

REMINDERS:

Umpires, especially at the AA level, please make sure that the coaches are reminding their parents to outfit their kids with the proper equipment (in particular for the male players - protective cups.) I've heard conversations around the park regarding not making one's child wear a protective cup. This is not good practice.

Rule 7.13 - I have received feedback from the managers that our base umpires are not always paying attention to the base runners to see if they leave early. Please start keeping an eye on this. It's the highly obvious (i.e multi-step) situations that we want to police against (not necessarily the millisecond, judgment call.) Also note that "leaving early" means the runner on base leaves his/her base prior to the pitched ball reaching the batter (NOT crossing home plate....many managers misinterpret this rule.)

Infield Fly - Lastly, I have also received feedback from the managers that we are missing infield fly situations and the subsequent calls. Note that an infield fly situation arises when there are less than 2 outs and the bases are occupied such that a force out at third exists. Study up on the infield fly definition in the green book (section 2.0) and then reference the situations described in your blue book on page 10.

Mound visits. Rule 8.06 now allows for a single visit in an inning for **Majors and above** (on the second visit in an inning, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position) and two visits per game (on the third visit of a game, the pitcher must be removed). **For Minors**, a manager still gets 2 visits in an inning (on the third visit in an inning, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position) and 3 visits per game (on the fourth visit of a game, the pitcher must be removed.)

UIC Questions and Answers

Routine play to first base: if the first baseman has his foot on the middle of the bag, instead of the side, blocking the runner from advancing through the bag- is it obstruction? Great question. This is a judgment call. For the routine play at 1st: if he observed the runner's progress "impeded" - ie the runner slowed or adjusted their course to avoid the fielder without the ball, then yes - obstruction could be called.

If I'm in the "C" position and there's a play at first, where would I typically want to stand to get the best angle of the play at first? Great question. This too is a judgment call. For the call from the C position: the question probably is not where we are standing (because we know umpires are moving as they read the ball off the bat). There really isn't a question here, because the umpire understands angle over distance. Depending on where the ball is hit and who is fielding the ball would be the determining factor on where the umpire moves to get that best angle.