



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

2026 Spring Baseball Meeting #2

- Welcome - Please mute all electronic devices.
- Place equipment and apparel donations on the table in the back of the room.
- A copy of today's slide presentation will be available tomorrow on our website under the Documents & Links section.



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- Agenda
 - Administration, Reminders and Action Items
 - Scrimmages
 - 2026 SCHSL State Clinic
 - Open Forum - Questions/Comments



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- Website CatawbaUmpires.com
 - Meeting Notifications
 - Links/Documents
 - Meeting Notes
 - Uniform Requirements
 - Rules & Rule Books
 - How To Docs
 - Training Videos



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- Website CatawbaUmpires.com

- Please check the website before sending us questions.
- Examples:
 - Where do I buy the Catawba hat?
 - When's our next meeting?
 - What's your address?
 - How do I pay my booking fees?



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- Important Dates - SCHSL Baseball
 - First Scrimmage - February 9, 2026
 - First Preseason Game - February 27, 2026
 - First Regular Season Game – March 9, 2026
 - Playoffs Start – May 4, 2026



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- SCHSL Umpire Registration
 - New Officials - If you are new to SCHSL, please use the following link to begin the registration process:
 - <https://app.arbitersports.com/registration/official?org=455&role=3&GroupID=101800>
 - Returning SCHSL Officials
 - Log Into Arbiter
 - Choose SCHSL Central Hub
 - Click On Registration Near Top In Black Ribbon
 - Follow Steps How To Doc



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- SCHSL Umpire Registration
 - Returning and New Officials
 - No SCHSL Games can be assigned until registration is complete
 - How to Know if Registration is complete
 - Did you submit a Payment to SCHSL with Credit Card of \$45 for first sport, \$23 for each additional sport?
 - If Yes, you are registered
 - If No, the process is not completed, and you are not registered



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- Independent Contractor Agreement
 - Form Can Be Downloaded at: <https://www.catawbaumpires.com/documents>
 - Submission Of Signed Form
 - Leave at the Registration Table
 - Email To: Catawba.Umpires@gmail.com
 - USPS Mail To:
Catawba Umpires Association
Attn: Gary Keller
2536 Sturgis Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
 - Do Not Text A Picture Of The Signed Document



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Jan 18, 2026

- Umpire Uniform Requirements
 - www.catawbaumpires.com/documents
 - CUA Hat – Purchase Officials
 - Jersey Options
 - Jacket Options
 - Charcoal Gray Pants – No Heather Gray
 - Plate And Base Shoes
 - Black Belt And Black Socks
 - 10% Discount at www.PurchaseOfficials.com



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Jan 18, 2026

- 2026 Game Fees
 - SCHSL Games
 - Varsity \$86 Plus Mileage (\$97 Minimum)
 - Sub-Varsity \$70 Plus Mileage (\$81 Minimum)
 - Mileage Rates are \$0.55 per mile with a \$11 minimum
 - Clover Rec League Games
 - Minors and O-Zone
 - \$xx Game
 - Most Games are Double Headers
 - Single Game \$xx
 - 80 Minute Time Limit or 6 Innings
 - Dixie
 - \$xx game
 - Most Games are Single Games
 - 85 Minutes Time Limit



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Jan 18, 2026

- Payment For Games Worked
 - SCHSL Games
 - Schools Pay the Umpires
 - Majority Use Arbiter Pay
 - Payment Frequency Varies – Most are Within 2 Weeks
 - Clover Rec League Games
 - Arbiter Pay – Every Two Weeks
 - Paid By Catawba Umpires



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Jan 18, 2026

- 2026 Catawba Umpires Spring Booking Fees
 - \$90 – Covers all Games for Spring 2026
 - Fee Is Due On Or Before 2/15/2026
 - \$10 Late Fee Applies if Received After 2/15/2026



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

- 2026 Catawba Umpires Booking Fee
 - How to Pay CUA Booking Fee
 - USPS Mail To:

Catawba Umpires Association
Attn: Gary Keller
2536 Sturgis Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
(Send check or money order - DO NOT SEND CASH)
 - Registration Table
 - Venmo: Gary-keller-9
 - Apple Pay: 704-506-9520
 - Cash App: \$JGaryKeller



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Jan 18, 2026

- Umpire Checklist - Items To Be Completed
 - SCHSL Registration And Credit Card Payment
 - Catawba Booking Fee
 - Independent Contract Form Completed And Submitted
 - Buy Needed Uniform Items
 - Take Online Test – February 1-28, 2026 (Arbiter)



Catawba Umpires Association

Jan 18, 2026

NFHS Digital Content

- Current Publications For All Sports
- Baseball Rule and Case Books
- NOTE: There Is A Cost For This Service

<https://rules.nfhsdigital.org/>

The image shows the sign-in interface for NFHS Digital. It features a logo with the letters 'NFHS' and a red, white, and blue striped emblem. The main heading is 'Sign in to NFHS Digital' with the sub-instruction 'Access your NFHS Digital content'. Below this are two input fields: 'Email' and 'Password', both with placeholder text. To the right of the password field is a 'Forgot password?' link. At the bottom is a large blue 'Sign in' button. Below the button is a 'Create an account' link.

Sign in to NFHS Digital

Access your NFHS Digital content

Email

Password

Forgot password?

Sign in

Create an account



Catawba Umpires Association

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Catawba Umpires Association

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Pre-Season Scrimmages

- Via CUA Arbiter
- Self Assign and Assigned by CUA



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Charlie Wentzky
Deputy Commissioner
803-798-0120
Charlie@schsl.org



Coach Ejection



Schools Must Submit an Ejection Report.

Must leave facility/stadium immediately and not return

Cannot return to coach at any level until cleared by SCHSL

Minimum 2 Game Suspension and \$300 Fine.

Suspensions Must be served at the level where the ejection occurs

Ejected from final game of season = Minimum \$500 Fine



Athlete Ejections



Athletes:

- Schools Must submit an ejection report. Please note that video links can now be submitted with form.
- Can remain in the bench area – Cannot return to play
- All ejections will carry a minimum of next contest suspension with the exception of:
 - A) Any attempt to verbally abuse, make obscene gestures to, threaten or strike an official or member of the opposing coaching staff shall be a serious violation making the athlete ineligible for a minimum of the next two contests to the maximum of one year.
 - B) Any action (verbal or physical) that is considered a serious violation may result in more than the minimum being applied.
 - C) Any action (verbal or physical) that is not directed towards another person (opponent, coach, official, spectator, etc) but requires an ejection by NFHS rule may not require any additional game penalty.
- 2nd ejection in the same sport = 2 week suspension
- Playoffs = Minimum Next Game Suspension
- Ejections that were not served from the 2024-2025 season will carry over to the 2025-26 season.



SCHSL Baseball Reminders

Pitch Counts Need to be put in ASAP – Make sure you are having these conversations in game and post game.

Towels being worn- Should not have a towel on in the batter's box

Playoffs Start – May 4 and May 5

Running Lane – Make sure its painted and/or chalked on the field.

Wilson Balls used in the playoffs – You can use what you want in the Regular Season



SCHSL Baseball Reminders

NEW:

Play-off Time: Schools can Mutually Agree to a start time, OR:

Single Game Mon-Fri.: 6:00pm

Potential If Necessary Game Mon- Fri: 5:00 pm start for first game.

One or Two Games on Sat: 12:00 pm

Umpires – Be mindful of them post game and making sure they have no issues getting to their vehicles without parents/fans and players harassing them and/or assaulting them.

We will not use a double first base in games this season





2026 NFHS Baseball Rules Changes





Rule 1-4-4

ART. 4 . . . The school's official uniform... (The same restriction shall apply to either the manufacturer's logo/trademark or reference.)

Effective, January 1, 2027, The school's name, school nickname, school logo, school mascot, and/or the player's name are permitted on the uniform top and/or pants. One American flag 2 inches x 3 inches may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel.

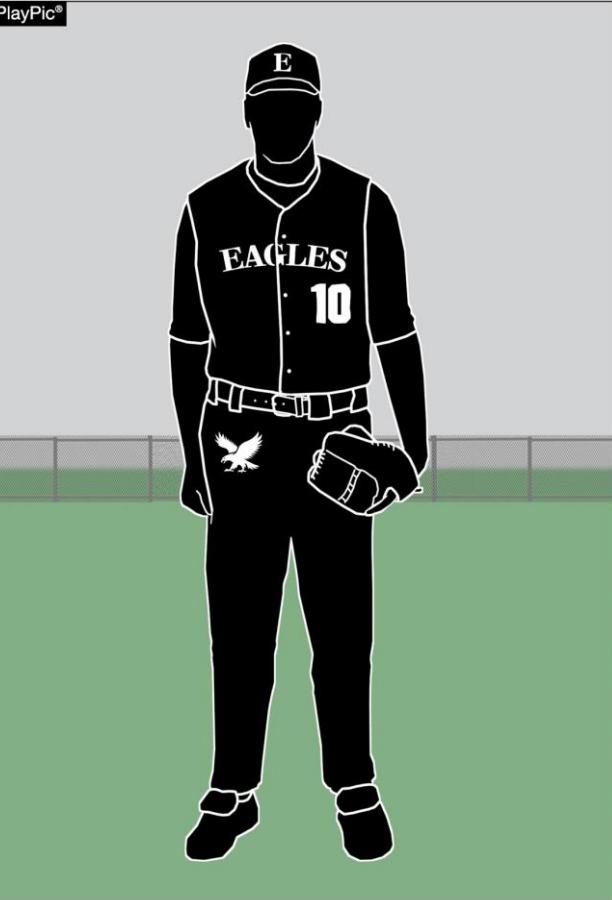
Rationale:

This is a universal rule adaptation by every NFHS Rules Committee to be uniformed for every NFHS rule publication.



UNIFORMS

1-4-4





Rule 1-6-3

Articles 1 and 2 remain the same.

ART. 3 . . . No player shall wear any audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during the game.

Rationale: No player participating in the game will be allowed to wear any type of audio or video device to record or transmit audio or video. This is a universal rule adaptation by every NFHS Rules Committee to be uniformed for every NFHS rule publication.



PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Rule 1-6-3



MEETINGS

Rule 2-10-3, 3-4-6





Rule 2-10-3

ART. 3 . . . A player-to-player defensive meeting includes two or more players (3-4-6).

Rationale: Definition for player-to-player meeting.





MEETINGS

Rule 3-4-6

ART. 6 . . . Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than one player-to-player meeting during an inning to permit players to confer with defensive personnel. The umpire shall deny any subsequent player-to-player defensive team requests for meetings.



DOUBLE FIRST BASE

1-2-9, 2-5-1h, 2-16-1h, 8-2-1,
8-2-2a(1-7), 8-2-7

- Starting in 2027, all high school baseball fields will be required to use the double first base.
- SC will not use the change in 2026.





DOUBLE FIRST BASE

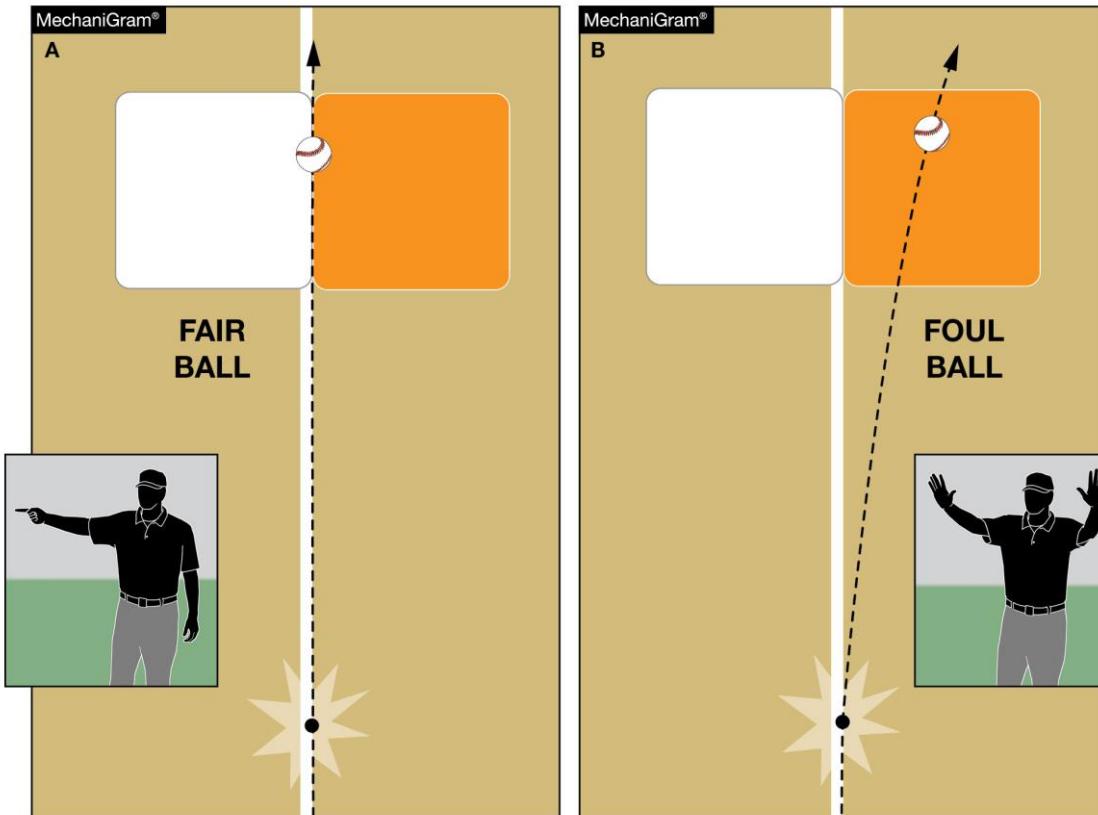
1-2-9

- **ART. 9 . . .** Effective January 1, 2027, the double first base will be required. The double first base shall be a white base and a contrasting solid color. The white portion of the base is located in fair territory and the colored portion is located in foul territory. The double first base is split by the first base foul line. They shall be installed with no space between the two portions of the double first base. Both double first bases (white and colored), second and third bases shall be white bags...their anchor systems.



DOUBLE FIRST BASE

2-5-1h, 2-16-1h





DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-1

ART. 1 . . . An advancing runner shall touch first, second, third and then home plate in order, including awarded bases. A batter-runner shall use the colored base on the initial play at first base unless the fielder is drawn to the side of the colored base (dropped third strike only), in which case the batter-runner would touch the white base and the fielder to the colored base. On a dropped third strike, fielder and batter-runner may touch white or colored base.



DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-2a(1-7)

- The lone exception is when there is a dropped third strike, in which case the batter-runner may use the white portion of the base and the fielder may use the colored portion of the base.
- On a dropped third strike, both the fielder and runner may use either portion of the base.





DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-2a(1-7)

Obstruction is called on the defense when there is a force play on the batter-runner, who touches only the colored portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while also on the colored portion of the base.

1. The batter-runner should use the colored base on the initial play at first base, unless the fielder is drawn to the colored base because of a dropped third strike, in which case the BR would go to the white base only.





DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-2a(1-7)

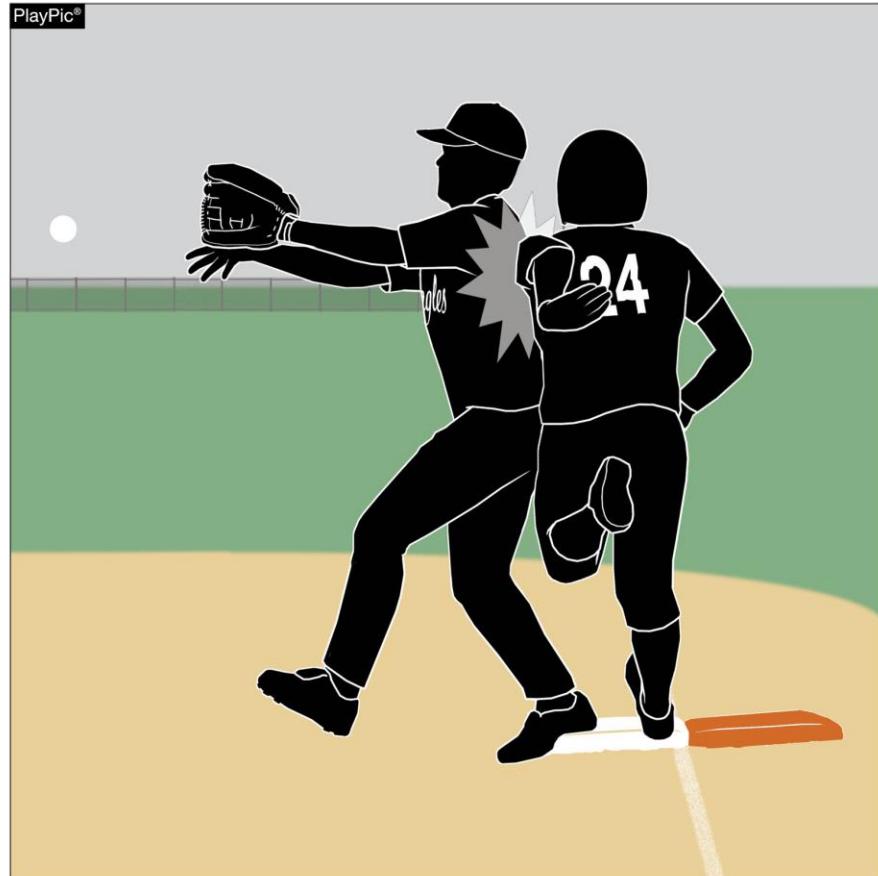
2. Once the batter-runner reaches first base, the runner must always return to the white base.
3. On extra base hits or other balls hit to the outfield when there is no chance for a play to be made at the double first base, the batter-runner may touch either the white or colored section of the base.
4. When tagging up on a fly ball, the white section of the base must be used by the runner. One foot is permitted to extend behind or on the colored base provided the front foot is touching the white section of the base.



DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-2a(1-7)

- If a batter-runner on a force play touches only the white portion of the base and collides with a fielder who is entitled to catch a thrown ball while touching the white portion of the base, interference should be ruled.



DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-2a(1-7)

- If a batter-runner on a force play touches only the colored portion of the base and collides with a fielder who is not legally entitled to catch a thrown ball while touching the colored portion of the base, obstruction should be ruled.





DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-2a(1-7)

5. On attempted pick-off plays, the runner must return to the white section of the base only. This includes a throw from the pitcher, catcher, or any other player, in an attempt to retire the runner at the double first base.
6. The double first base does not change any other rule concerning interference or obstruction at first base. The batter-runner must still avoid interference with the fielder attempting to field a batted ball.





DOUBLE FIRST BASE

8-2-7

ART. 7 . . . A batter-runner who reaches first base safely and then overruns or over slides may immediately return without liability of being put out provided the batter-runner does not attempt or feint an advance to second. Once the batter-runner reaches first base (colored), the runner shall use the white base.





2026 NFHS Baseball Points of Emphasis



DISCIPLINE

- Any unsportsmanlike conduct, arguing or disrespect directed toward umpires will result in disciplinary action, which may include warnings, restriction to the bench or ejection from the game (3-3-1 to 3-3-4 and 10-2-3).





DISCIPLINE

- These penalties are not punitive in nature – they are protective of the values that define high school sports: respect, integrity and personal responsibility.





DISCIPLINE

- Respect for officials is a reflection of the maturity, leadership and character we hope to instill in all participants through educational athletics.



SPORTSMANSHIP (BENCH JOCKEYING AND PROPS)

- Bench jockeying can be considered as negative verbal comments, taunting or attempts to distract, intimidate or embarrass opponents or officials from the dugout – violates the standards of conduct expected in interscholastic competition.



SPORTSMANSHIP (BENCH JOCKEYING AND PROPS)



- By rule, bench jockeying is prohibited and will result in warnings, restrictions or ejections as deemed appropriate by the umpire.



SPORTSMANSHIP (BENCH JOCKEYING AND PROPS)



- Enforcement of this rule is not about silencing enthusiasm – it is about upholding the spirit of fair play and modeling appropriate conduct for students, schools and communities.



SPORTSMANSHIP (BENCH JOCKEYING AND PROPS)

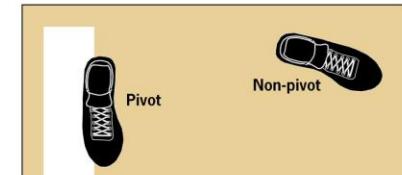
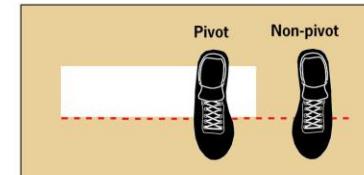


- There is no logical purpose to have props at an education-based athletic event.

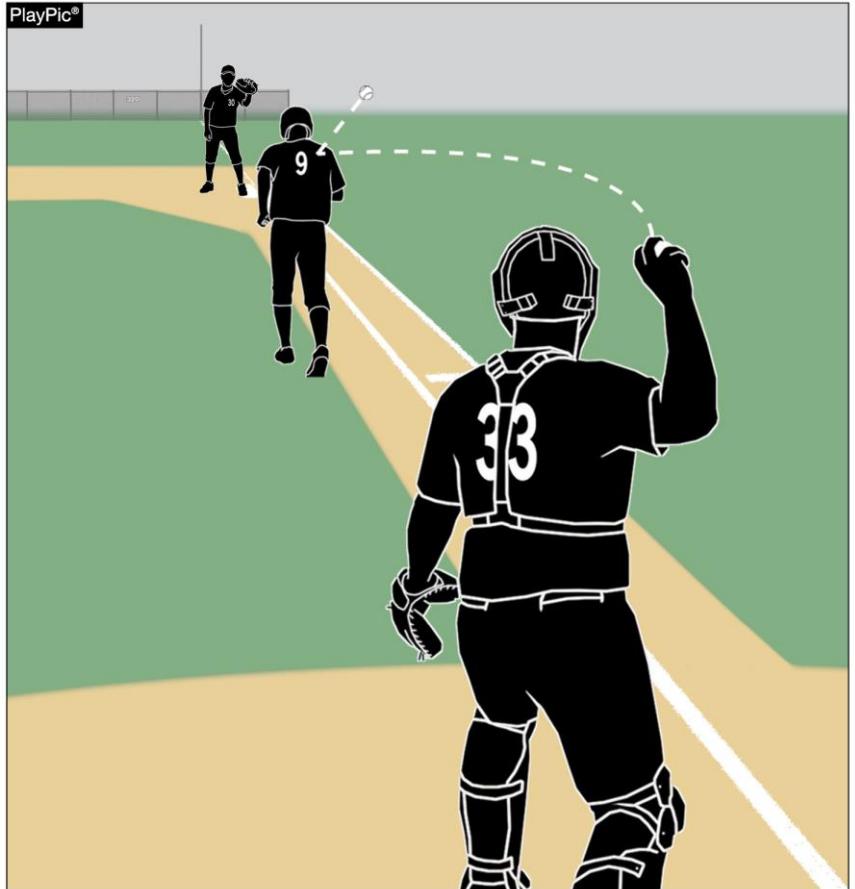


PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS

- Pitchers are required to use one of two positions: the wind-up or the set.
- It is important that umpires, coaches and players know what position the pitcher is using so they know which part of Rule 6 is in play.



RUNNING LANE AWARENESS

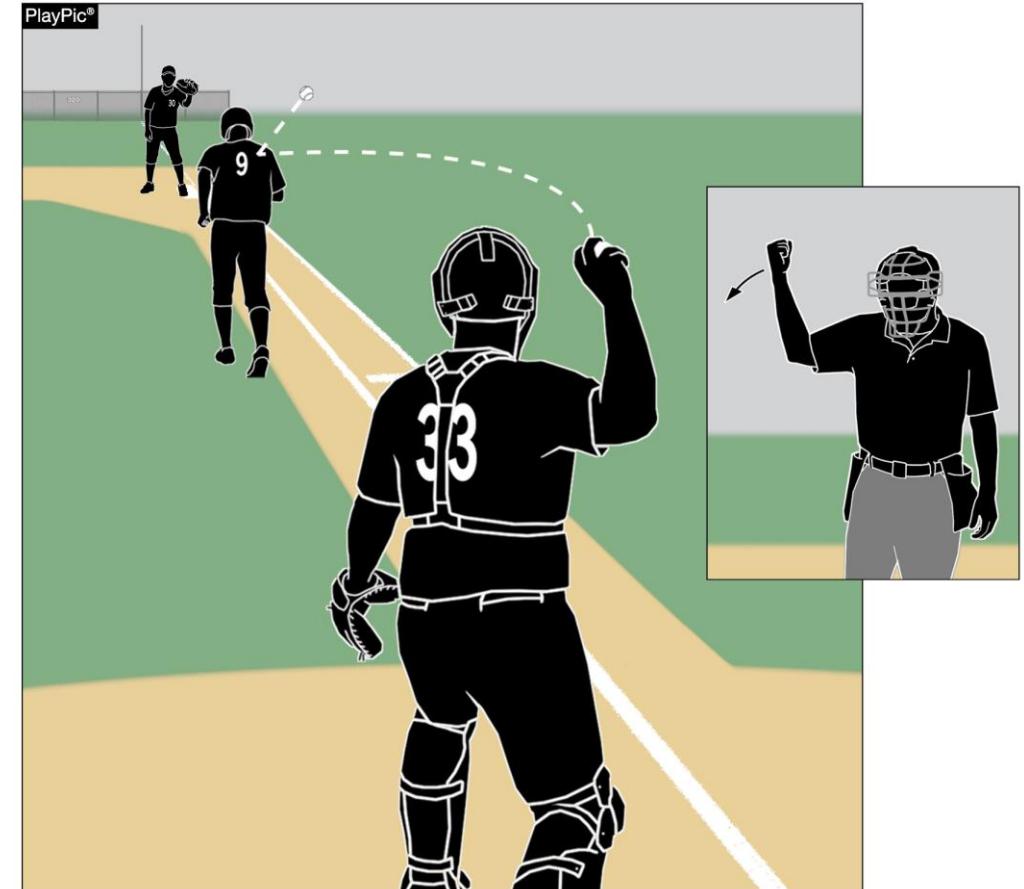


- Enforcing the running lane rule (8-4-1g) is vital for player safety, fairness and the educational goals of high school baseball.
- The batter-runner must use the designated lane in foul territory during a play at first base.



RUNNING LANE AWARENESS

- Violations result in interference, with the batter-runner out and runners returned to their previous base.





Thank You

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Questions & Comments