**ISSUE 9, 16 FEBRUARY 2025**

**MEMBER NEWS**

**2025 FORECAST**

This season promises to be another busy one. We are fortunate enough to have once again been selected to provide umpiring services for the Forney Recreational League, Garland Christian Academy, and Wylie Preparatory Academy. During the fall season we will once again be providing umpiring services for the following high school fall leagues: Rockwall High School, Forney High School, North Forney High School, and Royse City High School.

**ANNUAL DUES REMINDER**

If you have not already paid your annual dues, now is the time. We have waived the late fee charges for those that have not yet paid. However, if you do not pay them by 28 February, you will incur a late fee of $5.00.

**UPCOMING CLINIC**

Our annual clinic has been moved to March. This clinic is mandatory for all new members and those that have not attended the TASO state clinic. The exact date is still being coordinated but the clinic will be held in Forney and include Forney Rec League coaches. This will ensure everyone hears the same thing when it comes to rules discussion/review.

**POINTS OF EMPHASIS REVIEW – PACE OF PLAY**

Youth baseball games are not able to get a game completed in the set time and a major reason for that is pace of play. We as umpires have several means by which to control the pace of play and each is supported by a rule.

First, control the time and number of pitches a starting pitcher gets to warm up.

The starting pitchers may warm up by using not more than eight throws, completed in one minute (timed from the first throw).

When a pitcher is replaced during an inning or prior to an inning, the relief pitcher may not use more than eight throws completed in one minute (timed from the first throw).

At the beginning of each subsequent inning, the pitcher may warm up by using not more than five throws, completed in one minute (timed from the third out of the previous half-inning) (3-1-2).

Another area deals with the batter and the batter’s box rule.

Rule 7, Section 3, Article 1 states:

Delay the game by failing to take his position promptly in the batter’s box within 20 seconds. The batter must keep at least one foot in the batter’s box throughout the time at bat.

**EXCEPTION:** A batter may leave the batter’s box when:

1. the batter swings at a pitch,
2. the batter is forced out of the box by the pitch,
3. the batter attempts a “drag bunt,”
4. the pitcher or catcher feints or attempts a play at any base,
5. the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher’s plate after receiving the ball,
6. a member of either team requests and is granted “Time,”
7. the catcher leaves the catcher’s box to adjust his equipment or give defensive signals, or
8. the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.

**PENALTY:** For failure of the batter to be ready within 20 seconds after the ball has been returned to the pitcher, the umpire shall call a strike. If the batter leaves the batter’s box, delays the game, and none of the above exceptions apply, the plate umpire shall charge a strike to the batter. The pitcher need not pitch, and the ball remains live.

Rule 6, Article 2c states delay of the game includes:

c. failing to pitch or make or attempt a play, including a legal feint, within 20 seconds after he has received the ball.

PENALTY: The batter shall be awarded one ball.

And lastly, we can improve the pace of play by charging offensive conferences when warranted. All too often we allow coaches to walk down and talk to their batters without charging an offensive conference. If a coach feels it is important enough to leave the coaches box to relay information to a batter, then we need to charge an offensive conference and they only get one per inning.

**DIRECT DEPOSIT SERVICE FEE**

For each direct deposit, there is a processing fee of $.90 is charged. Effective immediately, each umpire invoice will reflect a $.90 processing fee.

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

1. In the 7th inning, the head coach for Team A replaces his pitcher. The head coach for Team B enters a pinch hitter. Team A wants to immediately enter another pitcher.
2. Not legal. The replacement pitcher must pitch to the batter at bat until the at bat is completed or the third out of the inning has been made.
3. Legal. Since the offensive team entered a pinch hitter after the pitching substitution, the defense can make an additional change without penalty.

Rule Reference: 3-1-2

1. The head coach for Team A presents a starting lineup to the umpire that uses only 9 players in the starting lineup…no DH. In the third inning, the head coach wants to move his pitcher to a defensive role only and enter substitute into the line as a DH for the pitcher.
2. Legal. The addition of the DH will be allowed as long as there is a legal substitute available.
3. Not legal. In order to use a DH, the head coach must start the game with a DH.

Rule Reference: 3-1-4

1. Team A is charged for defensive conferences in the 2nd, 4th, and 6th innings. In the 7th inning, the head coach for Team A replaces his pitcher. Team B enters a pinch hitter. Team A wants to enter a substitute pitcher immediately, but that is not allowed by the umpire. The pitcher for Team A throws one pitch.

The head coach for Team A requests to have a conference with his pitcher.

1. The umpire must deny the conference outright. Since this would be the 4th conference in the first 7 innings, it would mandate the pitcher be removed. The umpire must not allow any conference that would require the removal of a pitcher who has not met the rule requirement to pitch to the batter at bat when the pitcher entered the game.
2. The umpire must allow the conference, but then must eject the head coach.
3. The umpire must allow the conference, but both the pitcher and head coach must be ejected.

Rule Reference: 3-1-2

1. Player #14 is listed on the lineup as both RF and DH. In the 2nd inning, #14 walks. His coach replaces #14 with a pinch runner, #3. The coach informs the umpire he intends to leave #14 in to play RF only, and #3 as the new DH.
2. Legal. As long as the team started with a DH, the offensive coach can replace the original player in either role at any point in the game.
3. Not legal. Once a player being used as both a defensive player and DH is replaced on offense as either a batter or a runner, the DH position is terminated.

Rule Reference: 3-1-4b

1. Team A starts the game with #8 as the defensive player, and #12 as the DH. In the 3rd inning, Team A wants to use #8 as both the defensive player and the DH.
2. Legal. As long as the team started with a DH, it can switch from a standard DH to hybrid DH at any time.
3. Not legal. Since a standard DH was presented on the lineup at the pre-game meeting, the team must remain using the standard DH or go to a straight 9 for the entirety of that game. Rule Reference: 3-4-1
4. The umpire sees an act of misconduct by Team A that he judges to be minor. The umpire has the option to immediately eject the offender for minor misconduct without a warning.
	1. True. While umpires are encouraged to warn before ejecting, the option to eject for minor offenses without warning is available to the umpires.
	2. False. The umpires can eject without warning for offenses they judge to be major, but offenses they judge to be minor require a warning be issues prior to an ejection.

Rule Reference: 3-3-1

**MERCHANDISE**

The following merchandise can be purchases by visiting https://www.dpuo.org/category/all-products

**Men's Queensburough Short Sleeve Polo W/DPUO Logo**

**$30.00**

**DPUO Black 6 stitch fitted cap**

**$23.00**

**CONTACT US**

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