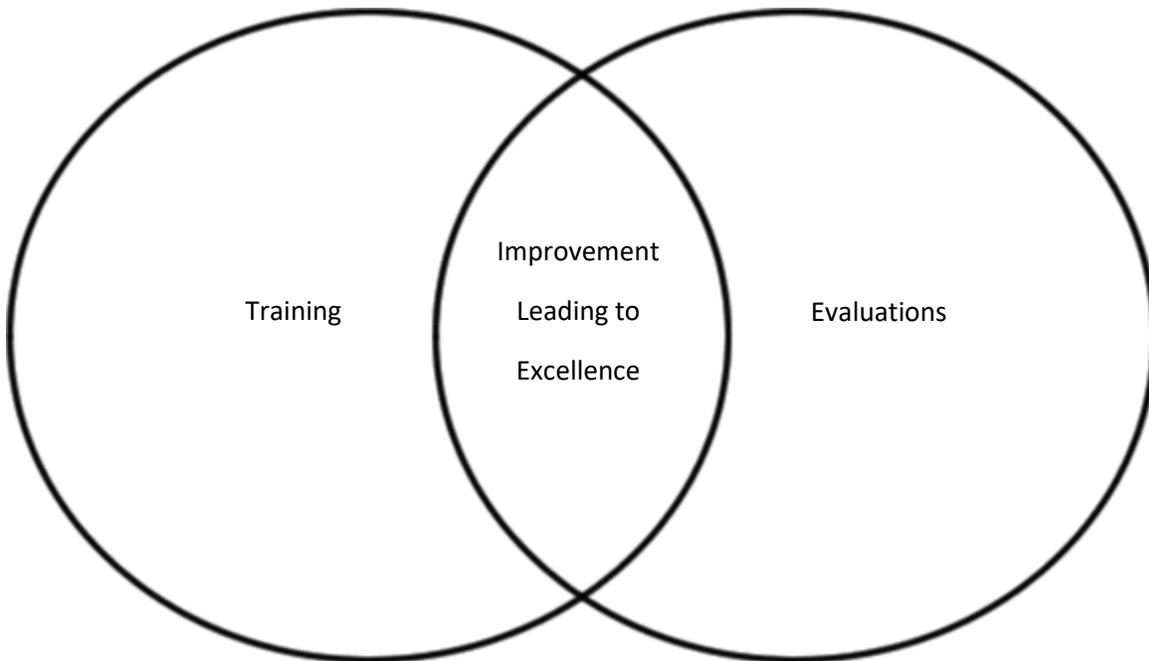


SBU Training Meeting # 4, February 9, 2026
Location: West Valley Library

Agenda

1. Working the Plate

- a. **Positioning/Attacking the slot**-Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9LVjH5_zoE (4:00)
- b. Umpiring 101Video: **Calling Balls & Strikes** (8:04)
- c. **Plays at the Plate**-Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0S_pTprOqo (3:19)
- d. **Plate Meetings**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQv38uBxm64> (8:00)
- e. **I. C. L. E. G. S:**
 - i. **I**ntroductions
 - ii. “Is there a **C**oncussion trained health professional on site?” (yes/no)
 - iii. Confirm **L**ineups (straight 9, DH, Player/DH, or EH), numbers, names, positions, etc.
 - iv. “Coach, is your team legally and properly **E**quipped?” (Requires verbal assent)
 - v. “**G**round Rules: “Coach, please take us around.”
 - vi. **S**portsmanship & **S**ite Administration “Is there a site administrator on site?”



“FEEDBACK IS THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS”

What are the evaluators looking for when you are working the plate?

Stability of head and body positioning (slot): Does the umpire position themselves in the slot, assume the crouched position at the proper time and at the appropriate head height, and track the incoming pitch with their eyes while maintaining a stable head and body

Strike zone judgement, consistency and accuracy: Is the strike zone appropriate for the level of competition? Is the strike zone accurate and consistent?

Timing and volume of calling balls & strikes: Does the umpire demonstrate “proper use of eyes” in the timing of calls, and with a mechanic and volume that clearly indicates a ball or strike?

Pre-pitch communications with partner: Does the umpire give the count (as appropriate for the situation), number of outs, rotations, infield fly/double tag, or timing play for each new batter or situation?

Putting the ball in play: Does the umpire consistently put the ball back in play after every dead ball/time out (foul, hit by pitch, balks, etc.)?

Proper positioning for plays/rotations: Does the umpire open the gate on passed balls, clear the catcher, move to the line for fouls or plays at first, rotate correctly when situation indicates, and in the correct position for plays at the plate?

Situational communications with partner: Examples: “I’ve got 3rd if he goes.” “I’ve got the line.” (On potential fouls/trouble balls to right field.) “I’m going home.”

Touch, tag-up and fly ball coverage responsibilities: Does the umpire position him/herself properly to see touches, tag-ups? Does the umpire understand fly-ball coverages and when there is a relinquishment of coverage?

1. Rules

- a. Hit by Pitch: See Handout on following pages
- b. Interference: Special Cases
 - i. **Batter’s Interference**-Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haKbGATRMsQ> (17.40)
 - ii. **Catcher’s Interference/Obstruction**-Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwACCuUWGDs> (14.29)
 - iii. **Umpire Interference Rule 2-21-2:** It is umpire interference when the umpire inadvertently moves so as to hinder a catcher’s attempt to throw, or when a fair batted ball touches an umpire (immediate dead ball, batter awarded 1st, runner’s advance one base if forced), or when a pitch or thrown ball lodges in umpire’s uniform/equipment (see lodged ball award.)
 1. Batted Ball hits Base Umpire before a fielder-Immediate Dead Ball
 2. Thrown Ball-No interference unless ball is lodged in umpire’s gear
 3. Plate Umpire Interference-Delayed Dead Ball
 - iv. **Spectator/Coach Interference:** Often when a player in the dugout or on-field coach interferes with a defensive player making a play on a fly foul ball. (Batter is out, runners return to last occupied base at the time of pitch.)

Hit by Pitch Rule 8-1-d: A batter becomes a runner with the right to advance to first base when a pitched ball hits the batter or the batter’s clothing, provided the batter does not strike at the ball; or

1. If the batter permits the pitched ball to touch oneself, or if the umpire calls the pitched ball a strike, the hitting of the batter is disregarded except that the ball is dead. It is a strike or ball depending on the location of the pitch.
2. If a batter’s garment, such as a shirt (i.e., not tucked in), or wristband that is not worn properly (i.e., on the belt) is touched by a pitched ball, the batter is not entitled to first base.
3. *Note: A sliding mitt or batting glove worn in the back pocket of the uniform is considered to be part of the uniform and being worn properly.*

Hit by Pitch Quiz:

When a pitch hits a batter, the ball is declared dead....

- a. Immediately.
- b. After all other possible plays (i.e., steals, rundowns, etc.) have been completed.

Preventative umpiring would suggest which of the following?

- a. Ask all players to have their shirts tucked in.
- b. Tell a player to take their sliding mitt out of their back pocket.
- c. Remind players and coaches that wristbands must be worn on the forearm only.

In which of the following situations is, or is not, a batter awarded 1st base? (Y or N)

- a. The pitch hits the hitter's hand before hitting the bat and the batter did not swing.
- b. The pitch hits the hitter's hand as the batter is swinging at the pitch.
- c. The pitch hits the batter's hand while the batter attempts a checked swing.
- d. The pitch hits the batter's hand during a checked swing.

Which of the following situations erases the batter's entitlement to first base.

- a. The pitch hits the ground before hitting the batter.
- b. The pitch deflects off the catcher or umpire before hitting the batter.
- c. The pitch deflects off the backstop before hitting the batter.

In which of these situations is the ball immediately dead, or remain live (D or L)

- a. The pitch hits the ground before hitting the batter.
- b. The pitch deflects off the catcher or umpire before hitting the batter.
- c. The pitch deflects off the backstop before hitting the batter.
- d. The pitch hits the batter during a batter's attempted check swing.

Batter's Interference Rule 7-3-5: Batter's interference occurs when the batter interferes with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:

- a. Leaning over home plate,
- b. Stepping out of the batter's box,
- c. Making any other movement, including follow through interference, which hinders actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to make a play on a runner, or
- d. Failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate and there is time for the batter to move away.

PENALTY: When there are two outs, the batter is out. When there are not two outs and the runner is advancing to home plate, if the runner is tagged out, the ball remains live and the interference is ignored. Otherwise, the ball is dead and the runner is called out. When an attempt to put out a runner at any other base is unsuccessful, the batter is out and all runners must return to the bases occupied at the time of pitch. If the pitch is a third strike, and in the umpires' judgement interference prevents a possible double play (additional outs), two may be ruled out.

Note: Batter's interference is generally a "delayed dead ball."

Batter's Interference Quiz

With one out, R2 attempts to steal 3rd. B2 steps across home plate to hinder F2 who is attempting to throw to 3rd. Which of the following is true or false (T or F). (Case Play 7-3-5-A)

- a. R2 is tagged out despite the hindrance and the interference is ignored and the ball remains live.
- b. B2 is called out immediately (before any tag is made at 3rd) for interference and R2 is returned to 2nd base.
- c. R2 is tagged not tagged out, B2 is declared out for interference, time is called and all runners are returned to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

B1 is up to bat (no outs, bases unoccupied) with a 3-2 count. B1 swings and misses at the pitch and contact's the catcher with his follow through. The result of the contact causes F2 to drop the ball. B1 runs to first base, beats the throw, and is safe. What is the correct ruling? (Case Play 7-3-5-C)

- a. B1 is safe because of the uncaught 3rd strike.
- b. B1 is called out for interference.

With no outs and runners on 1st and 3rd, R1 attempts to steal second. While swinging at the pitch B1 steps over the plate, interfering with F2. However, F2's throw is in time to retire R1. On the play, R3 scores. What is the correct ruling? (Case Play 7-3-5-H)

- a. Since B1 interfered, the batter is called out for interference and R3 is returned to 3rd base.
- b. Since F2 was able to retire R1 at 2nd, the interference is ignored, the ball remains live and R3 run counts.

Quiz Answers on next page.

Quiz Answers

Hit by Pitch Quiz Answers:

True or False: When a pitch hits a batter, the ball is declared dead....

T a. Immediately.

F b. After all other possible plays (i.e., steals, rundowns, etc.) have been completed.

True or False: Preventative umpiring would suggest which of the following?

T a. Ask all players to have their shirts tucked in.

F b. Tell a player to take their sliding mitt out of their back pocket.

T c. Remind players and coaches that wristbands must be worn on the forearm only.

In which of the following situations is, or is not, a batter awarded 1st base? (Y or N)

Y a. The pitch hits the hitter's hand before hitting the bat and the batter did not swing.

N b. The pitch hits the hitter's hand as the batter is swinging at the pitch.

N c. The pitch hits the batter's hand while the batter attempts a checked swing.

Y d. The pitch hits the batter's hand during a checked swing.

Which of the following situations erases the batter's entitlement to first base. (Y or N)

N a. The pitch hits the ground before hitting the batter.

Y b. The pitch deflects off the catcher or umpire before hitting the batter.

Y c. The pitch deflects off the backstop before hitting the batter.

In which of these situations is the ball immediately dead, or remain live (D or L)

D a. The pitch hits the ground before hitting the batter.

L b. The pitch deflects off the catcher or umpire before hitting the batter.

L c. The pitch deflects off the backstop before hitting the batter.

L d. The pitch hits the batter during a batter's attempted check swing.

Batter's Interference Quiz Answers:

True or False: With one out, R2 attempts to steal 3rd. B2 steps across home plate to hinder F2 who is attempting to throw to 3rd. Case Play 7-3-5-A)

T a. R2 is tagged out despite the hindrance and the interference is ignored and the ball remains live.

F b. B2 is called out immediately (before any tag is made at 3rd) for interference and R2 is returned to 2nd base.

T c. R2 is not tagged out, B2 is declared out for interference, time is called and all runners are returned to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

True or False: B1 is up to bat (no outs, bases unoccupied) with a 3-2 count. B1 swings and misses at the pitch and contacts the catcher with his follow through. The result of the contact causes F2 to drop the ball. B1 runs to first base, beats the throw, and is called safe. What is the correct ruling? (Case Play 7-3-5-C)

F a. B1 is safe because of the uncaught 3rd strike.

T b. B1 is called out for interference.

True or False: With no outs and runners on 1st and 3rd, R1 attempts to steal second. While swinging at the pitch B1 steps over the plate, interfering with F2. However, F2's throw is in time to retire R1. On the play, R3 scores. What is the correct ruling? (Case Play 7-3-5-H)

F a. Since B1 interfered, the batter is called out for interference and R3 is returned to 3rd base.

T b. Since F2 was able to retire R1 at 2nd, the interference is ignored, the ball remains live and R3 run counts.