

## Softball Interpreters:

We have discussed with colleagues, coaches and players, the need for the batter to remain stationary in the box when the catcher, who has not yet returned the ball to the pitcher, may attempt to make play on a base runner.

We may have to rule on interference with bodily or thrown ball contact between the catcher and the batter while the batter is out of the box and possibly interfering with the catcher's movement or throw to a base.

Having said that, the catcher cannot intentionally throw the ball at a batter who may have wandered prematurely out of the box.

Bench and Field Conduct, Article 13, Letter C, reads, "*behavior in any manner not in accordance with the spirit of fair play*"

The entire citation is 3-5-13-c

If the umpire determines the catcher intentionally threw the ball at the batter while she was out of the box, the runners would be returned to their bases at the time of the pitch, the batter would not be out, and the catcher would be ejected for malicious contact.

Something for your umpires to keep in mind.