



Catawba Umpires Association

May 17, 2026



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Catawba Umpires Association

May 17, 2026

- 2026 Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis
 - Rules:
 - All Games
 - Courtesy Runners are now allowed in all Sr Legion Games (Including Play-offs)
 - One way communication device from the coach to the catcher is allowed
 - Base coaches must wear protective helmets in coach's box
 - Uniforms are required for coaches
 - Coaches remain in the dugout unless coaching the bases
 - No chairs, buckets, etc. outside the dugout
 - No props outside the dugout - Team Warning
 - No trash talk, bench jockeying, taunting, bat flips, etc. - Team Warning



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• 2026 Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis

○ Senior Legion Games

- DH rule is for the pitcher only No Player/DH
- 1 Free coach trip to the pitcher per inning
- Between Inning Time Limit - During state, regional and world series tournaments, teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the pitcher's plate and a batter standing in the batter's box ready to hit).
 - NOTE: For South Carolina: State Tournament, Regional and World Series only
- Balk is a live ball
- 3rd to 1st base move is not allowed
- 4 Coaches maximum in dugout

○ Junior Legion Games

- NFHS Rules apply, not SCHSL rules
- No 15 Run rule
- Dead ball appeals are allowed
- Balk - Dead ball
- 3rd to 1st base move is allowed
- Eye Black - 1 strip under each eye, anything else gets cleaned up before allowed to play



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- 2026 Umpire Resources
 - Umpire Resources:
 - SC American Legion Website:
 - [ALBB Umpire Resources](#)
 - Catawba Umpires American Legion Quick Rule reference Sheet:
 - [ALBB Quick Rule Reference Sheet](#)



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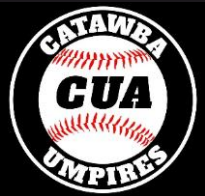
- 2026 Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis
 - Expectations:
 - Arrive 45 min - 1 Hour prior to start
 - Assume plate meeting will be 10 minutes prior to first pitch to allow for Creed, National Anthem and line up announcements
 - Parking - Know where you're going to park
 - Proper attire: Coordinate with partner on shirt and hat (American Legion hats preferred)
 - American Legion hats required for playoffs



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- 2026 Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis
 - Professionalism:
 - We are professionals show them that from first meeting and on the field.
 - Be Nice until you can't be Nice no more!



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- 2026 Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis
 - Umpire Pay (Jr & Sr)
 - Umpires receive pay on-site before departing
 - Arrive on site, rain out prior to start 1/2 pay
 - If home team management keeps umpires on site 30 minutes or more, full pay will be paid
 - After 1st patch is thrown full pay



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Questions & Comments