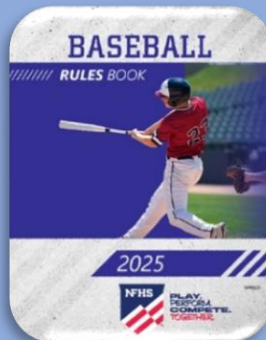


FAIRFIELD COUNTY UMPIRES RULES IN REVIEW



2025
Volume 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 2, 8 am: RUS Session #8, Wooster MS

Mar 9, 8 am: **Meeting at Wooster MS**
(Mandatory Rule clinic)

Mar 9, 8 am: RUS Rules test, Wooster MS

Mar 16, 8 am: RUS Session #10, Bunnell HS

CAGEWORK AVAILABLE AT ALL RUS SESSIONS

Come get yourself ready for the season

2025 RULES CHANGES

2025 Baseball Rules Book, page3

This is a very light year for rule changes:

Rule 1-3-2-c-1 (Non-wood bats)

Modified to read that resin, pine tar, or other drying agent is allowed, as long as it does not extend beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob.

****In NFHS: extended pine tar, etc IS CAUSE FOR AN OUT for an illegal bat, as opposed to other rule sets (i.e. George Brett). See Case Book Situation 1.3.5.A**

Rule 4-4-1 (Forfeits)

Modified to read that a game may be forfeited if a coach or team personnel is not removed in a timely manner after being disqualified by an umpire.

LET'S GO TO REPLAY!

RULES-BASED VIDEOS

(click links to view)

THAT'S INTERFERENCE!

- This is an easy batter interference call.
- This is strike 3; the batter and runner will both be called out.
- If there were other runners, they go back to their Time Of Pitch base.

Rules 7-3-5 PENALTY

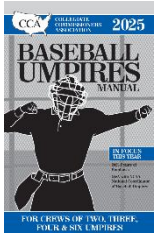
UMPIRE INTERFERENCE

- It happens. Call it and move on. You cannot no-call this, as it put the defense at a disadvantage.
- Delayed dead ball: If the runner is retired, continue without reference to the interference.
- If the INITIAL THROW does not retire the runner call "TIME!" and send the runner back

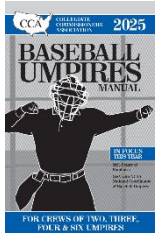
Rule 8-3-6

BONUS VIDEO

- Not a lodged ball. The ball became dead when the batter was hit by the pitch. Runners advance only if forced.



MECHANICS CORNER



MANAGING COACHES DISCUSSIONS: PROPER POSITIONS



Once the game has started, there are only two accepted positions for a coach/umpire meeting.

1. **The midpoint of the foul line (coach's side).**
2. **The edge of the dirt circle, without entering.**

- Used when coaches want to discuss plays on the field and rule interpretations, and to present lineup changes.
- Both parties have a chance to cool down, collect their thoughts and have a professional conversation.
- The days of angry coaches running onto the field are over.
- If a coach comes on the field, calmly remind him of the proper position before addressing the issue.

DO NOT make the coach wait for you or make the coach yell across the diamond to speak with you when he has done his part in waiting for you at the proper position.

The CIAC adopted this policy in 2023. It is modeled after Covid precautions developed at other levels in 2021.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN
BILL WEBSTER
ON BEING CHOSEN TO UMPIRE THE 2025
SENIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES
IN SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE



Rules Quiz (Answers below)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Offensive malicious contact is defined as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Obstructionb. Interferencec. Depends on the runner who committed the act.d. All of the above <p>2. With runners on base, the pitcher drops the ball during delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. It is an immediate balkb. It is declared immediately as a “no-pitch”.c. If the ball crosses the foul line it shall be called a ball.d. If the ball comes to rest on the plate, it shall be called a strike. <p>3. In the third inning, the head coach tells the plate umpire that Baker will bat for the fourth batter in the inning, Davis, if the inning lasts that long. Wilson comes to bat instead of Baker and does not tell the plate umpire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Wilson is an illegal substitute and is restricted to the bench.b. Baker is no longer available as a substitutec. Wilson is an unreported substitute. Upon discovery, the plate umpire records the lineup changed. Baker is out for Wilson batting out of order | <p>4. Provided a ground rule does not supersede a rules book rule, it becomes in force when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Both coaches agree to the proposed ground rule.b. The umpires formulate the ground rules if the teams cannot agree.c. Only the umpires can create the ground rulesd. Both A and B <p>5. With two outs, the runner from third is attempting to steal home. The batter tries to check his swing but hits the ball softly back to the pitcher. The runner from third scores before the batter-runner is out at first base.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The run will countb. The run will not count <p>6. The runner and batter-runner are both between first and second when the left fielder throws the ball to third base. The ball gets by F5 and rolls into the dugout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Both runners are awarded third, so the lead runner is awarded home.b. The lead runner is awarded second and the batter-runner must remain at first.c. Both the runner and batter-runner are awarded home.d. The lead runner is awarded third and the batter runner is awarded second. |
|---|---|

“It wasn’t easy being an umpire, let alone being a Negro umpire. But since the game is the ballplayer’s bread and butter, all he wants is for you to make the right calls.”

~Emmett Ashford, first black MLB Umpire, debuted 4/11/66



Volume 25-3 quiz answers:
1 b (2-21-b), 2 c (6-1-4), 3 c (3-1-1, 3-1-1-d)
4 d (4-1-2), 5 b (9-1-1-a) 6 d (8-3-3-c-3)