**Plays and Clarifications August 2024**

As we move through August, most of our Fast Pitch National Championships have completed and we are looking forward to our Slow Pitch National Championships that begin the end of this month. During these Championships, as well as some events that feed into our National Championships, there have been a few questions/situations arise. We will be discussing a few of these in this month’s plays and clarifications.

**Fast Pitch Camp Update:**

A reminder that the 2024 Fast Pitch Camp will be hosted by USA Softball of the Carolinas and will be held October 17th-20thin the Burlington, North 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. There is a flyer as well as a link to register posted on the USA Softball website under “National Umpire Schools”. Since attendance is limited and on a first come first served basis, those planning on attending should register as soon as possible.

**Use of Extra Player (EP):**

A few questions have come up about the use of an EP in Championship Play. First, as Rule 4 Section 4’s title states “Section 4 – EXTRA PLAYER (Slow Pitch/Junior Olympic Fast Pitch)”, the EP can only be used in the Slow Pitch or JO Fast Pitch Games. Lineup options are also defined and detailed in Rule 4 Section 1C, with Article 1 for Fast Pitch, Article 2 for Modified Pitch and Article 3 for Slow Pitch.

**Can an EP be used in JO Fast Pitch during elimination play?** Yes! As shown in Rule 4, Section 1C [1C-E] EP’s can be used in both pool and elimination play. Article 1C allows a team to bat up to the roster in pool play identifying additional batter(s) as EP’s. Article 1D allows the use of one EP in addition to the other nine players in the lineup batting 10 players during elimination play. Article 1E details the use of one EP in addition to the Flex/DP again allowing 10 players to bat in elimination play.

**Can an EP be used in Modified Pitch?** No! Again, an EP can only be used in the Slow Pitch or JO Fast Pitch games. Rule 4, Section 1C [2] details the available lineup options in both nine player modified [A&B} and ten player modified [C&D].

**Play:** With R1 on second base, B2 hits a fly ball toward right center field that U1 chases. The ball is not caught and as B2 rounds first base they are obstructed by F3. U3 signals the obstruction as B2 gets into a rundown between first base and second base. R1 continues to run toward home as B2 is tagged out. As soon as B2 is tagged out, U3 calls and signals a “Dead Ball” and looks over their shoulder to see that R1 is still two steps from home plate at this point. U3 then announces, “That was obstruction, this runner (pointing to B2) is awarded first base and that runner (pointing to R1) is awarded home”.

**Ruling:** Correct ruling. When an obstructed runner is put out between the two bases where they were obstructed, and no exceptions listed in the rules were violated, the ball is dead and the obstructed runner and all other runners are awarded the base or bases which would have been reached had there been no obstruction. In U3’s judgement B2 would have only obtained first base so that is their award, also they judge based on the location of R1 and the location of the ball when it was ruled dead that R1 would have obtained home had there not been obstruction and the ball would have remained live. U3 taking that look at the other runner allowing them to give both awards at once is ideal, an alternative is to give the award to the obstructed runner then confer with your partners on the placement of the other runners. **Rule 8, Section 5B Effect 1&4**