. Step to the rear of the rubber and feint a throw to any base.
  - d. All of the above
2. R2, 2 outs. A balk is called when a pitch is delivered and hit for a game-ending single:
  - a. The offense can choose to take the result of the play
  - b. The balk is an immediate dead ball and any subsequent play is nullified. R2 is awarded third, the batter comes to bat with the same count
  - c. The batter and all runners advanced at least one base, so the balk is ignored by rule. Game over.
3. R1 only, no outs. B2 hits a popup near first base. R1 interferes with F3 while returning to the base, but F3 still catches the popup in foul territory.
  - a. B2 is out on the catch. R1 remains at first.
  - b. R1 is out for interference. B2 is awarded first.
  - c. R1 is out for interference. B2 returns to bat with a strike added to the count.
  - d. B2 and R1 are both out.

4. At the pregame conference, the plate umpire issues warnings to both coaches because they are known to complain about balls and strikes
  - a. Warnings of this type are good proactive officiating
  - b. At the first offense, the head coach will be ejected
  - c. Warnings of this type are not allowed.
  - d. At the first offense, any offender will be ejected.
5. Unused defensive conferences may be carried over to extra innings.
  - a. True
  - b. False
6. After a home run, a teammate comes out to the area around home plate and taunts the catcher in a minor way.
  - a. The player shall be immediately ejected.
  - b. With the offense judged to be minor in nature, the player shall be warned and, if repeated, he shall be ejected.
  - c. The player is to be immediately restricted to the bench because of the warning.
  - d. B and C

*I just loved officiating, and I hope what I did helped make it better. That's what I tell young umpires; you can have fun. I never spent a day where going out on a baseball field didn't make me feel better.*

**Doug Harvey, #8, HOF Umpire**  
**"They Called Me God"**



Volume 25-2 quiz answers:  
 1 d (6-1-3, 6-2-4-a/b), 2 b (5-1-1-k), 3 c (5-1-1-e)  
 4 c (3-3-1), 5 b (3-4-1) 6 b (3-3-1-f-2 Penalty)