

February 11, 2026, Meeting

Quick recap

The meeting focused on training officials about courtesy runners in softball, presented by Joe, who explained the rules regarding pitchers and catchers using courtesy runners and the specific requirements for their participation. Frank discussed updates to Arbiter scheduling system and emphasized the importance of proper attendance documentation by entering names and TASO IDs in the chat. The group also covered double first base positioning and rules, with Joe demonstrating proper base placement and explaining scenarios for fair and foul balls. Frank announced the next Zoom meeting would be held on March 11th and addressed concerns about middle school game scheduling conflicts, promising to work with districts to better coordinate training sessions. The conversation ended with a reminder about the importance of working together and supporting fellow officials, with Frank emphasizing that no official should be belittled or manipulated regarding their calls.

Next steps

- All members: Submit name and TASO ID in chat for attendance credit (immediate/follow-up for late arrivals)
- Frank: Discuss with Rolando about honoring blocked dates in Arbiter and not overriding member blocks
- Frank: Work with districts/ADs to coordinate next year's meeting schedule to avoid conflicts with middle school games
- Frank: Set and post next year's meeting dates on website after board meeting
- Frank: Plan additional clinic for new umpires currently assigned to middle school games
- Joe: Call Frank after the meeting (immediate follow-up)
- All members interested in playoff assignments: Achieve 90+ score on test and notify Adrian if needing help
- Jaime: Track income from scheduled scrimmages in Arbiter and create expense spreadsheet
- All members: Attend next Zoom meeting on March 11th

Summary

Technical Check-in and Attendance Instructions

The meeting began with technical difficulties as participants joined and tested their audio and video settings. Mario and other attendees discussed the importance of muting their screens for attendance purposes. Participants were instructed to type their names and TASO ID numbers in the chat to ensure proper identification. As the meeting progressed, various individuals introduced themselves, and Frank requested that everyone mute their screens to maintain order. The meeting appeared to be an informal check-in, with no significant decisions or action items discussed.

Softball Officials Zoom Meeting Updates

Frank welcomed attendees to the first Zoom meeting for softball officials and emphasized the importance of accountability through ID numbers. He addressed concerns about Arbiter, stating that adjustments were being made to improve functionality and partner visibility. Frank also stressed the need for officials to consult district plans and coaches regarding run rules, particularly for middle school and junior high games, and encouraged communication with Joe for rules interpretations.

Playoff Officials Score and Rules

Adrian announced that for the playoffs, officials need a score of 90, not the usual 80, and encouraged those who haven't achieved this to retake the test. He emphasized that the test is open book and help is available if needed. Joe then discussed the rules regarding courtesy runners, explaining that they can only be used for pitchers or catchers and must earn their way on base. He clarified scenarios where a courtesy runner might need to become the official pitcher or catcher, and outlined the rules for substitutions and penalties. The conversation ended with Oscar reminding attendees to hold questions until the end and to enter their names and TASO IDs for credit if they joined late.

Base Running and Base Placement

Joe explained the rules regarding courtesy runners, emphasizing that once a courtesy runner is used, the original player must return to their position unless substituted by the coach. He clarified that a new courtesy runner cannot be used for the same player in the same half inning if the original runner is injured. Joe also discussed the placement and use of double first base, explaining that the white portion should align with the foul line in fair territory, while the colored portion should be in foul territory. He covered scenarios for plays at first base, including exceptions for throws and collisions, and noted that once a base is obtained, it becomes one big base under Federation rules.

Umpire Training and Assignment Updates

The meeting covered several topics related to umpiring assignments, rules, and upcoming training. Joe explained the rules for batting out of order, emphasizing the importance of correcting the issue before the next pitch and negating the improper batter's at-bat. Frank reminded attendees to submit their names and TASO IDs for attendance records and announced plans for additional training clinics for new umpires. He also discussed scheduling future meetings and working with school administrators to accommodate training sessions. The next Zoom meeting was scheduled for March 11th, and Jaime provided an update on financial matters, mentioning that funds from scrimmages would be deposited and tracked through a spreadsheet.

Team Absence Policy Discussion

Frank discussed a matter that required further discussion upon the return of an unnamed individual, emphasizing that certain actions cannot be overridden and requested advance submission of absences, except in emergencies. He assured the team that their concerns would be addressed and reminded everyone about the upcoming tournament. The conversation ended with Oscar confirming attendance, Eddie clarifying his participation, and Frank appreciating everyone's cooperation.