



## Be a Student of the Game!

Read your Rule Book daily! Read for understanding and re-read sections when needed! High lite sections that you have recently looked up! A Case Book is great addition to your personal softball library!



### From the Case Book

#### **Commitment Line (Slo-Pitch): for more situations see Rule 2 - The Playing Field**

There is a runner on 2nd. The batter hits a pitched ball for a single. R2 is attempting to score and hustles around 3rd, touching the base, and crosses the commitment line. The outfielder's throw is caught by a defensive player, who is in contact with home plate, before R2 can cross home plate or the safe line.

**RULING:** R2 is "Out". The defensive player is not required to tag R2.

The commitment line is drawn perpendicular to the third base foul line and is twenty-one feet from home plate. A runner has committed their motion toward home as soon as they have one foot completely over the line and in contact with the ground.

**INTERPRETATION:** Runners who have (a) not crossed the line, or (b) runners who cross the line but must still tag up on a caught fly ball, or (c) runners who cross the line but must still touch 3rd, may return to 3rd without liability to be put out at home.

***If you ask me anything I don't know, I'm not going to answer.***

***Yogi Berra***

#### Level 4 Clinic Norwich, Ontario



**The Graduating Class**  
—with Instructors Sandy Forand and Clinton Harvey

## *Congratulations BVO*

Softball Canada is proud to announce that former NDU Brian Van Os has been appointed as an Assistant UIC at the 2017 WBSC Men's World Championships. The event will be held in July in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Brian will join Wayne Saunders (New Zealand) as assistants to WBSC Director of Umpiring Bob Stanton (Canada) as the umpire supervisors for the event.

Congratulations Brian!

Thanks to **Audrey Houle** and **Diego LaManna** for doing a number of French translations of "The Dish".





### Ejections Used as a Play

The aftermath of ejections are always a difficult part of a game. Typically the teams quiet down and the game picks up its rhythm, but what happens when an ejection is used as a tactic in the game?

When I was a player there was a coach that used being ejected as a technique to change the pace of the game and the mindset of his team. He trained his team in how to handle his ejection, it was a play for them. This play would be used when his team was losing in an important or close game. His team would often rally to win. But what happens to the opposing team? The ones that are not used to ejections, aren't used to that coach's technique?

For some teams listening to the abuse that the umpires received was too much, their concentration was broken. Few teams know exactly how to handle an ejection, they are so rarely a part of the game that when they happen teams are left feeling agitated or upset. What was a once a well-oiled machine of a team suddenly comes screeching to a halt. If the ejection is the result of a big, loud argument where personal comments are made, bystanders may be left feeling upset for the umpires involved. This is a distraction, it takes them off of their game and causes them to falter mentally. There is often a pause caused by the ejection of a coach or player, especially if a big production is made about it. This pause causes teams (and sometimes umpires) to lose momentum and can change the game outcome.

As someone who has been on both sides of an ejection, as an umpire ejecting someone and as a player watching an ejection unfold, it is an effective play to use on the diamond. If a team is conditioned to know how to harness the adrenaline that follows an ejection, then they may find that their game picks up. They use the adrenaline to improve and come together as a team. For some, ejections cause negative thinking and that can affect their game. When negative emotions and thoughts are brought into the game, the way that you think changes and sometimes you go from having a good game to missing every play and not being able to hit a ball. Some teams (and some umpires) find it difficult to move on from an ejection and, that was my experience as a player facing a team conditioned to rally after them.

As an umpire it is often difficult to identify when a coach is attempting to be tossed to change the flow of the game. Unless you umpire that team multiple times, you only know that the coach has been offensive. As a new umpire my first ejections caused my hands to shake and my heart rate to increase. It took a long time for me to understand that I cannot let ejections rattle me because that will ruin my concentration and my game. Learning how to handle ejections is important for players and umpires to know because they are unavoidable at times. I would like to leave you with two questions: how do you handle ejections and how would you handle a coach who uses an ejection as a play to win the game?

Wendi Winter

*-a Level 3 Ontario umpire involved with softball for over 17 years and umpiring since 2011*

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#### **Force Out: see Rule 8 – Batter Runner and Runner**

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There is a runner on 1st with one out. The batter hits a pitched ball on the ground toward the infielder at first. The fielder scoops up the ball and tags R1, who is still on the base, and then steps on the bag.

**RULING:** This is a double play. R1 and the batter-runner are out.

R1 was forced to go to 2nd (lost his right to 1st) because the batter became a batter-runner.

#### **News Flash**

The WBSC has recently updated their fitness measurement protocol for the upcoming seminars by removing the 12 minute run element. As such, our measurements for Level V candidates at this summer's Canadian Championships has been altered.

