

2012 Women's World Cup



The 5th IBAF Women's Baseball World Cup took place in Edmonton, Canada from August 10-19th. The event had 8 teams from all over the world competing; Canada, Japan, USA, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Venezuela, Cuba, and the Netherlands. Japan repeated for the third time as Champions beating the USA team for the Gold Medal. The Canadian team took bronze against Australia.

This event was the fifth Women's World Cup. Canada has sent 8 different women and 5 men to the five tournaments. Umpires worked in the 3-Umpire System. The supervisor of umpires for the tournament was Baseball Canada's Supervisor of Umpires - Corrie Davis. Umpiring this year were 4 Canadian women (two from Ontario) and 2 Canadian men:

- Elise Lallement (Quebec, CAN)
- Kelly Hunter (B.C., CAN)
- Kimberly Bueckert (Ontario, CAN)
- Lisa Turbitt (Ontario, CAN)
- Todd Dororthy (Alberta, CAN)
- Steve Boutang (B.C., CAN)



This tournament has seen the growth in female officials around the world. This event was officiated by 10 women! The most ever at this international event.

Submitted by:
Lisa Turbitt

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2012 Peewee Atlantic Championship

I attended the Peewee Atlantic National Championships Held in St John's NFLD, September 6th- 9th as an assistant supervisor.

Along with Mark Jones from NFLD and Jean Francois Arsenault from Quebec, we worked with 9 other umpires which included Jason Curry from Windsor. The tournament gave everyone an opportunity to learn more about umpiring as well as too work hard with individuals they have never worked with before.

Out of the 9 umpires 6 of them were attending there first National Championship. We all had a lot of fun and developed a lot of new friendships as well.

Submitted by:
Dave Margetts

Association In Focus: London District Baseball Association

Umpire Membership:

Level 1: 104
Level 2: 61
Level 3: 60
Level 4/5: 9
Course Conductors: 5

Umpiring Program Highlights:

Every year, LDBA has approx 20-30 new umpires who join the program. These umpires hone their skills by working at the local levels. They are trained and watched by local UICs who are Level 3 and 4 umpires. As they progress through the levels, they have the opportunity to work higher levels of competitive baseball. When they do, they are mentored with the Level 4 and 5 umpires in the area. These 9 umpires work games with the umpires or will sit and watch them during their games, offering feedback at the end. The experienced Level 3 umpires are also mentored by the Level 4 & 5 Umpires as required or



requested by the umpire. We are proud of the progress the umpires in LDBA make on a yearly basis and of the number of Level 4 & 5 umpires within our program. It helps develop those interested in progressing to the next level. This year, we had 5 local umpires attend a National Championship as an umpire or supervisor. We have also have a Level 3 umpire who has passed his evaluations to be invited to the Level 4-5 Program along with 2 other Level 3 Umpires who are interested and with a little more development should be successful in this accomplishment also.



Umpiring Program Goals:

LDBA's umpire goal is to continue to bring in young umpires to experience baseball in a different light. Working closely with the younger umpires and continue to mentor them throughout their levels of progression while continuing to hone the skills of the current umpires making us a very strong body of umpires locally and provincially.

Umpire In Focus: Tyler Rathbone

Name: Tyler Rathbone
Hometown: London
Association: London District Baseball Association
Current Level: 3
Years Umpiring: 7
Hobbies / Interests: A big fan of the Toronto Blue Jays and Toronto Maple Leafs. One of these Toronto teams is going to bring home a championship soon!
School: Fanshawe College—Police Foundations



Umpire Highlights/ Achievements:

Umpiring in the Lakeside Tournament this year and calling balls and strikes for guys throwing upwards of 93 mph!

Umpiring Goals:

To further myself as an umpire and to eventually qualify as a Level 4 Baseball Ontario umpire!

2012 Bantam Championship

The Canadian Bantam Championships were held in Vaughan, Ontario this year. It's no wonder why Vaughan has become the home of Bantam baseball over the last few years, as the organizing committee runs a very professional operation. Congratulations to Josie Manera, Dirk Driberg and Morty Fergenbaum on another awesome tournament!



This year, I'm excited about bringing you the tournament details from the supervisor perspective. Different from the umpires, my tournament started several weeks before everyone arrived, with the supervisor team picking crews and making the crew schedules.

Upon arrival in Vaughan, we got right to work with our coaches meeting, umpire meeting and then heading out to Dave and Busters for dinner and games. Thanks to the three above mentioned for the game vouchers and the hours of motorcycle racing where Lisa Turbitt taught me how it's done.

Thursday saw the first day of games, followed by Friday's and Saturday's 16 hour days. Saturday was spent supervising and then working on the final day assignments and then evals in between games. Upon completion of all the games on Saturday night, we met with the umpires to give them Sunday's schedule.

So...I thought Sunday would be a relaxing day; boy was I wrong! Meeting with all 15 umpires to deliver their end of tournament evaluations is an intensive process. Thankfully we were able to just be spectators for the

gold medal game. It was a weird feeling watching the finals but i was proud of all the guys for their hard work and how they represented Baseball Canada on championship day.



Thank you to the other supervisors, Rob Companion (lead), Sebastien Gagnon and a super special thanks to Lisa for joining us last minute allowing Sebastien and I a small break on Saturday. Your dedication and commitment to the betterment of umpiring in Canada speaks for itself. To close, I certainly have an increased amount of respect for the work that goes into supervising. It was a very rewarding experience and I look forward to my next opportunity.

Submitted by:
Keith McConkey



Umpire In Focus: David Margetts

Name: David Margetts
Hometown: Burlington
Local Association: Burlington Organized Minor Baseball Association
Current Level: 5
Years Umpiring: 25
Hobbies / Interests: Golf
Employment: Field Supervisor, Halton District School Board

Umpire Highlights/ Achievements:

I have umpired 3 national championships and also supervised 2 National Championships I was Baseball Ontario Senior umpire of the year in 2002. I have been in the National program for 12 years. I have been the BOMBA umpire in chief for 10 years.

There are 35 to 40 games each week from rookie ball house league to bantam major travel, so the variety is always there. Each year we host an OBA provincial championship tournament and although not all umpires are experienced to do these games they are all encouraged to come out and observe and one year they will get their chance.



Umpiring Goals:

I want to continue improving my umpiring skills and to continue working mentoring younger umpires across the province.

Name: Mitchell Thompson
Hometown: Oshawa
Local Association: Oshawa Legion Minor Baseball
Current Level: 1.1
Years Umpiring: 1
Hobbies / Interests: Baseball, Fishing, Hockey and Tennis
School: O'Neill Collegiate Vocational Institute

Umpire In Focus: Mitchell Thompson



Umpire Highlights/ Achievements:

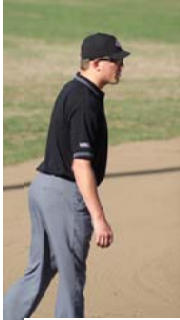
Umpiring Mosquito All Star game,
Umpiring Peewee A Provincial Finals

Umpiring Goals:

I want to improve and increase my skill level in umpiring.

Check us out on facebook at www.facebook.com/OBAUmpires!

Umpire In Focus: Matthew Tyler



Name: Matthew Tyler
Hometown: Windsor
Local Association: Windsor and District Baseball Umpires Association (WDBUA)
Current Level: 4
Years Umpiring: 15
Hobbies / Interests: Bowling, Volleyball, Movies
Employment: Registered Massage Therapist

Umpire Highlights/ Achievements:

- Baseball Ontario Senior Eliminations – 2006 – 2012 (except 2010)
- Baseball Ontario Junior Eliminations - 2010
- Baseball Canada Western Pee Wee Championships – 2010
- Baseball Canada Junior Championships – 2012

Umpiring Goals:

- Become a level 5
- Umpire at an international Tournament



Blue Trivia

Level 1:

Bases Loaded, 0 out. The 1st and 3rd baseman are playing in. The batter hits a sharp ground ball that the 3rd baseman deflects in the direction of the shortstop. R2, seeing that the SS definitely will have a good chance of making a play on the ball, allows the deflected ball to strike him. The ball caroms into LF and 3 runs score. The umpire signals “That’s Nothing” and allows the play to stand. The umpire is correct, true or false?

Level 2:

R3, 1 out. Batter hits a sharp ground ball down the 3rd base line that strikes R3 in fair territory while the runner is still in contact with 3rd base. The runner was not attempting to interfere with the ground ball and the fielder is playing behind the runner. The umpire calls “Time” and declares R3 out and awards BR 1st base, true or false?

Level 3:

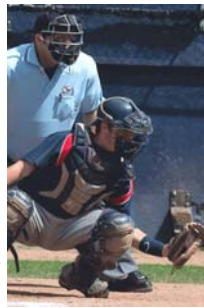
R1, R2, 0 out. The batter shows bunt, the first and third baseman move in, and the shortstop moves to cover 3rd base. The batter decides to swing at the last minute and hits a ground ball in the direction of the shortstop position. However, the shortstop has moved to cover 3rd base, and no one is in position to field the ball. The ground ball strikes R2 advancing to 3rd base. The umpire should allow the play to continue as there is no fielder able to make a play on the ground ball and it has passed the pitcher, true or false?



2012 Midget Championship

Like most people who are reading this article, I'm an umpire. Balls, strikes, fair, foul, outs and safes is what I'm used to calling and being on the field is where I feel most at home. But at National Championships, umpires can also take on another role as a supervisor and in 2012 I was privileged to be the Lead Supervisor at the Midget tournament held in Quebec City. I'd like to share some of my thoughts and feelings about that experience.

This isn't my first time being a supervisor; in fact I've supervised at 3 other Nationals and I've umpired in 6 tournaments as well. So, this isn't my "first rodeo", if you know what I mean. That's why I was very surprised when this tournament felt so different and so much rewarding than any other I'd attended in the past. I didn't realize how much I enjoyed the tournament until I returned home. I spent the next week trying to understand why. I didn't get the "gold medal plate" (a very prestigious accomplishment at a tournament). Was it the "vacation - like atmosphere" of a National? Certainly not!! Supervisors have to be at the field from the first game to last. If you're lucky that's a 15 hour day. I put less time in at the office during a regular week at work so that wasn't it. Was I just more comfortable in the role? This could certainly be a contributing factor, but it wasn't it. I continued to look for answers and then it came to me. It was pretty obvious really and I couldn't see it. It



was the people - 15 umpires, 3 supervisors, a Baseball Canada representative, the host committee and a whole bunch of volunteers working as one.

Let me start with the umpires. I have never met a more focused and positive group before. No complaints about assignments (at least not that I heard), acceptance of the feedback after games, respectful and professional off the field. They also allowed the supervisors to be part of their crew. It was like you were rooting for the umpires each game - celebrating their successes and helping cope with challenges. There was no "us" vs "them"- just a team. My co-supervisors and the Baseball Canada Representative were incredibly supportive. When you supervise, there are a lot of decisions that need to be made and having hard working, trustworthy and wise colleagues makes it far more manageable and enjoyable. The host committee was incredibly helpful and friendly as well. If you needed something, just ask and someone would make it happen. What an experience.

I know that most people reading this won't have an opportunity to supervise at a National Championship, but everyone, at least most umpires, belong to an association and umpire at tournaments or during playoffs. I can only hope that you experience just a small amount of what I did in your baseball career. I'm sure some of you have and hope that will in the future. What an experience.

Submitted by:
David Lavorato

Level 3:
Answer: False - 7.08(f) Interpretation
Explanation: Time should immediately be called when the ball strikes R2, and R2 should be declared out. R1 would be placed at 2nd base and the BR would be placed at 1st base. The ball is NOT considered to have gone through or by an infielder in this play.

Level 2:
Answer: True - 7.08(f)
Explanation: The fact that R3 had contact with the base when struck by the batted ball has no bearing on the play. The only exception to this is when the runner is hit by an Infield Fly while in contact with the base.

Level 1:
Answer: False - 7.09(f)
Explanation: The runner from 2nd has intentionally interfered with a batted ball to break up a possible double play. Time should immediately be called. The runner from 2nd is declared out and so is the batter-runner. The runners return to 1st and 3rd base respectively.



2012 Canada Cup

This past August I had the privilege of representing Baseball Ontario Umpires at the Canada Cup in London, Ontario. Joining me from Ontario was Supervisor Jamie Killingsworth along with umpires Justin Snively and Rob Stevenson. "The Cup" is a provincial all star team tournament comprised of boys age 17 and under. Since the boys are of draft age there were numerous MLB and College scouts in the stands. I have never seen that many radar guns in one place. Even with the added pressure from scouts and their future baseball careers hanging in the balance, the players did not disappoint.



This tournament was my first at the major level. It was a great experience working a higher level of ball with some great umpires and supervisors. Highlighting the list of "Supers" was Brian Hodgson (MB) who umpired in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Stefan Dupont (QC) who umpired in the 2009 World Baseball Classic. I have been to three other Nationals where three umpire Supervisors were used. Fortunately, this year gave us the opportunity to be part of a pilot project with four supervisors. Jamie Killingsworth was joined by Andrew Downs (NB) to round out the list of supervisors. The team worked hard days, giving us valuable feedback and

keeping us informed with the ever changing schedule due in part to what we came to call "London weather".

We began with 7 games assigned to each crew. Luckily for me, I received an extra 3rd plate game. It was a long and stretched out week of games, especially with the inclement weather which resulted in many suspended games. I put on plate equipment 5 times in the week due to a suspended game and a final day plate assignment. The unpredictable London weather gave the umpires plenty of time to socialize outside of their crew and exchange war stories. Unlike past tournaments where there is very little time provided to socialize and debrief with the other crews.

The facilities in London were fantastic. Labatt Park, Canada's Favourite Ballpark was centre stage for the event. The park located in downtown London is the oldest continually operated baseball grounds in the world, giving it that historic feel. It was always a pleasure to enter the park on game day. The secondary fields used were also kept in excellent condition due in part to the diligent work of the city run grounds crew. The abuse the fields withheld at the championship game were barely evident.

On the final day of the tournament, I was thrilled with the assignment I received of umpiring both semi final games; one on the plate and one on the bases. The morning base game was very one sided as Ontario won by 10 runs 13-3. The afternoon plate game between BC and Quebec resulted with BC edging a out a late victory 6-4. The crowd was energetic and the

atmosphere was positive. The final game of the tournament was a "nail biter". It was great to sit back and enjoy watching a great finish with Ontario squeaking out a 9-8 victory.

The most memorable and probably the most enjoyable part of a National is having everyone together at the ball park for the final game. It's a time to recap the events of the week, reflect on personal accomplishments, enjoy some laughs with new and old friends and most importantly, watch some great baseball. Baseball is a sport that brings everyone together, but for me, it is the people that I share these moments with that keep bringing me back.

Submitted by:
Stephen Gomes



2012 Junior Championship

Back in May at the annual Level 4 & 5 umpires clinic I was informed that I was selected to attend this year's Baseball Canada Junior National Championships in Trois-Rivieres Quebec along with 2 fellow umpires, & 2 Supervisors from Ontario. While there I would get to meet other umpires from all over Canada as well as officiate some of the best amateur baseball played in Canada. I was really excited to go, and had a great time both on and off the field.

After flying in to Montreal, I met up with a few other members of the officiating team for the week, we then hopped on a bus shared with the team that had just arrived from Saskatchewan and we were off to Trois-Rivieres. After 2 hours of jokes and stories on the bus we arrived at our hotel where we meet up with the rest of the umpires, and shortly we started to get to know each other, as well as meet who our roommate would be for the rest of the week. Later that night we had the welcome banquet for all coaches players, umpires, and many volunteers. It was a nice meal, with some good company and another bonding experience for the umpires, as well as the only meal we had as 1 big group of all the officiating committee.

Once the banquet was over we sat down as a group of 15 (12 umpires, & 3 supervisors) to go over ground rules for each of the diamonds, as well as find out which other umpires would be in our crew, as well as our schedules



for the week. My crew was myself, as well umpires form

Alberta & Quebec, our schedule was very nice, only 1 morning game all week, the bonus of being able to sleep in was a nice surprise. After our group meeting we broke off into crews to make sure we were all on the same page for specific situations, as well as signals we would use to communicate on the diamond, yes umpires use signs too. Both my crewmates had done a few more tournaments than I had, and as such I was able to pick up a few things from each of them.

Thursday Morning games started, so happy I didn't have the 8AM game. Thank you to the crew that did. I got to sleep in, and relax a little bit before my first game at 12:30. It game of the day means done earlier at night, but after a long day of travel the day before I wanted my sleep, and was pretty happy to get it. Once we got on the field it was mostly business, we still found time to make a couple jokes in between innings.

After almost a day and a half of games being played we had the opening ceremonies, seemed weird to me that they we so late, but not my call, I only made the calls on the field. For the ceremony each team marched onto the field with a younger local baseball player holding the provincial flag, and another holding a sign with the province name. The umpires as we were last and had time to set up, decided we'd go shortest to tallest, and we were surprised how many comments we got about the fans noticing that. We all stood around the diamond as several speeches were given, our national anthem was played, and then 2 players gave the players oath, followed by 2 umpires giving the umpires oath, it was a nice ceremony, done in both French and English. Afterwards there

was 1 game left to be played for the day, all the umpires not on the field sat around and watched for about 2 innings then it was off to dinner.

While away I celebrated a birthday, and it happened to be the day that I had only 1 game to officiate. At my game the tournament official brought me a small doughnut with a candle as my birthday cake. Since we were at home plate and the game was about to begin I blew out the candle handed it back to him said "thank you, I'll eat it later." After the game I had lunch, then I decided it was time for my doughnut, when I asked for it, the director told me he ate it. So I went without dessert with my lunch. While sitting in the dressing room waiting on game to finish, a fellow umpire told me that the next day would be my real umpire test, his words of wisdom. "If you can't umpire with a hangover, then you can't umpire." I still have not taken this test, so I guess my umpire abilities are still in question.

This was my second national assignment and I can't wait for my 3rd, and 4th, and so on. We have a great time, meet players, coaches and of course other umpires for all over Canada. For anyone who is interested in getting to the next level, it may be a difficult path, but when you get to go the national tournaments it is very much worth all the work we put in to continuously improve ourselves as umpires.



Submitted by:
Matthew Tyler

2012 Senior Championship

What a great start..... or NOT!!! My flight was delayed 2.5 hours from Toronto which meant that I missed my connecting flight to Prince George, British Columbia; and if that wasn't bad enough, they lost my luggage. Luckily I was smart enough to have taken my base clothes in my carry on just in case; who says that previous experiences haven't taught me a thing or too along the way! So I ended up leaving St. Catharines at 4:30 a.m. and arrived in Prince George at 10:00 p.m. B.C. time. A long day to say the least; but by midnight all was good as my luggage arrived.



This Senior National Tournament was being treated like an International Tournament which meant 4 umpires per game instead of the usual 3, and getting

your assignment the night before with no set crews. This gave me the opportunity to meet and work with more umpires than normal. I will say that I was glad I bought a jacket prior to attending the tournament as the weather was cool the first two days and then it finally started to warm up.

It was great to meet new friends and get reacquainted with old ones. On the final day I was privileged to get a semi-final plate assignment and the game ended 4-2 thanks to a walk-off home run for Prince George, the host team, against Alberta. After that I also had the opportunity to work 2nd base in the Gold medal game with the host team winning 9 – 5 over the Windsor Stars representing Ontario.

Thanks to our supervisors who did a great job on debriefing us on the 4 umpire system which many of us don't get the opportunity to work and which is used mainly at International events with IBAF.

The schedules rain day wasn't required but the group of us went golfing and we all had an enjoyable day getting to know each other further off the course. One of the best parts of any National assignment is developing further friendships with other umpires from across the Country not only on the field but off the field too.

Thanks Baseball Ontario for sending me as I thoroughly enjoyed it! Looking forward to more lasting memories and friends in the coming years!

Submitted by:
Dayle Legros



Do you have a story idea or picture for Blue Signals?

Would you like to recommend an association or umpire to be profiled "In Focus"?

Email us at bluesignals@baseballontario.com

APPEAL PLAYS

Many umpires often get confused when it comes to the rules, and enforcement, regarding appeals. In this Blue Notes edition we will look at several appeal play case studies to assist umpires in better understanding the rules.

Play 1: R1, 1 out. The batter hits a double. R1 rounds the bases and attempts to score. On the play at the plate, the catcher misses the tag and the runner misses home plate sliding by. The catcher begins to chase the runner to tag him, as the batter-runner breaks for 3rd. Seeing this, the catcher throws to the 3rd baseman who tags the batter-runner. May the defense still appeal at home on the runner who started at 1st base?

Ruling: Yes. The catcher's throw to retire the batter-runner at 3rd base was part of continuous action created by and following the batted ball. Therefore the defense does not lose its right to make an appeal by playing on the runner at home or the batter-runner at 3rd and may still appeal at home.



Play 2: R1, 0 out. Pitcher attempts to pickoff R1 but throws the ball down the RF line. The runner misses 2nd base and tries for 3rd base. The throw to 3rd is not in time and the runner is ruled safe on a tag play. May the defense appeal at 2nd base that R1 missed the base?

Ruling: Yes. The attempted play at 3rd base was still part of the continuous action created by and following the pickoff throw. Therefore the defense does not lose its right to make its appeal by playing on the runner at 3rd base and may still appeal.

Play 3: R1, 1 out. The batter hits a single and R1 advances to 3rd base without a play but missed 2nd base on the way.

off, breaks for home. The runner from 3rd is ruled safe on a close play at home. May the defense still appeal at 2nd base?

Ruling: No. The defense's attempt to retire the runner at home occurred after a definite break in the original continuous action that was created by and followed the batted ball. Therefore the defense lost its right to appeal at any base once it made the play at home.

Play 4: R1, 0 out. The batter hits a single and R1 goes to 3rd but misses 2nd base. The runner is ruled safe on a sliding tag play at 3rd. The ball is returned to the pitcher. The pitcher intending to appeal, comes to a set but balks while disengaging the rubber. After the penalty is enforced, may the defense still appeal at 2nd base on R1?

Ruling: No. The defense did not lose its right to appeal by playing on the runner originally on 1st base at 3rd base; that play was part of the continuous action created by and following the batted ball. However, a balk is considered a play for the purposes of this section of the appeal rule. Because the defense cannot appeal following a play or attempted play, the pitcher's balk cost the defense its right to appeal.

Play 5: R1, 1 out. The batter hits a single. R1 misses 2nd on the way to 3rd and is ruled safe on a close sliding tag play. Time is called by the umpire at the request of the runner. The pitcher steps on the rubber, and comes to a set position. The defence intends to appeal at 2nd base. The pitcher legally steps off the rubber. Seeing this, the runner now on 3rd bluffs as if to go home. The pitcher, now off the rubber, steps towards 3rd and cocks his arm as if to throw but does not throw. May the defense still make its intended appeal at 2nd base on the runner originally at 1st base?

Ruling: Yes. The attempted play at 3rd on the runner from 1st was still part of the continuous action created by and following the batted ball. The bluff by the pitcher (step and cocked arm) to check the runner at 3rd is not considered a

play or attempted play; therefore the defense may still attempt its intended appeal at 2nd base.

Play 6: R1 and R3, 1 out. R1 is stealing on the pitch. The batter hits a fly ball to Rf that is caught for the 2nd out. R3 tags and scores after the catch. R1 tries to return to 1st base after the catch, but the RF's throw beats him to the bag and he is declared out for the 3rd out of the inning. R3 touched home plate before the 3rd out was made at 1st.

Ruling: Run counts. This is considered a time play and NOT a force play.

Play 7: The batter hits a ground ball and beats the play at 1st base but misses the bag.

Ruling: The runner is deemed to have touched the base once his entire body has based the base. The proper mechanic is for the umpire to call the runner safe, indicating he beat the play. If the defense appeals by tagging the runner, or base, and appealing that the runner missed 1st base before the runner returns to 1st base, the batter-runner would then be declared out. Note the Official Baseball Rule 7.08(k) Casebook Comment.

Play 8: R1 and R3, 2 out. The pitcher's next pitch is a wild pitch back to the screen. While the ball is being chased down, R3 crosses the plate. The runner on 1st misses 2nd base but tries for 3rd. The catcher's throw to 3rd base gets past the 3rd baseman, and the runner tries to score. The shortstop backing up the play, attempts to throw the runner out at the plate but the tag is not in time. And the runner is ruled safe. May the defense still appeal at 2nd base on the runner originally on 1st?

Ruling: Yes. The defensive team's attempted plays on the runner originally on 1st at 3rd and home were still part of the continuous action created by and following the wild pitched ball. Therefore, the defensive team does not lose its right to make its appeal by attempting these plays and may still appeal at 2nd base on the runner originally on 1st.

Play 9: R1, 1 out. Batter hits a home run out of the ballpark. Runner from 1st misses 2nd base and the batter-runner misses 1st base. After both runners cross the plate, the umpire puts a new ball in play. Pitcher takes a position on the

rubber, steps off, and intends to appeal at first base on the batter-runner. However, the pitcher's throw is wild and goes out of play. The umpire then puts a new ball into play., and again the pitcher takes a position on the rubber and steps off. This time the pitcher intends to make an appeal at 2nd base on the runner originally on 1st base. Should the umpire allow the appeal?

Ruling: No. If the pitcher throws the ball out of play when making an appeal, such act shall be considered an attempted play. No further appeal will be allowed on any runner at any base.

Play 10: No runners on base. The batter triples but misses 1st base. Time is called by the umpire. The pitcher steps on the rubber and comes to a set position. The defense intends to appeal at 1st base. The pitcher legally steps off the rubber and checks the runner at 3rd base. The pitcher's throw for the appeal gets past the 1st baseman but remains in play. The runner advances and scores as the ball is being retrieved. May the defense still make its intended appeal at 1st base?

Ruling: Yes. Because the ball is live and in play, if the ball is retrieved and thrown back to first base immediately, with no intervening play, the appeal is still allowed.

Play 11: R1, 1 out. The score is tied in the bottom of the 9th inning. The batter hits a home run to win the game. However, the runner from 1st touches 2nd and thinking the home run automatically wins the game, cuts across the infield toward the dugout as the batter-runner circles the bases.

Ruling: In this case, the runner would be called out for "abandoning his effort to touch the next base" and the batter-runner permitted to continue around the bases to make the home run count. If there were two out, the home run would not count, see OBR 7.12. This is NOT an appeal play.

