

March Plays & Clarifications

In a 14A JO Fast Pitch game, the following occurred:

In the bottom of the 6th inning with one out and R1 on 2B, B1 had a 1-1 count. R1 attempted to steal 3B on the pitch. The catcher received the ball and immediately threw it to 3B to throw out R1 on the steal. B1, who was batting in the right-hand batter's box, froze and did not move in the batter's box. The throw from F2 hit the batter and fell to the ground. The plate umpire called time after the play was over. The defensive coach met with the plate umpire and asked why the umpire did not call batter's interference for not allowing the catcher the opportunity to throw R1 out at 3B. The umpire explained to the coach that there was no interference because the batter did not **intentionally or actively interfere** with the catcher's attempt to throw. Based on the umpire's judgement, the ruling was correct.

Rule 7, Section 6

S. When actively hindering the catcher while in the batter's box.

T. When intentionally interfering with a thrown ball, in or out of the batter's box.

In an Adult Men's Slow Pitch game, the following occurred:

At the top of the 4th inning, the pitcher was the scheduled batter. The coach went to the plate umpire and entered a substitute batter for the pitcher. The substitute batter, for the pitcher, hit a double in the gap. The next batter in the batting order walked to 1B to give the offensive team runners at 1B and 2B. The coach returned to the plate umpire and asked to re-enter the pitcher for the substitute and placed the pitcher on 2B. After the next pitch, the offensive coach returned and told the plate umpire he wanted to enter a courtesy runner in for the pitcher at 2nd base. The plate umpire did not allow the coach to enter the courtesy runner. The coach told the plate umpire that the rule book states that any time the pitcher is on base, they can have a courtesy runner. The plate umpire explained to the coach that **the pitcher must bat for themselves and reach base safely** to have a courtesy runner. Based on the umpire's ruling, the call was correct.

Rule 8, Section 9A2

A. Adult Slow Pitch Courtesy Runner.

2 Any eligible player may be a courtesy runner once per inning for any player other than the pitcher. This player, or any other eligible player, may also be a courtesy runner for the pitcher, providing the pitcher bats for themselves and reaches base safely.