



# The Indicator

The Newsletter of the MBUA

Game, Partners,



Myself.

## Commissioner's Corner

### What Should You Put in Your Game Report

You should put all of the following in your game report:

- ◆ Field
- ◆ Home Team
- ◆ Visiting Team
- ◆ Crew Members
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ Score of the contest
- ◆ Items done well
- ◆ Items to improve on
- ◆ Problem situations
- ◆ Mechanics and Rotations
- ◆ Rule Situations- That you don't see often
- ◆ A descriptive narrative of the game
- ◆ Ejections or Restrictions
- ◆ Pre-Game conference
- ◆ Post Game conference
- ◆ General behavior of the teams, coaches and spectators
- ◆ Security issues, if applicable

*The majority of us include these items regularly in our game reports and do a great job of it.*

*Ejection/Incidents Reports are written in a different manner.*

These reports are handled differently. First, make sure you name the player, Coach, or person involved in the incident. Get the spelling right. Explain in detail what happened in the incident. Explain what that led up to the incident. Finally, describe any consequences as a result of the incident.

#### *Important Points:*

- ◆ Be detailed as much as possible. Include the date, day of the week, game time, inning, name and uniform numbers of any players or bench personnel involved, outs, count on the batter and the number of runners on base when applicable.
- ◆ Do not get personal.
- ◆ Do not report about past history.
- ◆ Be specific in describing the situation and consequence. Use actual words used by players or coaches, including any profanity. Do not use euphemisms and describe the players' and coaches actions plainly, without opinion or embellishment.



# Batter's Interference

By: Jay O'Hare  
MBUA  
Rules Interpreter

We've had a number of questions this high school season about what is or is not batter's interference. The following are the most common types of batter interference we see in high school play.

The batter may not intentionally bat the ball a second time (**NFHS 5.1.1b**). The ball is dead immediately, the batter is out and any runner(s) return to the base(s) occupied at the time of the pitch.

The batter is also charged with interference with the catcher's fielding or throwing by: a.) leaning over home plate, b.) stepping out of the batter's box, c.) making any other movement which hinders actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner or d.) failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate and there is time for the batter to move away (**NFHS 7.3.5.a-d**). **Penalty:** When there are two outs, the batter is out. When there are not two outs and a runner is advancing to home plate, if that runner is tagged out, the ball remains alive and interference is ignored. Otherwise, the ball is dead and the runner is called out. When an attempt to put out a runner at any other base is unsuccessful, the batter is out and all runners must return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

If the pitch is a third strike and in the umpire's judgment interference prevents a possible double play (additional outs), two may be ruled out.

A batter may also be charged with interference and declared out if the batter/runner runs outside the three foot running lane while the ball is being fielded or thrown to first base BUT the infraction is ignored if the act of running outside the runner's lane is to avoid a fielder who attempting to field the batted ball or the action does not interfere with the fielder or a throw. (**NFHS 8.4.1.g**) Remember, the catcher or other fielder must throw the ball in attempt to retire the batter runner at first base. Catchers who double clutch and hold their throws do not get a call of interference.

In a game I recently observed, with one out and a runner on second base, R1 attempted to steal third base. After the catcher caught strike two, he stood up and while attempting to retire R1, hit the batter in the helmet with his throw. The ball flew straight up into the infield and was then caught on the fly by the pitcher. The batter was still legally in the batter's box and did not do anything to impede the catcher's throw. The plate umpire correctly ruled this was **not** interference. One more thing to remember on plays similar to the one I described- Watch the Ball! The ball stayed alive during this entire play and runners could advance at their own risk. —

## Batting Out of Order

By: Jay O'Hare  
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Rules Interpreter

For the first time in thirty one seasons of umpiring high school varsity baseball, last week I had a batting out of order situation. With no outs and a Wootton High School runner at first base, Wootton batter #14 safely hit a single through the right side of the infield. We now have Wootton runners at first and second with no runners out. The Sherwood High School head coach asked for time and appealed to the plate umpire that #14 had batted out of turn. An examination of the line-up card indicated that Wootton #7 should have been the batter. Unfortunately for Wootton, he was the on deck batter. The plate umpire correctly declared the proper batter out (#7), put the Wootton runner at second base back to first and put the proper batter up (#14) with one out.

Another situation occurred in a JV game last week. Magruder appealed to the plate umpire that Gaithersburg was batting out of order when Gaithersburg #22 was batting out of order instead of Gaithersburg #7. The plate umpire called time and checked his line-up card. #7 was listed on the

line-up card in that slot. However, the Gaithersburg JV Coach had made a clerical mistake in the line-up card by incorrectly listing their left fielder #22 as #7. The umpire correctly decided that by rule (7.1.1) and interpretation this was a correctable error and because the **name** of the batter on the line-up card matched the batter's name, #22 was the in fact proper batter and the Magruder appeal was denied.

While these types of call can occur at all levels of play, especially in JV baseball or lower level recreation ball games, the umpire(s) must be ready to correctly enforce the batting out of order rule and apply the proper penalty or remedy. Please see **NFHS Rules 7.1.1-2 and penalties** for the specific references.

Remember, only the defensive team may appeal batting out of order after the batter has completed his turn at bat. If the batter has not completed his turn at bat, the offense is allowed to correct the batting out of order. If a batter is discovered by the defense to be batting out of order and is still at bat, the umpire shall declare time and put the proper batter in the improper batter's place. The proper batter assumes any ball and strike count that the improper batter may have.

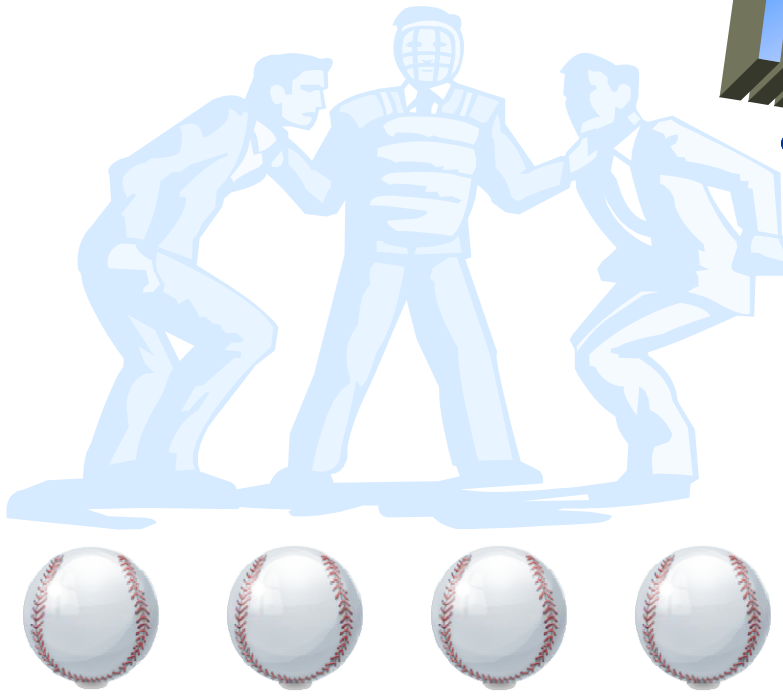
When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and

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# Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

# Indicator Contributors



We proudly provide top quality umpires throughout the greater Washington DC metropolitan area. Our services have been utilized by area baseball leagues since 1920. We service all ages and levels of baseball from Little League to High School to Adult leagues, primarily from March to November.

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the defensive team appeals to the umpire BEFORE the first legal or illegal pitch, or play or attempted play, or prior to an intentional base on balls or before the infielders leave the diamond if a half inning has ended, the umpire shall declare the improper batter out and return all runners to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and a legal pitch or illegal pitch is delivered to the succeeding batter, or if an intentional base on balls has occurred or the infielders have left the field, the improper batter becomes the proper batter and the results of his time at bat become legal.

When the proper batter is called out because he failed to bat in turn, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter thus called out.

When an improper batter becomes a proper batter because no appeal is properly made, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the legalized improper batter.

Be prepared as the high school play-offs arrive. The coaches know that batting out of order must be enforced if the conditions are correct but may not be certain of the penalties. Let's make the right call. —



## Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

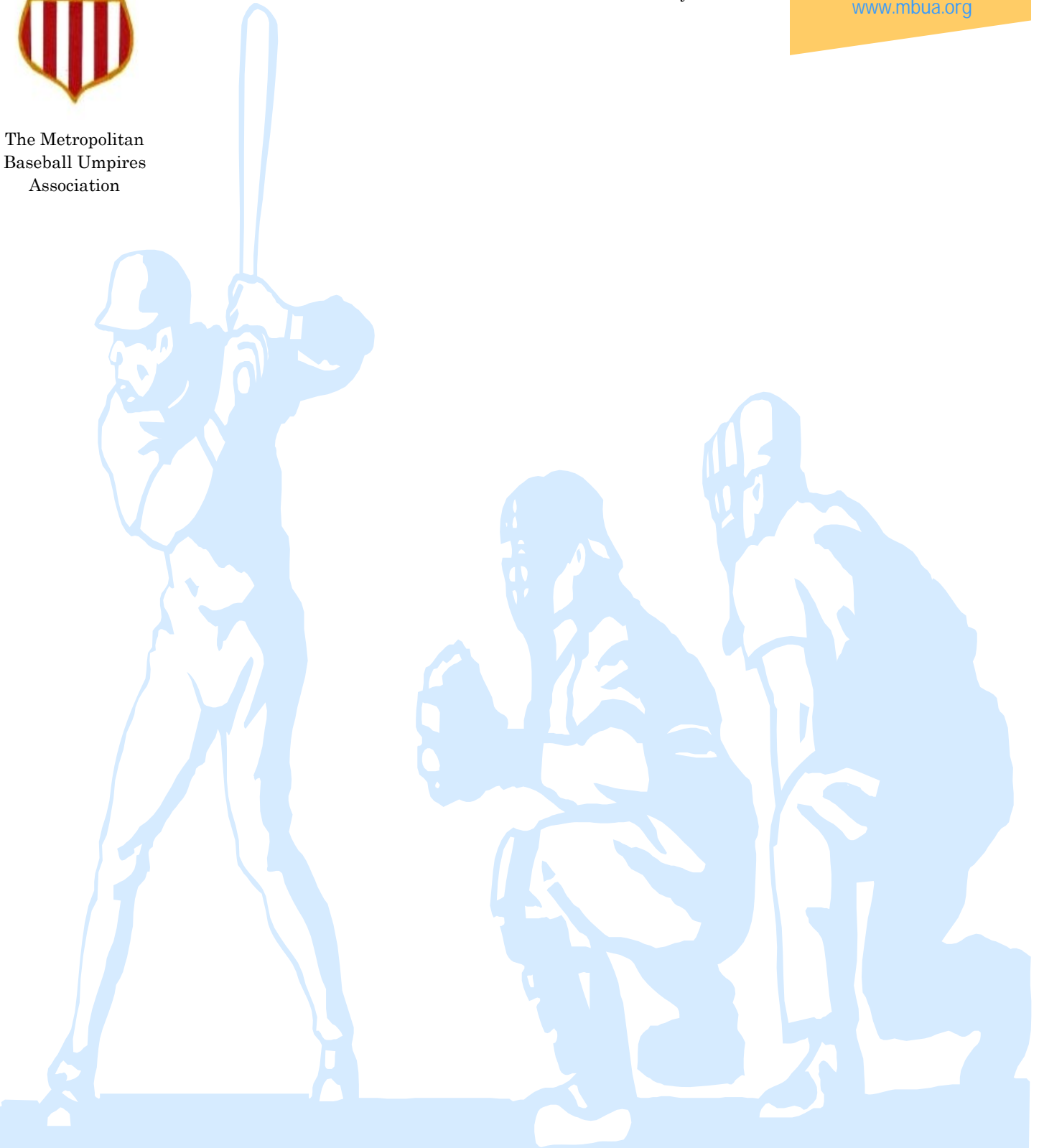


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The Metropolitan  
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