

Introductory Umpire Clinic



Revised 2017

Welcome & Introduction

- Welcome to officiating for Little League baseball.
- Instructors and their experience...
- Any administrators and schedulers...

Why are we here?

- Prepare new umpires for officiating; refresh for some.
- To explain the role of the umpire in Little League.
- This is not a rules clinic, but we will be covering a number of rules.
- To provide new umpires with a respect for the role.
- To pass on some experience and lessons learned.

Levels of Officiating

- House League games
- House League Tournaments
- Official Tournaments:
 - Districts
 - Provincials
 - Canadians
 - World Series

The 2016 Rulebook

- Organization of the book into sections:
 - Introduction & Organization Structure (up to page 2)
 - General Information (pages 2-18)
 - Official Regulations (pages 19-53)
 - Official Playing Rules (pages 54-114)
 - Tournament Rules (pages 115-145)
 - Appendices (pages 146-158)
 - Operating Policies (pages 159-197)

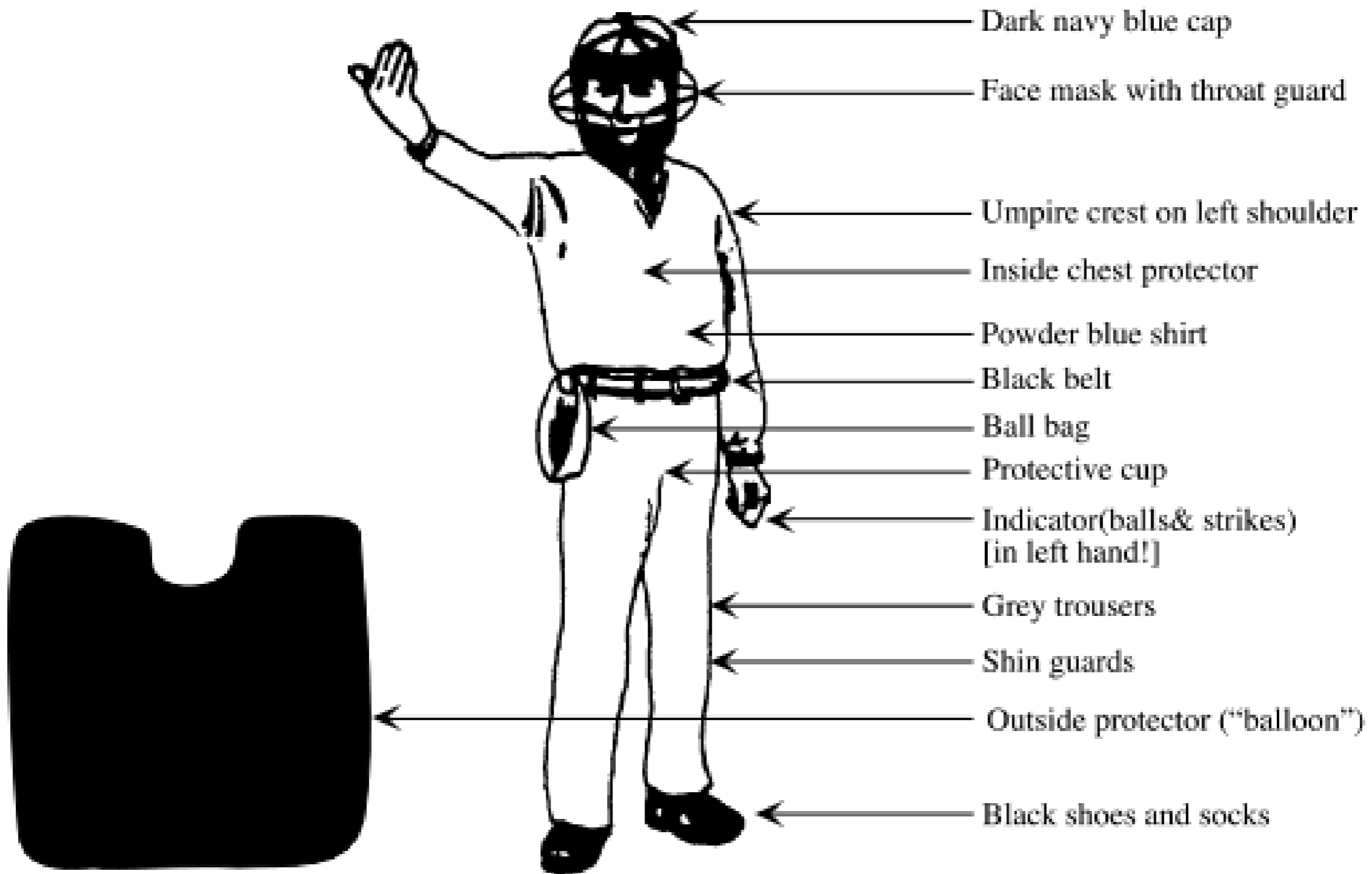
The Rules of Baseball

- There are only 9 rules; Tournament play modifies the rules for official tournaments:
 1. Objectives of the Game (pages 54-65)
 2. Definitions (pages 66-73)
 3. Game Preliminaries (pages 74-77)
 4. Starting and Ending the Game (pages 78-85)
 5. Putting the Ball in Play (pages 86-88)
 6. The Batter (pages 89-95)
 7. The Runner (pages 96-105)
 8. The Pitcher (pages 106-110)
 9. The Umpire (pages 111-114)

A House League Game

- We shall walk through a day for a house league game.
- We shall focus on a Minor/Major game, as that is what most introductory umpires will officiate.
- This is an artificial game, but we shall include a number of real-world events during the game.
- Our sample game is scheduled for a 6pm start.

Dress Code & Equipment



Earlier in the Day

- Where and when is the game?
- How are you getting there?
- What position are you assigned?
- Are you prepared to do the plate even if not assigned?
- What will you wear to and during the game?
- When do you need to leave and when do you need to arrive at the park?

Rule 9: The Umpire

- Sets out the responsibilities and authority of the umpire.
- 9.01b lays out the authority of the umpire.
- 9.02 confirms that judgement calls are final, but does permit opportunity for a coach/manager to question misapplication or non-enforcement of the rules.
- 9.03 speaks to the role of umpires on the field.
- 9.04 speaks to field positioning.
- 9.05 speaks to reporting issues that arise in a game.
- 9.06 indicates an umpire cannot wear metal spikes or cleats.

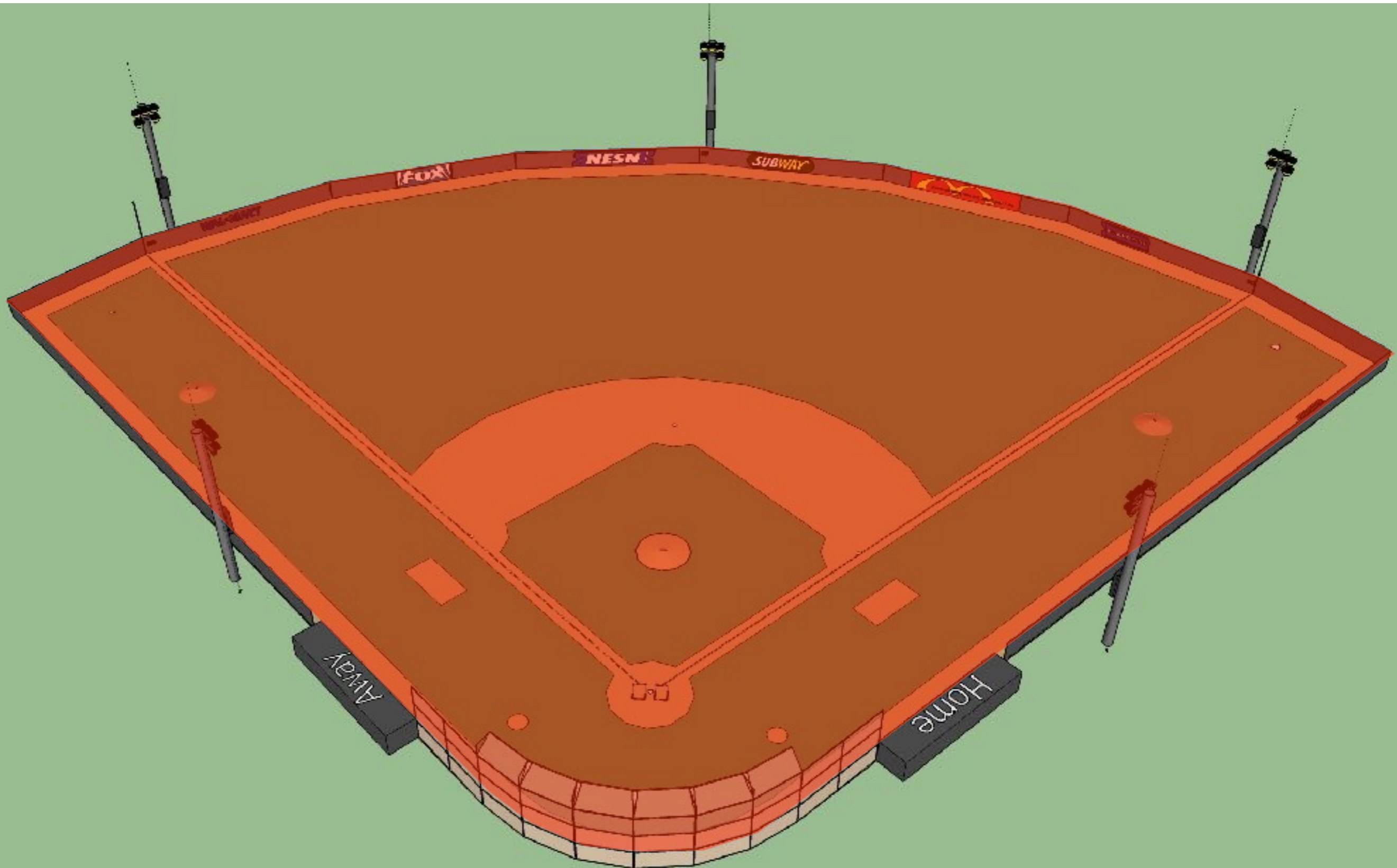
Arriving at the Park

- How early should you arrive?
- Once any official or League representative arrives, the game is under formal control and the rule book must be followed; prior to that the coaches may treat it the same as a practice.
- No coaches, parents or other non-player may warm up a pitcher or play catch.
- Only pitchers and catchers are permitted in the bull pen; a coach may observe.
- A coach may bat or throw (not pitch) the ball for players.

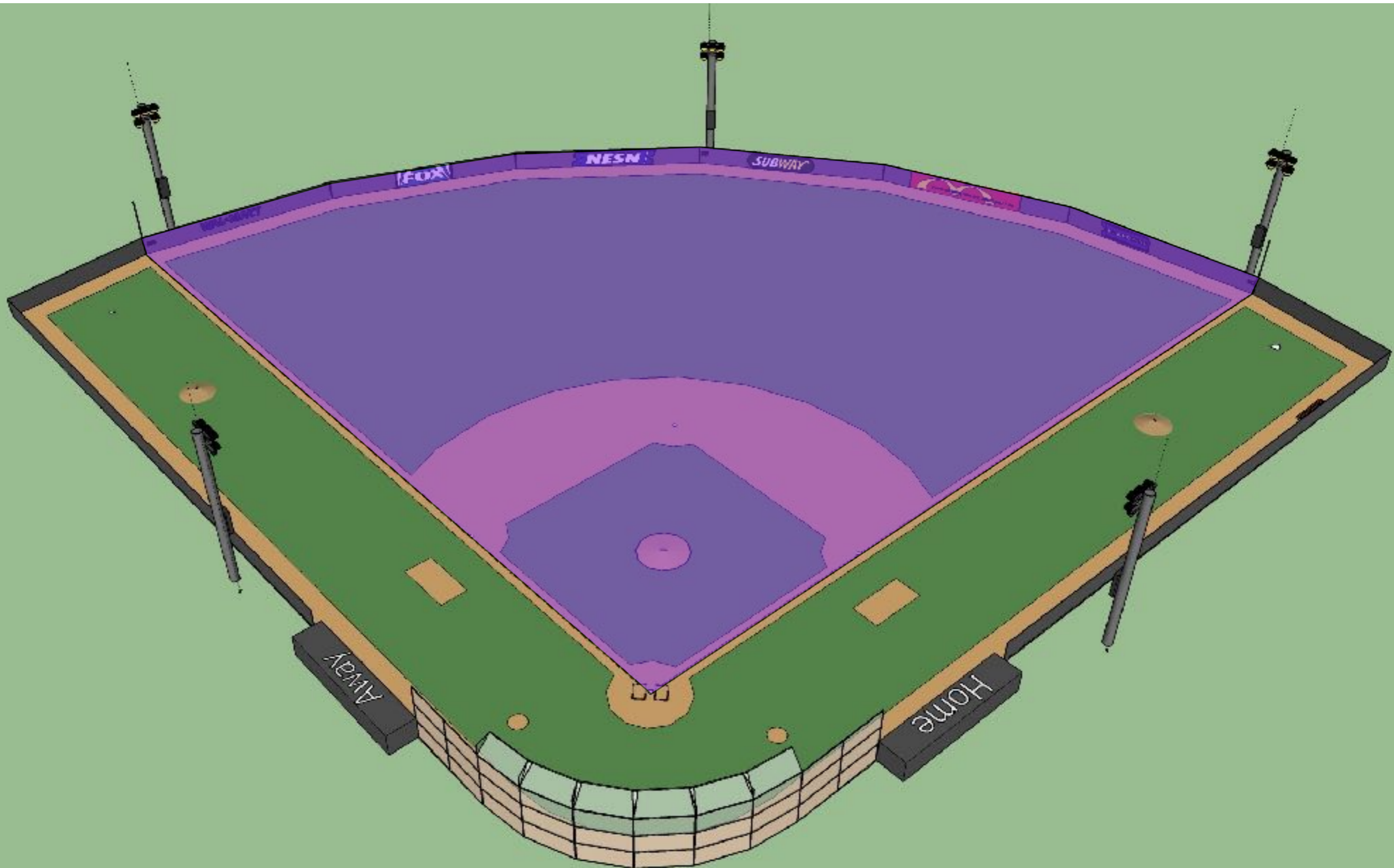
Parts of the Ball Diamond



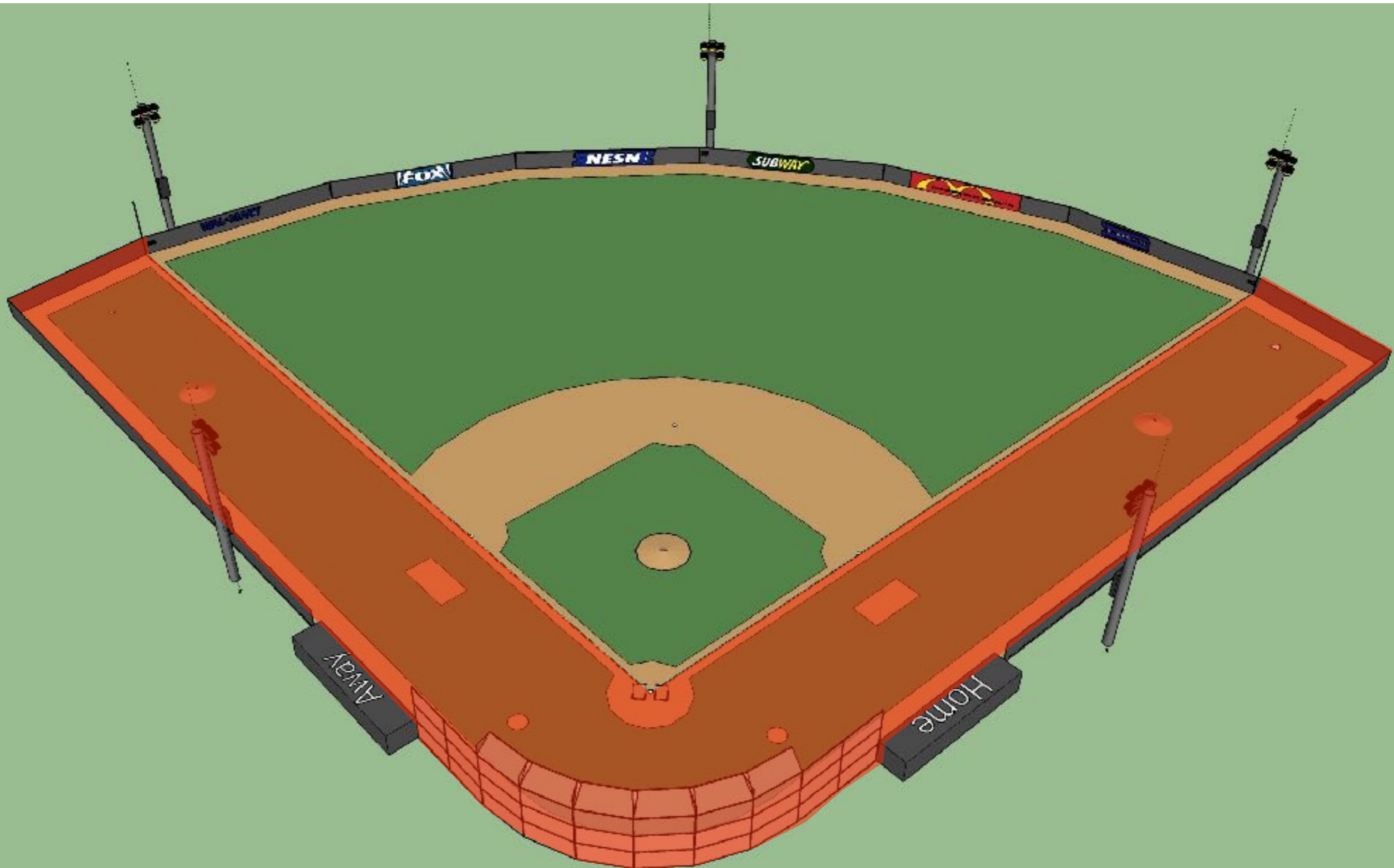
Playing Surface



Fair Territory



Foul Territory



Pre-game: Check the Equipment

- Home team coach is responsible for damaged or missing equipment.
- Home team coach is responsible for installing and fastening the bases.
- Home team coach is responsible for providing the game balls.
- Any issues should be brought to the home team coaches as soon as possible so that they can address the issue before the scheduled game start time.
- Observe the catcher helmets being used by the teams.

Pre-Game: Check the field

- Look for holes in the ground that could cause an injury.
- Look for holes in the fence or unexpected openings.
- Look for debris on the field; especially broken glass.
- Look for any standing water or other unsafe areas.

Pre-Game: Greet your Partner(s)

- Most likely will be part of a 2-umpire crew.
- Confirm who is doing which position.
- Review signals and responsibilities.
- Review any ground rules, house league or interlock rules.
- Warmups or stretches.

Pre-Game: Infields

- Determine which team is the home team.
- Each team gets a maximum of 10 minutes.
- A team infield is optional and they may decline.
- A team doing an infield should have the entire field.
- Prefer to have the home team do their infield first.
- Ensure infields complete so the game starts on time.

The State of the Ball

- Dead – nothing can happen.
- Live – the game is on.
 - Pitched – until it is hit, caught, or touches foul territory (or the batter).
 - Batted – hit by the bat; bunted is a special case.
 - In-flight – batted, thrown or pitched ball that has not yet touched the ground or some other object.
 - Bounding – a live ball that continues to bounce after touching the ground.
 - Caught – an in-flight ball that is legally caught.
- A foul ball is a dead ball.
- A home run is a dead ball on which bases are awarded.

Pre-Game: Meeting with Coaches

- As soon as infields are completed.
- One manager from each team; one player representative is optional.
- Meet near home plate and cover some topics or remind coaches that:
 - ➔ All players are properly equipped.
 - ➔ Cover ground rules and field conditions.
 - ➔ Jewelry is not permitted; only uniforms and medical devices.
 - ➔ Good sportsmanship is expected and required.
 - ➔ Equipment should not be left on the playing surface.
 - ➔ No more than one person warming up with a bat at a time.
- Wish both teams good luck and pass ball to pitcher/catcher.

Umpire Mechanics & Signals

Safe

Out

Strike/Ball

Catch/no catch

Foul Ball

Fair Ball

Foul Tip

Time

Dead Ball

Base on Balls

Obstruction

Interference

Current count

Number of outs

Check swing appeal

Infield fly in effect

Bases loaded

Put ball in play

Divisions: All Baseball and Softball Divisions

Allows a local league the option to mandate batters keep one foot in the batter's box during their at-bat. (Page 92 in Baseball; 89 in Softball).

Summary:

Local League Option: After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

Exceptions:

1. On a swing, slap, or check swing.
2. When forced out of the box by a pitch.
3. When the batter attempts a "drag bunt" in Baseball [or attempts a "slap" or "slap bunt" in Softball]
4. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.
5. When a play has been attempted.
6. When time has been called.
7. **BASEBALL:** When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
SOFTBALL: When the pitcher leaves the eight foot circle or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
8. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

Penalty:

If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter.

Minor/Major Division Baseball and All Softball Divisions: No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior Baseball Divisions: No pitch has to be thrown and ball is live.

NOTE: The batter may return their position in the batter's box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike.

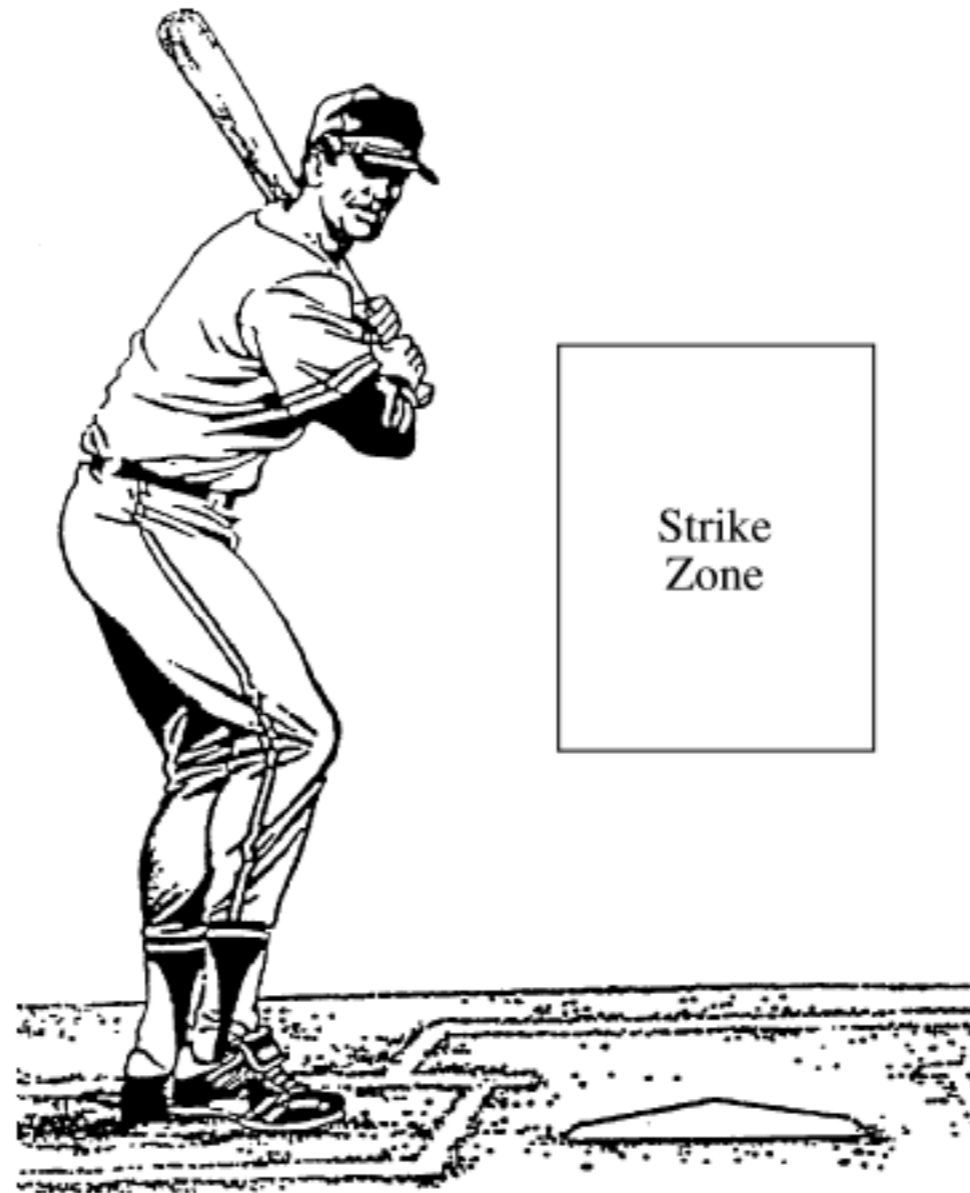
Start of the Game

- Base umpire: in foul well beyond 1st and away from players.
- Plate umpire: in foul near the baseline 15-20 feet away from home plate on the home team side of the diamond.
- Allow the pitcher an appropriate number of warmup pitches.
 - By the rule book 1 minute is allowed; no more than 8 pitches.
- With 1-2 pitches remaining instruct the catcher to call balls in.
- After last pitch, call for a batter and clean home plate.
- With all conditions met, point to the pitcher and say “Play ball.”

Putting the Ball in Play

- Several conditions must be met:
 - Pitcher is on the mound and in possession of the ball.
 - Catcher is in the catchers box and ready.
 - Remaining defensive players must be in fair territory.
 - Base coaches must be in their coaches boxes.
 - Your fellow umpires must be ready.

The Strike Zone



Top of 1st {Visitors} [0-0]

- With no runners on, the batter hits a line drive to the shortstop; the ball hits the shortstop in the chest and he falls to the ground in obvious distress — what should the umpires do?

Top of 1st {Visitors} [0-0]

- The second batter strikes out, and the catcher takes his time celebrating; the runner on 1st breaks for 2nd and reaches the base before a throw can be made — what is the call?

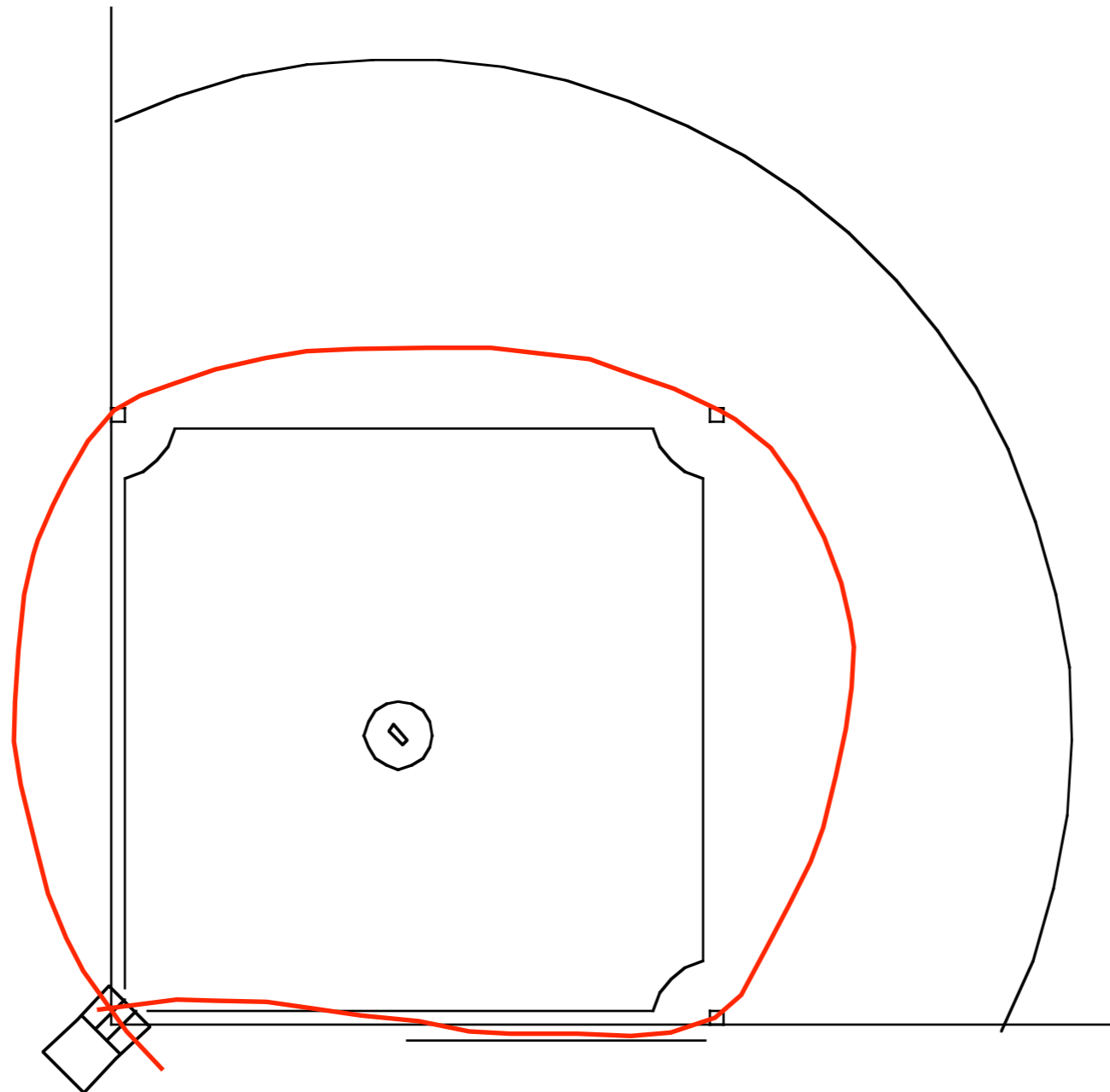
Top of 1st {Visitors} [0-0]

- The third batter is awarded 1st on ball 4.
- The fourth batter hits a slow blooper over the head of the shortstop;
 - the runner on 2nd hesitates but then attempts to advance;
 - the runner from 1st also starts to advance;
 - the 1st baseman runs to 1st base and stands on the base;
 - the batter-runner approaches 1st but cannot tag the base without making contact with the fielder, so he slows down and tries to tag the base;
 - at the end of the play the bases are now loaded — is this where the runners should be?

Obstruction & Interference

- Who has the right of way?
- Pitcher/Catcher
- Batter
- Runner
- Fielder
- See Rule 2.0 for definitions

Base Path



Top of 1st {Visitors} [1-0]

- The next two batters strike out and the inning is over.

Waiting Between Innings

- Base umpire: 20-75 feet up 1st base line in foul
 - Turn and watch the players, dugout and bullpens
- Plate umpire: 15-20 feet down the base line in foul on the visiting team side; facing the home team dugout as they should have more players in the dugout
 - Watch the players warming up, the dugout and the bullpen if it can be seen
- Only a pitcher and catcher (and observing coach) permitted in the bullpen.
 - Catcher must be wearing a proper mask and glove.
 - No more than one player out of the dugout warming up with a bat.
- By the rule book: 1 minute to be ready to commence the play and no more than 8 warmup pitches.
- With 1-2 warmup pitches remaining instruct catcher to call balls in.
- After last pitch call for a batter and clean the plate.
- When all conditions have been met, point at the pitcher and say “Play ball”.

Bottom of 1st {Home} [1-0]

- The first three batters reach base on ball 4 and the bases are loaded.
- The visiting coach requests time, which is granted; the coach proceeds to the mound to chat with the battery and then returns to the dugout.
- With a count of 3&1 the coach again asks for time to visit the pitcher — is this permitted?

Bottom of 1st {Home} [1-0]

- On the next pitch the batter hits the ball directly at the pitcher who manages to catch the ball in flight.
- What is the game situation?

Bottom of 1st {Home} [1-0]

- The next batter squares to bunt; the ball hits the bat, goes straight down, hits home plate and then bounces back up and hits the bat once more, and then goes down between the catchers feet and bounces to the backstop — what is the call?

Bottom of 1st {Home} [1-0]

- With two out, the next batter steps into the box and hits the ball just over the centre field fence.
- In rounding 1st the batter-runner fails to make contact with the base; all other bases are touched by all other runners in order.
- Is there anything for the umpires to do?
- What is the score and game situation?

Appeals

- Is a claim that an offensive player failed to meet all requirements in the rule book.
- Must be made before the next play or attempted play.
- Can be made on the player or the base where the infraction occurred.
- Multiple appeals can be made on the same play.
- Only one appeal permitted on the same player at the same base.

Appeals

- Normally must be made by a player in possession of the ball;
 - In some cases may be made on a dead ball situation.
- Can result in a fourth (or even a fifth) out.
- Can result in a force play.
- Can supersede third out made during continuous action.
- See rule 7.10 for specific details.

Bottom of 1st {Home} [5-0]

- In previous situation, before the ball is even put back in play, the 1st baseman steps on 1st base and appeals that the batter-runner did not touch first base — what is the call?

Waiting for top of 2nd

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- Same pitcher, so fewer warmup pitches allowed.
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Top of 2nd {Visitors} [1-0]

- The first batter strikes out.
- The second batter hits a clean single.
- The third batter hits a clean single and the runner on 1st advances to 3rd base.
- The fourth batter hits the ball into the dirt to the left side of home plate where it comes to rest in fair territory 3 feet from home plate; the batter-runner runs toward 1st base in fair territory; the catcher picks up the ball and attempts a throw to the 1st baseman, hitting the batter-runner on the left shoulder — what is the call, the score and where are runners placed?

The Three-Foot Lane

- Rule 1.04 (page 60) defines its physical location.
- Rule 6.05j explains the requirements on the batter-runner.

Top of 2nd {Visitors} [1-0]

- The fifth batter hits a clean double, but the runner from 3rd is tagged out coming home and the inning is over.

Waiting for bottom of 2nd

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Bottom of 2nd {Home} [1-0]

- The first batter hits a fly ball well over the head of the 2nd baseman; the ball drifts right in flight, hits the 1st base chalk line and bounds over the side fence — what is the call?

Bottom of 2nd {Home} [1-0]

- The next two batters strike out.
- The fourth batter hits a long, fly ball to right-centre field; the ball hits the glove of the centre fielder and is deflected over the outfield fence — what is the call?

Bottom of 2nd {Home} [1-2]

- The fifth batter bunts the first two pitches foul; the next two pitches are well outside the strike zone and are not offered at; the next pitch is then also bunted foul — what is the call?

Fair Ball: Rule 2.0 (page 67)

“A **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 out field past first or third base, ...”

“or that touches first, second, or third base, ...”

“or that first falls on fair territory on or beyond first base or third base, ...”

“or that, while on or over fair territory touches the person of an umpire or player, ...”

“or that, while over fair territory, passes out of the playing field in flight.”

Foul Ball: Rule 2.0 (page 68-69)

“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.”

Waiting for top of 3rd

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Top of 3rd {Visitors} [1-2]

- The first batter is awarded 1st base on ball 4.
- The batter-runner runs to 1st base and then attempts to advance to 2nd base; the runner oversteps 2nd base and turns back — can the runner be called out if tagged by a fielder in possession of the ball?

Top of 3rd {Visitors} [1-2]

- The second batter, on a close inside pitch, sucks in their stomach, but the ball still brushes his shirt — is he awarded 1st base?

Top of 3rd {Visitors} [1-2]

- The next batter hits a bounding ball in the infield, but no out is made.
- With bases loaded the next batter hits a bounding ball to the 3rd baseman, who makes a swipe at the runner from 2nd (the base umpire says nothing but makes a safe signal to indicate no tag);
- The 3rd baseman then throws the ball to home, but not before the lead runner touched home plate.
- The defensive coach (on the 3rd base side) asks for and is granted time; he walks to the home plate umpire and informs him that the base umpire was out of position and could not have seen the tag that was made on the runner from 2nd, and asks the plate umpire to call the runner out — what is the proper thing to do?

Top of 3rd {Visitors} [2-2]

- With none out and bases loaded, the next batter hits a high, fly ball to middle-depth right field;
- the right fielder runs in to attempt to catch the ball; the ball hits the glove and deflects directly into the glove of the centre fielder, who was also running in;
- the centre fielder takes one step and trips and falls, and the ball bounces out of his glove,
- and the second baseman, who was running outward at the same time, grabs the ball in his bare hand — is the batter-runner out?

Catch: rule 2.0 (page 67)

“A **CATCH** is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the hand or glove of a [batted] ball in flight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground...”

“providing such fielder does not use cap, protector, pocket, or any other part of the uniform in getting possession.”

“It is not a catch, however, if simultaneously or immediately following contact with the ball, the fielder collides with a player, or with a wall, or if that fielder falls down, and as a result of such collision or falling, drops the ball.”

“It is not a catch if a fielder touches a fly ball which then hits a member of the offensive team or an umpire and then is caught by another defensive player.”

“If the fielder has made the catch and drops the ball while in the act of making a throw following the catch, the ball shall be judged to have been caught.”

“In establishing the validity of the catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove complete control of the ball and that release of the ball is voluntary and intentional.”

“A catch is legal if the ball is finally held by any fielder, even though juggled, or held by another fielder before it touches the ground.”

“Runners may leave their bases the instant the first fielder touches the ball.”

Top of 3rd {Visitors} [2-2]

- With one out and bases loaded, the next batter hits a bounding ball to the shortstop; the runner on 2nd had started his move to 3rd and is tagged while off the base.
- The runner from 3rd crosses home plate.
- The shortstop then attempts to throw the ball to 1st base, but the runner from 2nd (who is now out), throws his hands in the air and distracts the shortstop, causing him to delay his throw, which does not reach 1st before the batter-runner — what is the call?

Waiting for bottom of 3rd

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Bottom of 3rd {Home} [2-2]

- The first batter hits a clean double.
- The second batter hits a bounding line drive at the short stop, who holds the runner on second but fails to make the throw to 1st before the batter-runner reaches the base.
- The third batter squares to bunt and the ball goes about 12 feet up in the air and lands in fair territory between the 3rd base line and the pitcher, who was attempting to catch the ball in flight; no out can be made with the ball — what is the call?

Rule 2.0: Infield Fly (page 69-70)

An **INFIELD FLY** is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder stationed in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare “Infield Fly” for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baseline, the umpire shall 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, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul ball.

Rule 2.0: Infield Fly (page 69-70)

Note 1: If a declared Infield Fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground and bounces foul and remains foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If an Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline, and bounces passing first or third base, it is an Infield Fly.

Bottom of 3rd {Home} [2-2]

- With bases loaded and the infield playing in and the outfield playing at normal depth, the fourth batter hits a relatively high ball that lands just behind where the 2nd baseman would normally stand; the runner on 3rd scores and all other runners advance one base without being put out. What is the call?

Bottom of 3rd {Home} [2-3]

- The remaining batters strike out and the inning is over.

Waiting for top of 4th

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Top of 4th {Visitors} [2-3]

- The first batter hits a clean double.
- The second runner is awarded a walk (4 balls) and while walking down to 1st, the runner on 2nd advances to 3rd without being put out — is this permitted?

Top of 4th {Visitors} [2-3]

- The third batter hits a high fly ball to centre field; the ball bounces off the centre fielder's glove and goes over the fence — what is the call?

Top of 4th {Visitors} [5-3]

- The batter-runner actually missed touching 1st base, but all other bases were touched properly by all runners — what is the call?

Top of 4th {Visitors} [5-3]

- After the batter-runner crosses home plate, the 1st baseman steps on 1st base, turns to the base umpire and says “Sir, the batter did not tag 1st base.” — what is the call?

Top of 4th {Visitors} [4-3]

- Play continues and we again get runners on 1st and 3rd.
- The batter hits a line drive to the outfield that is a clean single; the runner on 1st left while the pitcher was still in his windup; the runner from 3rd scores and the runner from 1st ends up on third — what is the call?

Rule 7.13

- Rule book, pages 102-104
- No runner may legally leave the base until the pitched ball has reached the batter.
- Any runner leaving too soon affects all other runners.
- You cannot take away the value of the hit.
- Put runners back as long as there are empty bases.

Top of 4th {Visitors} [4-3]

- With bases loaded, the next batter hits a bounding ball toward the 3rd baseman; the 3rd baseman catches the ball and tags the runner who is off the base; the ball is then thrown to 1st base in time to beat the batter-runner.

Waiting for bottom of 4th

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Bottom of 4th {Home} [4-3]

- The first batter watches the first 3 pitches go by; the offensive coach asks for time, which is granted, and complains that the pitcher is wearing a white wrist band, which is distracting to the batter, and wants the pitcher removed from the game and the count on the batter reset — what is the call?
- The coach then complains that the pitcher is using an illegal glove and wants him removed for the use of illegal equipment. After a check it is determined that the glove is, in fact, illegal — what is the call?

Pitcher's Clothing

- Refer to Rule 1.11
- Specifically Rule 1.11(a)3

Bottom of 4th {Home} [4-3]

- On ball 4 the batter is awarded 1st base.
- The defensive coach asks for time, which is granted, and walks to the mound to speak with the battery.
- After that, the batter hits a single and the runner from 1st advances to 2nd without being put out.
- With a 2&2 count on the next batter, the coach again asks for time to speak with the battery — do you permit it?

Trips to the Mound (8.06)

- (a) A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. **Example:** If a manager visits Pitcher A once in the first inning, then makes a pitching change in the same inning, Pitcher B would be allowed two visits in that inning before being removed on the third visit.
- (b) A manager or coach may come out three times in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. **Example:** If a manager visits Pitcher A twice in the first three innings, then makes a pitching change in the fourth inning, Pitcher B would be allowed three visits in that game before being removed on the fourth visit, subject to the limits in (a) above.
- (c) The manager or coach is prohibited from making a third visit while the same batter is at bat.
- (d) A manager or coach may confer with any other player(s), including the catcher, during the visit with the pitcher. A manager or coach who is granted a timeout to talk to any defensive player will be charged with a visit to the pitcher.

Trips to the Mound (8.06)

A.R. 1— At the time a pitcher is removed, a visit shall not be charged to the new pitcher.

A.R. 2—A conference with the pitcher or any other fielder to evaluate the player's condition after an injury shall not be considered a visit for the purposes of this rule. The manager or coach should advise the umpire of such a conference, and the umpire should monitor the conference.

Bottom of 4th {Home} [4-3]

- The next batter hits a fly ball that is caught by the 2nd baseman.
- The next batter hits a bounding ball to the 2nd baseman, who steps on 2nd and then throws to 1st, beating the runner, but the runner from 3rd crossed home plate before the ball reached 1st base — does the run score?

Waiting for top of 5th

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Top of 5th {Visitors} [4-3]

- The first batter hits a line drive to the outfield;

as he approaches 1st base the 1st baseman stands on the base and watches the ball, forcing the batter-runner to slow and go around him;

the batter-runner reaches 2nd base and attempts to advance to 3rd base, but the ball is thrown to the short stop who tags the batter-runner while he is between the bases — what is the call?

Top of 5th {Visitors} [4-3]

- The second batter strikes out.
- With 2 out the next batter comes to the plate and takes a 1&1 count;
- the home team coach asks for time and indicates that the wrong batter is at the plate — what is the call?

Batting Out of Order (6.07)

- Batting out of order is an appeal play
 - but one that is made by a coach!
- If appealed while at bat
 - the proper batter assumes the position and keeps the count
- If appealed after reaching base
 - proper batter is called out
 - batter-runner is removed from the bases
 - and advances are negated
- Legitimization
- Skipping portions of the batting order

Top of 5th {Visitors} [4-3]

- The proper batter, assuming the 1&1 count, hits a clean single.
- The next batter hits triple scoring a run.
- The next batter hits a single to the shortstop, who holds the runner on 3rd but does not make the throw to 1st in time to get the batter-runner out.

Top of 5th {Visitors} [5-3]

- Before a pitch is delivered to the next batter, the defensive coach asks for time, which is granted, and proceeds to inform the plate umpire that the runner now on 3rd base also batted out of order; it is determined that it is true — what is the call?
- Once informed the runner on 3rd is legitimized, the coach appeals that the runner now on 1st batted out of order; this is determined to be true — what is the call?

Waiting for bottom of 5th

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Bottom of 5th {Home} [5-3]

- The first batter is awarded 1st base on ball 4.
- With a 1&2 count, the second batter swings wildly at the pitch but misses it completely;

the ball goes off the edge of the catcher's glove and toward the backstop;

the runner on 1st breaks for 2nd and the batter-runner runs for 1st;

both runners reach their bases before they (or the base) can be tagged — what is the call?

Third Strike Not Caught (6.05b)

- Applies to Majors and up (not Minors)
- First must be unoccupied, or 2 outs
- If pitch is not caught by catcher, batter may attempt to reach 1st base
- Negated if a runner leaves the base too soon (no double jeopardy)

Bottom of 5th {Home} [5-3]

- The third batter hits a clean double, and the runner from 2nd attempts to make it all the way to home plate;

the outfielder has a strong arm and drills the ball directly to the catcher who then stands on the 3rd base line, blocking home plate, ready to make a tag;

the runner tries to slide under the tag but is touched (with the ball hand) before making contact with home plate;

the 3rd base coach yells that the batter should be called safe because the catcher committed obstruction — what is the call?

Bottom of 5th {Home} [5-4]

- The next batter hits a bouncing line drive directly at the short stop, who holds the runner on 2nd but makes the throw too late to get the batter-runner out.
- The next batter swings and misses the first pitch, which is down and in the dirt and spins past the catcher — can the batter run to 1st? Can the runners attempt to advance?
- The batter then hits a high fly ball that comes down and hits the runner stretched to run to 3rd but still in contact with 2nd base — what is the call?

Bottom of 5th {Home} [5-4]

- The next batter hits into a double play, ending the inning.

Waiting for top of 6th

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Top of 6th {Visitors} [5-4]

- The pitcher is tired and walks the first 2 batters.
- The coach makes an unplanned pitching change, so the new pitcher has not warmed up — how much warmup is permitted?

Top of 6th {Visitors} [5-4]

- The third batter takes the first pitch (ball) and then offers at the second pitch;

the ball hits the bat and then goes straight back,

hits the edge of the catcher's glove,

bounces up and hits the catcher's mask,

then bounces in the air front of the catcher

who reaches out and grabs the ball in his bare hand before it can touch the ground — what is the call?

Foul Tip (2.0)

“A **FOUL TIP** is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher’s hands and is legally caught.

It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and the ball is in play.

It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher’s glove or hand.

A foul tip can only be caught by the catcher.”

Top of 6th {Visitors} [5-4]

- As soon as the pitched ball reached the batter, the runner from 2nd broke for 3rd and reached the base with no throw being made — what is the call?

Top of 6th {Visitors} [5-4]

- On the next pitch the batter hits the ball over the centre field fence, but on rounding 2nd base fails to tag the base — what should the umpire signal?
- The 2nd baseman steps on 2nd base and indicates to the umpire that the batter missed tagging the base — what is the call and how many runs score?

Top of 6th {Visitors} [7-4]

- The next batter hits a fly ball that is caught.
- The next batter hits a single.
- The next batter is awarded a base on balls.
- The next batter hits what appears to be a solid double, maybe even a triple...
- both runners advance, but the runner from 2nd is a very slow runner,
- the runner from 1st rounds 2nd and reaches 3rd base before the runner from 2nd — is there a call to be made?

Waiting for bottom of 6th

- Base and plate umpire positions.
- New pitcher, so how many warmup pitches are allowed?
- Calls balls in, ask for batter and put ball in play.

Bottom of 6th {Home} [7-4]

- With a count of 3&2 the first batter hits the ball very high in the infield; there is a bit of a wind and the ball drifts toward the 1st base side of the field; the 1st baseman tracks the ball, and steps into the dugout and even stands on the bench, reaches high over his head and catches the ball — what is the call?

Bottom of 6th {Home} [7-4]

- On the next pitch the batter hits a small blooper but makes it safely to 1st base.
- On the next batter, with a count of 3&1, the pitch is wild and sails over the backstop — what is the call?

Bottom of 6th {Home} [7-4]

- The next batter hits a bounding ball to the 3rd baseman, who throws to 1st to get the batter-runner...

but the ball sails over the head of the 1st baseman into the stands — what is the call?

Bottom of 6th {Home} [7-5]

- With none out and runners on 2nd and 3rd, the next batter hits a fly ball deep to centre field that hits the top of the fence and bounces out of play — what is the call?

Game Over [7-9]

- The umpires meet each other in front of the pitchers circle and observe as the players line up and shake hands.
- With handshakes over the umpires leave the field.
- Put the equipment away.

Awarding of Base

- There are many instances where bases are awarded.
- Awards occur on a dead ball.

Awarding One Base

- Batter hit by pitched ball – awarded to batter and any base runners forced to advance (5.09a, 6.08b).
- Catcher Interference – awarded to batter and any base runners forced to advance (6.08c).
- Umpire Interference – the ball is dead and no runners may advance; if hit by batted ball, the batter is safe on first and existing base runners advance only if forced (5.09b, 5.09g, 7.04a, 7.05i).
- Ball 4 called on batter – batter is award first base, base runners awarded one base if forced; the ball is live and runners may advance further at their own risk (6.08a).
- Pitcher throws ball out of bounds – the ball is dead and base runners advance one base (7.05h).
- Fielder steps out of bounds after catching ball –the batter is out, the ball is dead and base runners advance one base (5.10f/7.04b).
- Defensive player commits obstruction/interference (7.06)
- Illegal Pitch/Balk – only affects runners (Intermediate and above) (5.09c)

Awarding Two Bases

- Fielder deliberately touches thrown ball with cap, mask, etc. – the ball is alive (7.05d) .
- Fielder throws glove and touches a thrown ball – the ball is alive (7.05e).
- A fair ball bounces out of play – the ball is dead (7.05f).
- Fielder deflects fair ball out of bounds – the ball is dead (6.09g/h).
- Fielder throws ball out of play (7.05g).

Awarding Three Bases

- Fielder deliberately touches fair ball with cap, mask, etc. – the ball is alive (7.05b).
- Fielder throws glove at and touches fair batted ball – the ball is alive (7.05c).

Awarding Four Bases

6.09d – “... a fair ball passes over the fence or into the stands at a distance from home base of 165 feet ... home run when all bases have been legally touched.”

6.09h – “... if deflected into the stands or over the fence in fair territory...”

7.05a – rewording of the same thing.

Positioning

- On-field clinic:
 - Several mentors present
 - Plate and base positioning for 2-umpire crew
 - Saturday, April 23, 1pm to 4pm; Pinecrest diamonds
 - Dress appropriately for the weather!

Positioning

- We have an animated tool for your private use:

<http://ontd21.fuzzybeagle.com/UmpireStuff/Positioning/>

- You can also download your own copy for local use:

ontd21.fuzzybeagle.com/UmpireStuff/Poitioning_065.zip

- Once downloaded, decompress the file and then open the enclosed index.html file with a supported web browser.
- Works in Safari, Firefox, Chrome, and Edge (Windows 10); Internet Explorer unlikely to work properly (latest version *might*).

Some Officiating Tips

- Know the Rules.
- Hustle to get into the proper position.
- Timing - in all of its forms.
- Dress appropriately.
- Use proper signals and mechanics.
- Learn how to deal with situations.
- Understand that in baseball there are no arguments, and sometimes the less that is said, the better.

Wrap-up & Summary

- Remember why we are officiating Little League.
- Have respect for the players, coaches and spectators.
- Above all, be alert and enjoy yourself! Have fun without detracting from the game.

Little League University

- Free!
- The sign-up page is
https://login.littleleague.org/sso/server/?sso_provider=sso_login&sso_login_action=signup
- The main site is
<http://littleleagueu.org>

Umpire Exam

- We do not have a formal exam.
- Your real exam will be on the field.
- Respect the game and the participants and spectators.
- Study the game and have fun!
- But do not lose sight of the fact that we are there for the players!