



# News for Blues CCSUA South

March 2011

Volume 3, Number 1

## In This Issue

- Update from SUP
- Mechanics corner
- Game Management Tips
- Rules corner
- What's your call?
- Rules Interpretations

[Link to Arbiter](#)

[Link to NCAA SUP](#)

## Contact Us

- [CCSUA information](#)
- [Training questions](#)
- [Newsletter suggestions](#)
- [Rules questions](#)

## Update from SUP

The SUP has posted a practice test that contains all 160 of the questions used in the Preseason Rules Test and has titled it "2011 Full Rules Test (Optional)". Please note that this test is for self-improvement and is not part of the postseason eligibility requirements. Please go to [SUP.ArbiterSports.com](http://SUP.ArbiterSports.com) sometime this spring, click on the Testing tab, and work on improving your rules knowledge with this helpful test.

## Mechanics Corner

**Umpire-to-umpire signals** - make sure you use them along with your Pre-Pitch Preparation. The "Two Outs" signal is now used any time there are two outs. As in all ump-to-ump signals, it should be initiated by the plate umpire and base umpires should respond with the same signal to acknowledge awareness. See page 282 in the CCA manual for more details.

**Dropped 3rd strike signal** - this new signal for the plate umpire should be used only when the batter-runner is entitled to run and only when: 1) it is not obvious that the catcher did not catch the pitch, or 2) there is any confusion with the batter or catcher. When the action is so quick that the catcher immediately tags the BR and it is obvious what transpired, just another out signal with the "batter is out" verbal is enough. However, if the action is slow in developing, slow down your signals! First - display the hammer for the strike, second - verbalize "no catch" as you make the safe signal, third - use the point for the tag to separate the final segment then display the hammer for the out.

**Manual clarifications** - go to the SUP Central Hub and click on Manual Clarifications on the left side of the home page to find more valuable mechanics clarifications. These include information on walking the line, force outs at second base, when to call and/or signal foul, and when to set.

## Game management Tips

Tip for the month - how to handle the "hit-and-run" or "sniper" coach. You have all met this coach who says something inappropriate as she/he is walking away from you. Maybe they said it loud enough for others nearby to hear and maybe not. But clearly what was said was so inappropriate that it really should not be tolerated. It certainly would not be tolerated if said to your face. Since it was not said to your face and since going after them as they walk away makes you look like the aggressor to everyone else...try this instead.

Turn to your partner, hold up a hand and clearly and loudly say "partner we have a warning to coach for unsporting conduct". This will let everyone including the "sniper" know that what they have said is inappropriate and will not be tolerated. If the coach then turns back to you to make yet another inappropriate remark...you eject them because

clearly now they are the aggressor and need to be held accountable for inappropriate behavior. Alternatively, you have sent the message and the coach now knows that he/she does not get a free pass on inappropriate behavior just because they are walking away.

### **Updated bat list**

Remember to sign into the SUP Central Hub at least every 3 days to check for an updated bat list. You should also get into the habit of checking the site for new rule interpretations, CCA Manual corrections and clarifications, and other important information about college softball.

---

## **Rules Corner**

### **Defensive Conferences**

Although the pictures to the left do not represent defensive conferences, it is important for you to know how to administer this rule.

When there are no pitching changes it is a simple rule - one per inning. Make sure you write it down and tell the coach he/she was charged with the defensive conference.

Last month we almost had a protest because the umpire did not tell the coach. When the coach wanted to take another conference and the umpire would not allow her to do so, the coach stated she was not told that her previous communication with the catcher was a charged conference. The umpire told the coach she did not have to inform the coach, which could have led to a protest.

It becomes more difficult when pitching changes are involved. The defense is granted an additional defensive conference if the relief pitcher has not yet pitched in the inning. This applies to every pitching change in the inning. Scenario: coach asks for time to talk to his pitcher. If in the same inning the coach now wants to remove the pitcher, he must inform the umpire before he crosses the foul line. After changing the pitcher he can now take another conference in the inning.



**In memory...Mike Carver**



**Debbi Lauderback and Smokey Edds**

## Illegal player or unreported sub?

Player #2, who is in the 3rd batting position in the lineup, is on first base. The coach reports to the umpire that #20 will replace #2. #20 thinks she is supposed to bat so she goes into the batter's box. #2 steals 2b on the first pitch and now the opposing team appeals to the umpire for an improper player. Is #2 an illegal player or an unreported sub? It depends.

Break down the situation into its elements. Does #2 have a legal right to be in the game in the 3rd batting position after the substitution has been made? If she is a starter who has not yet had a sub replace her, then she may reenter in that spot in the lineup, which is the lineup spot for the runner who was at 1b before the pitch. Since that is still where she is then she has a legal right to reenter in that spot. She is an unreported sub.

What if she is a starter who had been replaced earlier in the game and then reentered? This would be her second reentry (unreported, but still a reentry), so she does not have a legal right to be in the 3rd lineup position any more, and she is an illegal sub. If #2 was a substitute in the game she would also be an illegal player as subs do not have reentry privileges.

Thought for next time...now what do you do with #20 who is still standing in the batter's box with a 1-0 count?

---

## What's Your Call?

**Play:** F8 is injured while trying to make a diving catch. There is a suspension of play while the trainer checks on the player. During this time the defensive teams' assistant coach comes onto the field and talks strategy with the infielder and the head coach of the offensive team talks strategy with his runners and batter. Is this legal?

**Ruling:** It is not as simple answer. If a player is injured or apparently injured, an umpire should accompany the team representative to determine if this stoppage of play is indeed for injury. Discussions on strategy or coaching should not take place during this "discovery time" and the opponent should be prevented from using this time as well.

If the discovery time noted above is brief and ends in no medical attention needed, use your judgment as to if both teams can use the time during the suspension. The criteria here is no unfair advantage to either team. Common examples where no coaching discussions would be allowed are a player getting to her feet and dusting herself off or catching her breath for a few seconds.

However if it is an obvious injury where the umpire will beckon the medical staff, or if determined above as an injury requiring some intervention, then while the injured player is being tended to, both the offense and defense can use the time to talk strategy without it being a charged conference.

Once the medical staff is done, if either team wants to continue their conversation, advise them that they may however it will then be a charged conference.

## Recent Rules Interpretations

Question	<p>Rule 3.3.2 We were told at our clinic "do not start the game until there is an approved bat list provided by the host institution". Our question is two-fold: if the host school is using multiple sites who brings the bat list or lists? How long do we wait, if we do wait, for them to provide the list before declaring a no contest. If we are not to start the game without a list where a can this be supported in the rules or memo</p>
Answer	<p>Rule 3.3.2 <b>REQUIRES</b> the host to provide a printed copy of the approved list to the field as opposed to the previous requirement to provide the ASA non-approved list. As to how long to wait, hopefully this is just a theoretical question because if the host does not provide the list, perhaps the visitors or the umpires have one present. Although not required to provide one, either or both might have one as a safety net to avoid delay or having the game declared no contest. But, to your question as to how long to wait if no one has one on-site, that's up to the umpires. If you have a press box, perhaps a list can be obtained there. If someone has a smart phone, the list can be accessed through it pretty quickly. But it will be up to the umpires and sport administrator to determine how long the wait would be to obtain a list from further away and if the game will still be played. Obviously, we want as many games as possible to be played but umpires should <b>NEVER</b> take on the liability of playing a game without having the bats appropriately reviewed.</p>
Question	<p>The batter runs toward first base after strike three when the catcher catches the pitch (and the umpire declares her 'out') and draws a throw by the catcher to the first baseman. Is it the catcher's responsibility to know the batter is 'out' or is this interference and is the runner closest to home called out?</p>
Answer	<p>It is the catcher's responsibility to know that the batter is out on strike three but she is entitled to throw to any base to keep a base runner close or attempt a pick off. It would not be interference unless she does something to interfere with play (like providing a screen so the first baseman could not return a throw home to prevent a runner on third from scoring or interfering with a pickoff throw to 1b).</p>