



## THE UMPIRE WEEKLY

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### HIT-A-THON

Don't forget to save the date!

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Battle Ground Little League Hit-a-Thon is Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> right here at our fields.

There are no tickets to buy. You should have already received an email with some of the particular... watch your email for more information. It's going to be a fun family day at the ball park with game, food and fun!

Hey Everyone! So, another week of baseball and softball are in the books. This week we had some interesting situations and some interesting weather. Overall, I think most, if not all of our games got played. Let's talk about some of those situations that came up.

### INTERFERENCE / ILLEGAL ACTION

Interference is one of the commonly misunderstood rules in Little League Baseball and Softball. Interference is an offensive infraction where a runner interferes with a fielder. The situation that came up this week was fairly common. It was called interference, but it should have been called an illegal action. What's the different you ask? Nothing really. They're just covered in two different places in the rule book. Interference is covered in Rule 7 and a batter's illegal action is covered in Rule 6.

In our situation, the catcher collected a wild pitch and was attempting to make a play on a runner stealing third base. The pitch was called ball four and the batter-runner started for first base. On the way to first base, she collided with the catcher in her attempt at making a play on a runner stealing third base.

Rule 6.06 says, "A batter is out for illegal action when – (c) interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by: (2) making any other movement that hinders the catcher's actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner..."

In our situation, the runner failed to avoid the catcher while she was attempting a play on a runner and thus, the batter-runner was called out for an illegal action.

### SICK OR INJURED PLAYERS

Another situation that comes up ever year is what to do when a player is injured or becomes ill and cannot continue. When his or her turn at bat comes around, they can't bat because they're sick or injured or even absent... is this a batting out order issue? Is someone out? Is there a penalty?

In both Little League Baseball and Softball, Rule 4.04 Note 2 states, "For the Tee Ball and Minor League Divisions (and when the continuous batting order is adopted for other divisions), when a child is injured, become ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over him/her when his/her time at bat comes up without penalty. If the injured, ill or absent



play returns, he/she is merely inserted into their original spot in the batting order and the game continues.”

We use the continuous batting order for Majors and below in both baseball and softball. This is for the regular season only. Tournament rules do not allow for the use of continuous batting order. So, if your next batter is sick, injured or has to leave the game site, you will simply skip that batter without penalty. If they return or are able to resume, you will simply insert them back into their original spot in the batting order. Yes, it's as simple as it sounds. The manager should just inform the umpire that will in turn inform the opposing manager and the scorekeeper.

Now, I know there are some of you thinking that a less than scrupulous manager might try to use this to his or her advantage and claim a player is sick just so they can skip them in the batting order. I don't believe that anyone in our league would try that; however, if it were to occur, and the umpire suspects that's what the manager is doing, it is unsportsmanlike conduct and the manager is subject to ejection.

### **REMINDERS FOR OUR UMPIRES**

Our umpires, like the rest of us, are imperfect. They make mistakes. One of the first rules of umpiring is that mistakes will be made, but if you can fix it, fix it. There are some calls that cannot be reversed. For example, once you call it a foul ball, you can't go back and fix that. Other calls can be fixed. If you need to put a runner back on a base, or take a run off the board, or otherwise reverse a call, if you can fix it, you should.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

My last comments this week are about coming together as a community. I talk about it quite a bit, but I feel it bears repeating. This is your Little League. It's only as good as you make it. Please get involved. Come to a board meeting... or better yet, take a position on the board help make this League what we all want it to be. I know you all have some great ideas and we'd love to hear them. But this league doesn't run on ideas. It takes people willing to get involved and put ideas in to practice.

Again, thank you for reading and your support and...

PLAY BALL!

### **Contact Us**

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