

LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN THE TRANSITION TO ISF MECHANICS AND 3 AND 4 UMPIRE SYSTEMS.

For the past three or four years, it has been the announced intention of the ODC to move to the ISF mechanics and positioning in both fast pitch and so-pitch. In 2005 we ran a pilot project that saw an umpire going out on all fly balls in the 3-umpire system in fast pitch and on all possible trapped or difficult catches in slo-pitch. The pilot project went well and appeared to be received well.. In the fall of 2005, it was announced at the Provincial/Territorial UIC's meeting that we were making the transition to the ISF 3 and 4- umpire systems in 2006.

Appreciating that change takes time, the ODC will be flexible in its approach to the transition to the ISF, now the Softball Canada mechanics and 3 & 4-umpire systems. In the following three situations, the ODC will be flexible with what is acceptable positioning; however, we will only teach the newly adopted mechanics and positioning..

Plate stance – We will teach the inside slot position and being square to the plate. In Fast Pitch, we will continue to accept being square to the pitcher as an alternative position but we will not teach it. In Slo-Pitch we will accept working the outside slot as an alternate position but we will not teach it.

Starting position for 3rd base umpire in slo-pitch – We will teach starting the 3rd base umpire at 3rd base. We will accept the 3rd base umpire starting at 2nd base if the crew is comfortable with that positioning.

Chasing fly balls – In Slo-Pitch only, because of the number of fly balls, umpires will have the option of only chasing fly balls to the outfield that have the potential to be trapped or be a difficult catch.

These flexibilities will apply at Canadian Championships and will be evaluated on a yearly basis.

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