



The Indicator

The Newsletter of the MBUA

Game, Partners,



Myself.

The Double First Base Bag

By: Jay O'Hare
Rules Interpreter

Most of us in the course of our MBUA umpiring careers have worked a game at Olney Manor #1 and know of the double first base on that field. The Montgomery County Parks placed that double base (orange in foul territory and white in fair) there more than a decade ago in an effort to assist in player safety. Recently, we had two pretty good, veteran umpires on an MCBA AAAA game misinterpret the National Federation playing rule regarding the use of a double first base. One of the issues the umpires faced that night is they did not discuss the use of the double base with both head coaches in the plate conference before the game. Under normal playing conditions, the first baseman or other defensive player makes the putout by tagging or touching the inner white base and the batter runner should touch the orange base on his initial attempt to safely reach first base. The batter runner is not out for touching the white base rather than the orange base on his first attempt to reach first base.

On a dropped third strike, **both** the fielder and the batter runner may touch the white OR the orange base. Once the *batter runner* reaches first base, he must use the white base for all further play.

Please check the 2011 NFHS Baseball Rule Book page 64 for **Suggested Double First Base Rules**.

Commissioner's Corner

By: Al Battista

We picked up a new league this fall- the Senior Babe Ruth Prep League in Arlington County. This league requires two umpires for their games. There have been many turn backs this fall. When your Arbitersports schedule shows an open date and I give you a game and you decline it, this really complicates the process. If you really want to be assigned to games, accept them. What ends up happening when umpires decline games is I concentrate the work with a cadre of umpires and I really keep them busy. Also, when you receive a game, just accept or decline it, don't simply look at it and do nothing. It slows down the assigning of games.

We have to do a better job enforcing sportsmanship as an organization. I am really impressed with Tim Hadley, John Hughes, Tony Aliquo and Ryan Dahl. These young umpires are taking charge of games and really "running" them. *"You run the game, don't let the game run you"*. Restricting a Head Coach to the bench is the easy way out in my opinion. If you don't like confrontation, then umpiring baseball is not for you.

Please be very careful what you say to head coaches, assistant coaches and players. Do less talk and take control. Everyone understands an ejection. **WATCH WHAT YOU SAY- YOU WON'T WIN -AND LET THEM HAVE THE LAST WORD**, after an ejection.

If you had a heated game with an ejection, drive off immediately after the game and park in a non-confrontational area to discuss the game and change.



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

Umpire Interference

By: Jay O'Hare
Rules Interpreter

NFHS 2-21-2. "It is umpire interference when he inadvertently moves so as to hinder a catcher's attempt to throw or when a fair ball touches an umpire as in 5-1-1-f-1 or a thrown ball as in 5-1-1g."

In the first example, it is a delayed dead ball if the plate umpire bumps or hinders the throw if a catcher attempting to retire a runner. If the runner is thrown out, the umpire interference is ignored. If that runner is not put out, ALL runners return to the base they last occupied at the time of the pitch. **Mechanic**- The umpire should signal a ball or a strike on the pitch and then give the signal for a delayed dead ball.

In the second example, if the umpire is struck by a fair batted before BEFORE it passes a defensive player other than the pitcher, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base and all runners return to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch unless they are forced to advance. **Mechanic**: The umpires should call "Time", award the batter first base and then place any other runners at the proper base. **Interpretation**: the ball must pass a fielder who can actually make a play on the ball. Example, the third baseman is playing in for a bunt on the third base line when the base umpire is struck by a fair hit ball while the umpire is in the "C" position. Did the fair batted ball pass a fielder other than the pitcher? Yes. Did the third baseman have a chance at the play? No. Call "Time" and declare umpire interference.

2012 MPSSAA Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting

The 2012 MPSSAA mandatory high school baseball rules interpretation meeting for our association will be held on Thursday, February, 9, 2012 at 7 PM at the auditorium at High Point High School on Powder Mill Road in Beltsville, MD. In addition to the rules interpretation meeting, we will also hold a business meeting and hold an equipment sale.

2012 MPSSAA Federation Baseball Examination

The 2012 National Federation Exam for High School Baseball will be administered on-line. All MBUA members must take the examination using the approved NFHS/MPSSAA web site. Members should be prepared to follow all the test registration instructions to be posted in January 2012 to take the exam and achieve a passing score by the deadline imposed by the MPSSAA to umpire high school baseball next season. If you have computer literacy issues or require an accommodation to take the exam, please contact me at ajohare@aol.com



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

Indicator Contributors

Next Meeting:

Sunday, October 30, 2011

1 PM

The Heights

Seven Locks Road,
Bethesda Maryland



October Baseball Facts

- ◆ **1903** In the first World Series game ever played, Pirates vs and the Pilgrims (Red Sox), win 7-3 at the Huntington Avenue Grounds in Boston.
- ◆ **1921** White Sox backstop Ray Schalk is the first catcher to make a putout at every single base. The feat has not been accomplished again
- ◆ **1932** Eighteen-year old Joe DiMaggio makes his professional debut at the end of the San Francisco Seals campaign playing shortstop for the team. Next year, the future Yankee superstar will hit .340 with 169 RBI's and 28 home runs in his first full season the of the Pacific Coast League.
- ◆ **1947** In Game 3 of the Fall Classic, Yogi Berra hits the first pinch-hit home run in World Series history
- ◆ **1961** Breaking the Babe's single season home run mark, Roger Maris hits his historic 61st homer off Tracy Stallard when the Yankees defeat the Red Sox, 1-0. On this date, exactly two years later, a baby named Mark McGwire will be born.
- ◆ **1974** Whiffing 14 batters, Tom Seaver becomes the first hurler in National League history to strike out 200 or more batters for seven consecutive seasons
- ◆ **1986** In an 8-2 victory over the Pirates including seven Ks, Mets' Dwight Gooden becomes the first pitcher in baseball history to strike out 200 batters in each of his first three seasons.

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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Al Battista

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Maryland's Elite Umpire Association

NEW MBUA UNIFORM JACKET FOR THE 2012 SEASON

The MBUA will change to a more modern looking, black MLB umpire style jacket with white trim for the 2012 season. This is the first time in nearly twenty years that we have made a change with the MBUA uniform jacket. The jacket is black with two white stripes on each shoulder. No MBUA logo will be placed on the jacket. Depending on the supplier, the new jacket will cost between \$35 and \$60. There will be no phase in or transition year for the new jacket. Umpires who work MBUA games in 2012 and wear the old style jacket will be considered out of uniform and subject to a fine of a half a game fee for the first offense. Repeat offenders will be subject to a fine of a game fee or suspension from future assignments. We will continue to wear the navy blue pullover shirt for the high school season, use the navy blue or light blue shirt for non-high school and the fitted, navy blue MBUA New Era cap. Please see the photo illustration. More information will be provided in the November 2011 *Indicator*



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association



The Newsletter of the MBUA

October 2011

We're on the web!
www.mbu.org

The Metropolitan
Baseball Umpires
Association



Maryland's Elite Umpire Association