



Items of interest to baseball umpires, coaches, players, and fans, from the [UmpireBible](#)

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We're back ... and a new season comes to life

Pitchers and catchers reported to their respective Spring Training camps this week, which signals the opening bell of the new season. Across the country (and beyond), umpire training camps are in full swing. The 2019 season is upon us, and like me, you're likely trying on last year's plate pants to see if they still fit.

BTW, I'm in the process now of updating my online rule books (both [OBR](#) and [FED](#)) with this year's rule changes and I should have them ready by end of next week. I'll post a note when the rule books are fully updated.

Rule Changes for 2019

Major League Baseball is yet to formally announce rule changes (if any) for 2019, but ESPN (among many others -- [here's a good example](#)) cover current discussions between the MLB and the Player's Association. It's a good read: [MLB and players discussing rule changes that could alter game](#). Spoiler alert: The DH might be coming to the American League. [FanGraphs](#) polled readers about many of the proposed rule changes currently under discussion, and the polling results are quite interesting: [Here's What You Think About Those Proposed Changes to Baseball](#).

And speaking of **rule changes for 2019**, here's a handy list of rule change summaries:

- [NCAA rule changes](#)
- [NFHS rule changes](#)
- [Little League rule changes](#)
- [PONY rule changes](#)
- [Babe Ruth rule changes](#)

Rethinking the Strike Zone: It's not a square (or rectangle, either)

Turns out, it's a *superellipse*. This from Eli Ben-Porat in an article in [The Hardball Times](#) entitled [Rethinking the Strike Zone](#). I've always maintained as a personal view that the strike zone (for most of us) has rounded corners. Ben-Porat's article brings mountains of data to

the discussion and makes a pretty compelling case for just what the current MLB strike zone looks like. For you data nerds out there, this article is a gift.

Interview with MLB umpire Gerry Davis (podcast)

The web site CoachBaseballRight.com is featuring an interview with Gerry Davis. This is a nearly hour-long, wide-ranging interview conducted by Steve Nicollrat. You can access (or download) the podcast [HERE](#).

The wackiest windup in all of baseball

Is it legal? A kid named Trevin Michael, a pitcher at a small college in Oklahoma, has a delivery from the windup position that's too wacky for prime time: [Wacky-ass windup](#). But is it legal? I say no, but most voters say yes. Have a look.

Rule of the Day: Awarding Bases

In our article, [Awarding Bases](#), we list 28 rules references. We don't bury you in all 28 rules; instead, we summarize. But it goes to the point of how difficult it is to learn the rules of baseball using just the rule book. The topic of awarding bases has a lot of moving parts, so put it all in one place and organized it so that it's easier to put together, and then apply.
