

## 2012 IACO SOFTBALL OFFICIALS CLASS

### Module 7 Game Administration

### Module 7 Game Administration Introduction

- Upon completion of this Module, the student should
  - Know when and where each specific type of conference may be held
  - Comprehend the concept and application of the infield fly rule
  - Be able to understand the batting order and handle a situation where a team bats out of order
  - Understand when the requirements to end a contest have been met

### Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- Conferences
  - Pre-Game Conference
    - A meeting at home plate after both teams have taken infield warm-up prior to the start of the contest
    - Takes place before the home team takes the field for the first inning
      - Do not permit any balls to be pitched or thrown during the pre-game conference

### Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- Conferences
  - Pre-Game Conference
    - The head coach for each team **MUST** be present
    - Team captains **MAY** attend
    - Lineup cards are presented to the plate umpire and verified, as well as exchanged between head coaches
    - Specific ground rules are discussed and accepted by the visiting team, or if necessary, mediated by the plate umpire
      - No ground rule may supersede a book rule

### Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- Conferences
  - Charged Conference
    - A coach requests and is granted "Time" to meet with offensive or defensive personnel

### Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- Conferences
  - Charged Conference – Offensive
    - Must be held in foul territory
    - A team may use one per inning at bat
      - Subsequent requests should be denied
    - Anytime that the game is stopped or held so that a coach may speak in private with his or her own team at bat should be treated as an offensive conference

## Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- ▣ Conferences
  - Charged Conference – Defensive
    - It is a charged conference anytime that the coach of the team on defense crosses the foul line to speak with any of his or her players
    - An uncharged offensive conference may be held if a coach of the team at bat wishes to speak with any of his or her players during a defensive conference or pitching change, however the team at bat must be ready to play when the defense is ready

## Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- ▣ Conferences
  - Charged Conference – Defensive
    - A team is permitted three defensive conferences per regulation contest
      - EXCEPTION: If the defensive team changes the pitcher within the duration of any given conference, then this is treated as a pitching change, NOT as a charged conference

## Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- ▣ Conferences
  - Charged Conference – Defensive
    - If a team uses more than the allotted number of defensive conferences, then that team's current pitcher is "Removed by Rule"
    - Any Pitcher "Removed by Rule" may continue to participate in the contest, however she may not return to the position of Pitcher for the remaining duration of the contest

## Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- ▣ Conferences
  - Charged Conference – Defensive (Extra Innings)
    - If a contest goes into extra innings, then a team may use one defensive conference per inning in the field, regardless of the number of defensive conferences used during regulation

## Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- ▣ Conferences
  - Charged Conference – Defensive (Extra Innings)
    - Practical Application #1: If a coach changes his or her pitcher within the duration of his first "conference" in an extra inning, then he is not charged, however...
    - Practical Application #2: If a coach uses his or her conference during an extra inning, then ANY subsequent conference in that inning will result in the pitcher being "Removed by Rule"

## Module 7 Game Administration Conferences

- ▣ Conferences
  - Pitching Change
    - When a new pitcher begins in the middle of an inning, she is granted no more than five warm-up pitches
      - Any excessive warm-up pitches will result in a ball being awarded to the batter
      - Exception: When a pitching change become necessary because of inclement weather or injury, then the pitcher may use as many warm-up pitches as she feels are necessary to be ready

## Module 7 Game Administration *Between Innings*

- Starting a Half Inning
  - A team is permitted to use up to one minute to warm-up in the field at the start of their defensive half inning
    - This time begins upon the conclusion of the pre-game conference, or at the time the final out of the previous half inning is recorded

## Module 7 Game Administration *Between Innings*

- Starting a Half Inning
  - Infield/outfield balls may be used, as long as they are off of the field by the time the final warm-up pitch is thrown
  - The catcher may take a warm-up throw to any base upon catching the final warm-up pitch

## Module 7 Game Administration *Infield Fly Rule*

- Infield Fly Rule
  - Prevents the defense from gaining an unfair advantage by allowing a fly ball to become grounded with multiple forced runners on base by calling the batter-runner out, thus eliminating the force on all other runners
  - When an Infield Fly is declared, all runner on base may still advance, however they do so at their own risk

## Module 7 Game Administration *Infield Fly Rule*

- Infield Fly Rule – Requirements
  - The infield fly rule will be in effect when
    - At least two forced runners are on base
      - Runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, OR
      - Bases loaded

## Module 7 Game Administration *Infield Fly Rule*

- Infield Fly Rule – Requirements
  - An infield fly shall be called when a fair-batted fly ball is routinely catchable by any infielder
    - An infielder is any defensive player (typically six of them), who takes a position in the infield at the time of the pitch
      - Can be as many as nine players, or as few as two

## Module 7 Game Administration *Infield Fly Rule*

- Infield Fly Rule – Making the Call
  - When calling an infield fly, the umpire shall loudly declare, "Infield fly, the batter is out" while giving the out signal when the batted ball is at or near its apex
  - If a potential infield fly threatens a foul line, the umpire shall loudly declare, "Infield fly, if fair"
    - If the ball is ultimately foul, then it will be either a caught fly ball or a foul ball

## Module 7 Game Administration Infield Fly Rule

- ▣ Infield Fly Rule—Making the Call
  - Typically, it is the Plate Umpire's responsibility to call an Infield Fly
  - If either umpire calls an Infield Fly, then it WILL BE an infield fly
    - Pre-game this coverage with your partner

## Module 7 Game Administration Infield Fly Rule

- ▣ Infield Fly Rule—Making the Call
  - At times, the elements can become a factor when determining which balls can be caught with ordinary effort
    - Excessive wind can create situations where a "routine catch" is not apparent, however this ruling should be made sparingly
    - The sun should rarely, if at all, be used as a reason NOT to make this call

## Module 7 Game Administration Infield Fly Rule

- ▣ Infield Fly Rule—Making the Call
  - Even though is best to call an Infield Fly at the ball's apex, it can be called later if conditions warrant
    - If the offense brings it to the attention of the umpire AFTER the play has occurred (especially if multiple outs are recorded on a given play), and the umpire agrees, then the batter shall be called out, and all runners shall be returned to the base occupied at the time of the previous pitch

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- ▣ Batting Order (Rule 7.1)
  - A team shall bat in the order given on that team's lineup card at the start of the contest
  - Substitutions can only replace players, NOT change the order of the lineup
    - This is why re-entered players MUST re-enter into the same position in the lineup which they occupied upon departure

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- ▣ Batting Order—First Inning
  - During a team's first half inning at bat, each batter shall bat in turn, beginning with the player listed first
  - Each subsequent batter shall take their turn at bat following the player listed above in the batting order
  - Upon the ninth batter in the order completing her turn at bat, the batter listed first will take another turn at bat

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- ▣ Batting Order—Subsequent Innings
  - In each inning after the first, the first batter will be the player following the batter who last completed her turn at bat in the previous inning
    - A player is considered to have completed her turn at bat if she hits a fair-batted ball, she strikes out or a base on balls is awarded
    - A player did NOT complete her turn at bat if the final out of that team's previous inning at bat was recorded on a runner without a fair-batted ball

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – During an At-Bat
  - Either team may appeal the batting order while an improper batter is suspected to be at bat
    - If it is discovered that an improper batter is at bat, then the proper batter shall take her place and assume that player's count of balls and strikes, without penalty
    - Any advancement of runners DURING an improper batter's turn at bat shall be considered legal advancement

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – During an At-Bat
  - *Example: With Thompson on first base, Jones, Smith, and Carter are due up in the second inning. Smith erroneously steps into the batter's box. Thompson steals second base on the first pitch. After the count reaches 3-2, the offensive coach requests an appeal of the batting order. This is a legal appeal, and upon discovery of the improper batter, Jones shall assume the count of 3-2, without further penalty. Since Thompson's advance occurred DURING the improper at bat, she may remain at second base.*

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – Completed At-Bat
  - Once a batter has completed her turn at bat, only the defense may appeal the batting order
    - This appeal must be made prior to the next pitch, whether the pitch is legal or illegal
    - If it is discovered that the player did bat out of turn,
      - The proper batter will be called out, AND
      - Any runners reaching base or advancing shall return to the base occupied at the time of the previous pitch
      - The next batter in the order will take her turn at bat

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – Completed At-Bat
  - *Example: Jones, Smith, and Carter are due up in the third inning. Smith erroneously takes Jones' turn at bat and strikes out. Before a pitch is thrown to Carter, the defense appeals the batting order, where the error is discovered. Since this is a legal appeal, Jones is called out, and Smith will return to take her legal time at bat.*

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – Completed At-Bat
  - *Example: With Thompson on second base, Jones, Smith, and Carter are due up in the fourth inning. Smith erroneously takes Jones' turn at bat and singles to right field, scoring Thompson. Before a pitch is thrown to Carter, the defense appeals the batting order and the error is discovered. With the proper appeal, Jones is called out, Thompson must return to second base, negating her score, and Smith must return to the plate to take her legal turn at bat.*

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – Improper Batter Legal
  - If the defense fails to appeal an improper batter prior to the next pitch, legal or illegal, then the improper batter's turn at bat will become legal

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – Improper Batter Legal
  - *Example: Jones, Smith, and Carter are due up in the fifth inning. Smith erroneously takes Jones' turn at bat and doubles to center. With a 1-0 count on Carter, the defense appeals the batting order. Even though Smith was an improper batter, her turn at bat became legal with the first pitch to Carter. Smith will remain on second base, and neither Jones nor Smith shall bat again until their turn comes again in the batting order.*

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – Several Out of Order
  - If a situation arises where several players bat out of turn before discovery, then all turns at bat shall be legalized
    - If this situation results in a player's legal turn at bat coming while she is on base, then her turn shall be skipped, and the player listed next shall take their legal turn at bat

## Module 7 Game Administration Batting Order

- Batting Out of Order – Several Out of Order
  - *Example: Thompson, Jones, Smith, and Carter are due up in the sixth inning. Smith erroneously takes Thompson's turn at bat and singles to left field. Jones then takes her legal turn at bat and lays a sacrifice bunt to advance Smith to second base. With one out, it is then discovered that Smith should now take her legal turn at bat. Since she is on base and cannot bat, her legal turn in the order shall be skipped, and the legal batter will be Carter.*

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- Ending a Regulation Contest
  - A game may reach its conclusion in one of five ways:
    - 1) After the team that is behind in score has completed their time at bat in the seventh inning
    - 2) If the home team has scored a go ahead run in the bottom of the seventh inning

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- Ending a Regulation Contest
  - A game may reach its conclusion in one of five ways:
    - 3) The conditions for the Mercy Rule have been reached
      - A team is leading by at least ten runs after the trailing team has completed their turn at bat in either the fifth or sixth inning

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- Ending a Regulation Contest
  - A game may reach its conclusion in one of five ways:
    - 4) A team chooses to or is required to forfeit the contest because
      - The team has fewer eight eligible players in the batting order
      - The team has no eligible adult coach
      - The official result of a forfeited contest shall be
        - The score of the contest at the time of forfeiture, OR
        - One run scored for every inning of an official contest (7-0)

## Module 7 Game Administration *Ending the Game*

- Ending a Regulation Contest
  - A game may reach its conclusion in one of five ways:
    - 5) Conditions require early termination of the contest (darkness, wet grounds, etc.), and the contest has become official by the following six guidelines:
      - 1. The game is not tied, AND
      - 2. The game has gone at least five complete innings (or four and a half innings if the home team is ahead), AND
      - 3. Any runs scored in the top half of the inning shall not be counted unless the home team has completed their turn at bat or the home team is in the lead, AND

## Module 7 Game Administration *Ending the Game*

- Ending a Regulation Contest
  - A game may reach its conclusion in one of five ways:
    - 5) Conditions require early termination of the contest (darkness, wet grounds, etc.), and the contest has become official by the following six guidelines:
      - 4. Any runs scored in the bottom of the inning shall count unless runs scored in the top of the inning are not counted, AND
      - 5. If any runs scored are not counted, the score shall revert to what it was at the end of the previous inning, AND
      - 6. The score does not become tied after such a reversion

## Module 7 Game Administration *Ending the Game*

- Early Terminated Contest
  - If an early terminated contest has reached the fifth inning and cannot be decided, then it shall be
    - A "suspended game", and is subject to local conference and/or state association adoptions, OR...
    - A tie game

## Module 7 Game Administration *Ending the Game*

- Early Terminated Contest
  - If an early terminated contest has not yet reached regulation length, then it shall be
    - A "no game"
      - Many schools, by mutual agreement, will elect to treat a "no game" as a "suspended game"
      - This is a decision to be made by competing schools at a later point time

## Module 7 Game Administration *Ending the Game*

- International Tie-Breaker
  - A special inning which can be used in only three cases to settle an IHSA-Sanctioned Contest which is tied after regulation:
    - 1) It is a regular season tournament contest that has decided to use the ITB
      - The tournament host will inform you that the ITB shall be used

## Module 7 Game Administration *Ending the Game*

- International Tie-Breaker
  - A special inning which can be used in only three cases to settle an IHSA-Sanctioned Contest which is tied after regulation:
    - 2) It is a conference contest, and the conference has decided to use the ITB for all of its contests
      - This will be on file with the IHSA
      - As of the 2011 IHSA Softball Season, the number of conferences throughout Illinois who have filed for use of the ITB is.....
      - ABSOLUTELY ZERO!!!

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- International Tie-Breaker
  - A special inning which can be used in only three cases to settle an IHSA-Sanctioned Contest which is tied after regulation
    - 3) It is a non-conference contest
      - It **MUST** be agreed upon at the pre-game conference
      - Once the first pitch is thrown, it is too late to discuss it

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- International Tie-Breaker
  - A special inning which can be used in only three cases to settle an IHSA-Sanctioned Contest which is tied after regulation
    - 3) It is a non-conference contest
      - **BOTH** head coaches must agree to use the ITB, meaning that either coach has veto power
      - **NEITHER** head coach should feel any pressure to use the ITB

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- International Tie-Breaker
  - A special inning which can be used in only three cases to settle an IHSA-Sanctioned Contest which is tied after regulation
    - 3) It is a non-conference contest
      - It does not matter if one, both, or neither school's conference uses the ITB, it may be used for any non-conference contest at any level

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- International Tie-Breaker
  - What is it?
    - When a game is tied after regulation, the visiting team shall begin the next inning with a runner at second base
      - This runner shall be the player in the batting order who last completed her turn at bat in the previous inning
      - In other words, the player who is listed before the batter due to lead off in the inning
      - This is **NOT ALWAYS** "the last out"
    - Play will continue with standard rules until the final out of the half inning is recorded

## Module 7 Game Administration Ending the Game

- International Tie-Breaker
  - What is it?
    - The home team will then have the opportunity to bat under the same provisions
    - Play continues until
      - The home team takes the lead, OR...
      - The visiting team records the final out with a lead intact
    - If the score remains tied, then this process repeats until a winner is determined

## Module 7 Game Administration Review

- Which individuals **MUST** attend the pre-game conference?
- How many charged offensive conferences are permitted to a team?
- How many charged defensive conferences may a team use in a regulation contest?
  - What is an example of an uncharged defensive conference?
  - What happens when a team uses a defensive conference after it has used its allotted number of conferences?

## Module 7 Game Administration Review

- ▣ What happens if an improper batter is discovered during her turn at bat?
  - If discovered after completing her turn at bat, before the next pitch, legal or illegal, is thrown?
  - If discovered after completing her turn at bat, and AFTER a pitch is thrown to the next batter?
- ▣ What is the ONLY Mercy Rule used in IHSA-Sanctioned Contests?

## Module 7 Game Administration Review

*CASE PLAY: With the bases loaded and no outs, the batter hits a routine fly ball near 3<sup>rd</sup> base. The fielder misplay the ball, and it falls untouched by the player, hitting the rear-outside corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> base, where it subsequently skips out of play. What is the proper ruling? Where will all runners be placed?*

*ANSWER: The batter will be called out because of the Infield Fly Rule. Since a grounded fair-batted ball went out of play, all runners will be awarded two bases from the base occupied at the time of the pitch. The runner on 1<sup>st</sup> base will be awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and the runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base will be awarded the plate. The next batter will take her turn at bat with one out.*