**Plays and Clarifications February 2024**

**Fast Pitch Camp Update:**

We have finalized the dates for the 2024 Fast Pitch Camp!! It will be hosted by USA Softball of the Carolinas and will be held October 17th-20thin the Burlington, South Carolina area. We will have the morning of the 17th for travel and will start classroom work in the afternoon, continuing with field/plate work on the 18th. As always we will conclude with on field game evaluation on the 19th and 20th. We are currently working on a flyer that will be posted soon on the USA Softball website under “National Umpire Schools” with all the registration information necessary to attend this event. Since attendance is limited and on a first come first served basis, we wanted to provide these dates for those planning on attending so they can be prepared to register as soon as that process is available.

**Virtual Casebook:**

There have been a number of plays added to the USA Softball Virtual Casebook for 2024. You can access these using the link on the Plays and Clarifications page where you found this document. In addition, it is available [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4PofmrA9Hk&list=PLA-Jvq_N-MXSTZQ9kLxXUja9Ws_brPUIb) for convenience. One of these videos, found [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbnMkIptgMc&list=PLA-Jvq_N-MXSTZQ9kLxXUja9Ws_brPUIb&index=18), focuses on examining JO Fast Pitch pitching styles. We are also working on a detailed step-by-step video to examine and discuss how to analyze a pitch and apply USA Softball rules to the pitcher’s actions, stay tuned it will be available soon!!

**Slow Pitch Courtesy Runner:**

Last month we discussed the change to the Slow Pitch Courtesy Runner rule. The following plays further detail how this change should be properly enforced during game situations.

**Play:** In a Slow Pitch game, #12 playing F3 bats and get on base safely. Coach informs the plate umpire they want #3 to courtesy run for #12. Later in that half inning, #7 playing F1 bats and gets on base safely. Coach informs the plate umpire they want #3 to courtesy run for #7. Plate umpire informs the coach that this is not legal as #3 already ran for #12 and cannot run for the pitcher in the same half inning that they courtesy ran for another player. **Ruling:** Correct ruling. A player may be a courtesy runner only once an inning for any player other than the pitcher, any other players can run for the pitcher anytime the pitcher is on base. Since #3 ran for #12 they are no longer eligible to courtesy run for the pitcher in that inning. **Rule 8, Section 9A [2]**

**Play:** In the first inning of a Slow Pitch game, #1 playing F5 bats and get on base safely. Coach informs the plate umpire they want #6 to courtesy run for #1. In the second inning, #9 playing F1 bats and gets on base safely. Coach informs the plate umpire they want #1 to courtesy run for #9. Plate umpire informs the coach that this is not legal as #6 ran for #9 and cannot run for the pitcher anytime during this game. **Ruling:** Incorrect ruling. The rule governing the Slow Pitch courtesy runner’s ability to run for the pitcher only applies to the current inning. In this case, #6 has not been a courtesy runner for another player that inning so they are eligible to be a courtesy runner for the pitcher. **Rule 8, Section 9A [2]**

**Play:** In the third inning of a Slow Pitch game, #4 playing F1 bats and get on base safely. Coach informs the plate umpire they want #2 to courtesy run for #4. Later in that same inning, #4 playing F1 bats again and gets on base safely. Coach informs the plate umpire they want #2 to courtesy run again for #4. Plate umpire informs the coach that this is not legal as #4 was already a courtesy runner in that inning and is not eligible to courtesy run again in that inning. **Ruling:** Incorrect ruling. The rule governing the Slow Pitch courtesy runners allows the pitcher to have a courtesy runner anytime they are on base. It also does not limit the number of times the same player can courtesy run for the pitcher. The only limitation applies when a player has been a courtesy runner for a player other than the pitcher. **Rule 8, Section 9A [2]**