

Otago Softball Association

JUNIOR SOFTBALL RULES REFRESHER - SEASON 2007 / 2008

1 Your team only has 8 players ready when your game is due to start. What can you do?

A – default the points but play the game anyway.

B – pick up another player of the correct age and have them play for you.

C – if the other coach agrees borrow a player from them and have them play in your team.

All of them are possible. In (a) the other team will get the points from the game regardless of the result. In (b) and (c) the points will go to the winner of the game.

2 The catcher fails to block a pitch and it passes behind them into the net. What rule applies?

A – the ball is live, runners advance as many bases as they want at risk.

B – the ball is dead, award all runners one base.

C – the ball is dead, no runners advance.

2. (A) if the ball passes the catcher into the net but does not cross the foul line the ball is live and runners advance at their own risk. Runners must stop advancing when the pitcher is holding the ball in the pitching circle.

3. The catcher fails to block a pitch and it passes behind them across the foul line. What rule applies?

A – the ball is live, runners advance as many bases as they want at risk.

B – the ball is dead, award all runners one base.

C – the ball is dead, no runners advance.

3. (B) if the ball crosses the foul line the ball is dead and all runners are awarded one base and are not at risk.

4. A batter has two strikes on them. They swing at the next pitch but the catcher drops the ball. What rule applies?

A – the batter tries to make 1st and the catcher must make a force play at 1st.

B – the batter is automatically out.

C – the ball is dead and the strike does not count.

4. (B) the dropped third strike rule does not apply in this grade. The batter was out when the strike was called.

5. A pitch travels in a high arc and drops through the batters strike zone and lands on home plate. What rule applies?

A – call a strike.

B – it is a strike but the ball is dead.

C – it is a ball as it landed on home plate even if it passed through a strike zone.

5. (C) any pitch that touches home plate is automatically a ball even if it passed through the strike zone on the way down.

7. You notice a player leaving a base before the pitch. It is the first time it has happened in the game. What should you do?

A – call the runner out.

B – ignore it.

C – call time, return the runner to the base they left, speak to the coach about the rule and advise them that the next time the runner will be given out.

7. (C) even though (A) is the literal interpretation of the rule (C) is a better option. The role of the official is to keep the game fun and fair and to help the kids learn. If you felt it was blatant or was repeated you should choose (A) and give the runner out.

8. How should you apply the strike zone in junior softball?

A – knees to armpits, width of the plate.

B – more generously than for an adult based on what is hittable for that players size.

C – taller than for an adult, width of the plate.

8. (B) pitchers in this grade have a lot of trouble pitching legitimate strikes. Apply a strike zone that is generous without being unfair to the batter. Ask yourself if the batter could have legitimately hit the ball. Part of the umpires job is to encourage the pitchers without being unfair to the batter.

9. When you umpire what is the most important part of your job?

A – apply all the rules to ensure complete compliance.

B – have a fun and fair game for the children within the structure of the rules.

C – just let the kids have a good time.

9. (B) the aim of the game is to have fun but there needs to be some structure to keep it fair for every-one. Don't be pedantic but don't throw out the rule book either.

10. What is the main reason kids play softball ?

A – to win at all costs.

B – to live out the dreams of their parents.

C – to have fun, to learn, to spend time with their mates, to try their hardest, to learn about being a good sport and to have more fun.

10. If you can't guess this one right you probably aren't going to enjoy coaching !