

**March 18, 2024**

### **Jamborees**

There have been many different schools participating in Jamborees this year. Thank you to the schools that allowed some umpires to use the jamboree as a learning opportunity. If you have feedback on jamborees, then send them to KSHSAA. The jamborees that used a time limit per session, run limits, and input situation such as “this inning we will start with a runner first and second” I believe really saw great benefit for all involved.

### **Covering the Rules of Softball**

**Situation 1:** With R1 on first base, B2 a left-handed slapper is at bat. B2 moves forward in the box with the pitch but is stationary after the ball reaches the catcher. F2 throws toward first base making contact with B2 who is still within the batter’s box near the front of the box. The umpire rules that since the batter did not have any movement after the pitch reached the catcher that hindered their ability to make a play on the runner they are not guilty of interference. **RULING:** Correct ruling. It is allowable for the batter to move within the batter’s box while the pitch is on its way to the plate. However, it is not allowable for the batter to have any movement after the pitch reaches the catcher that results in hindering the catchers attempt to play on a runner. (7-4-4c)

**Situation 2:** With R1 on second base, B2 a right-handed batter is at bat. As R1 is attempting to steal third base, B2 adjusts their footing in the batter’s box moving more toward the back of the box. F2 is attempting to throw to F5 at third base ready to apply a tag to R1 but hesitates and does not throw as B2 has moved into their throwing lane. The umpire rules interference as B2 has moved in a manner that hindered F2’s ability to make a play on R1. The offensive coach objects claiming that F2 must throw to third for there to be an interference call made. **RULING:** Correct ruling by the umpire. The batter’s box is not a safe haven. The batter is entitled to their position in the box in a situation like this, however if the batter moves after the ball reaches the catcher in a manner that, in the umpires judgement, hinders the catcher’s ability to make a play on a runner they are guilty of interference. In this case, the ball is dead, B2 is ruled out and R1 is returned to the last base touched at the time of the interference. (7-4-4c)

**Situation 3:** B1 bunts the ball toward the first base line and is running to first base completely in fair territory. F2 fields the bunt and is prepared to throw to first base but does not throw as B1 is in their throwing lane approximately fifteen feet from first base. The umpire rules interference on B1 as they were outside the three-foot lane and interfered with F2’s ability to throw the ball to first base. **RULING:** Incorrect ruling. In order for there to be interference by the batter-runner for not being within the three-foot lane there must be a throw to first base. As the rule is written the batter-runner would be called out if, in the umpire’s judgement, they interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base. In order to interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base there must be a throw and that throw must have been able to be caught by the fielder at first base if not for the actions of the batter-runner. (8-2-6)

### **Private Instruction is Permitted**

During the school season a student/athlete may continue to receive private instruction in the same sport that they are participating in (softball). Private instruction is defined as one-on-one instruction. A support person may be present but not receive instruction. For instance, if the player was going to a pitching lesson the school catcher could go to “support” and catch, but the catcher cannot receive instruction during the lesson. A pitcher could not go to a group pitching lesson during the season.

Part of the rationale for the rule is when players are participating on the school team, they need to do things the way the school coach has asked. When multiple people are giving instruction, the player is challenged with what advice to follow, and it becomes confusing. If a player is taking private lessons, they should inform the school coach.

**No Participation on a Non-School Team**

During the school season a player may not also play on a non-school team in the same sport. School team membership is over when a player's school squad has completed their last game. At that point they can begin playing on a non-school team but are limited to no more than 5 from the same school squad playing or practicing together until the Saturday before Memorial Day.