**SOFTBALL NEW OFFICIAL TRAINING**

**March 14, 2021**

Subjects:

Presenting the Ball

Pitcher coming to a Pause

When to Wipe

Quick Pitch

Pitcher with Tape or Band Aide on their pitching hand

Presentation will be interactive with a Pitcher’s Plate set up for all to see the demonstration.

Materials needed:

Softball

Glove

Pitcher’s Plate

Rosin Bag

Scene-

Set the room up so that all participants will be able to see the Pitcher’s Plate and any training taking place from it.

**Presenting the Ball-**

1. Step on Pitcher’s Plate with the ball in one hand and the glove on the other. Bring hands together for not less than 1 second and not more than 10 seconds.
2. Step on Pitcher’s Plate with the ball in the glove. Bring hands together for not less than 1 second and not more than 10 seconds.
3. Step on Pitcher’s Plate with the ball and hand in the glove. With Hands together for not less than 1 second and not more than 10 seconds.
4. How and when may a pitcher remove themselves from the pitching position?

**How to determine a Pause-**

A pause may be different according to the Umpire officiating the game. This rule is in place to not allow the defense to gain an advantage by placing the offense at a disadvantage. Be prepared to rule on this early and nip it in the butt, if you don’t it might bite you.

Remember...

Once the pitcher receives the sign whether she is off the pitcher’s plate or on it she MUST take a pause for no less than 1 second and no more than 10 seconds prior to beginning any pitching motion. If a pitcher takes the sign off the pitcher’s plate and then walks on and begins her pitching motion without a distinct pause in the UMPIRE’S JUDGEMENT she has committed an illegal pitch. The best way to handle this to either have the catcher go talk to her or inform the HC of what she is doing.

This action would be considered a form of QUICK Pitching and this places the offense at a disadvantage. If you determine that the pitcher is not pausing, and you have attempted to correct it through the catcher and the HC then you will need to hold up play until the offensive player (Batter) has time to be ready. Once you determine that she is ready motion to the pitcher that she may proceed.

**What is Quick Pitching?**

Quick pitching in it’s simplest term is the act of pitching the ball prior to the batter being ready to make a play on the ball.

Our job as the Umpire’s of the contest is to ensure that both teams have the same opportunity with the rules of the game and to enforce violations of these rules so that one team does not gain an unfair advantage during the contest.

**Wipe v. No Wipe**

What are some instances when a pitcher must wipe or simulate wiping?

1. Licked her fingers
2. When the pitcher has wiped her face or hair with her pitching hand. Adjusting a mask is not to be considered touching her face.

What are some instances when a pitcher does not have to wipe or simulate wiping?

1. Rubbed hands in the dirt
2. Rubbed hands in the chalk
3. Used a Powered Rosin under the Umpires supervision and control

If a pitcher ever takes the ball and does one of these things below call time exchange the ball and warn them if they do it again they will be removed from the pitching position. Your going to be questioned explain your ruling/observations and move on.

1. Take the ball and rub it in the dirt or rub dirt directly on to the ball with her hands
2. Use the ball to wipe her forehead or face
3. Apply the rosin bag directly to the ball

**Notes:**

Pitcher with tape or other substance on the ball or contact points of the pitching hand or fingers.

No player shall apply a foreign substance to the ball.

The pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs which the umpire judges to be distracting to the batter.

Penalty for these is An Illegal Pitch shall be called immediately.