

Official Coaches Helmet Rule for VFW Baseball

Major League Baseball's Playing Rules Committee adopted a number of changes to the language of the Official Baseball Rules that took effect in the 2008 season.

Rule 4.05 in Official Baseball rules now requires that a coach, until being passed by a batted ball, must position himself no closer to home plate than the front edge of the coach's box and no closer to fair territory than the edge of the coach's box closest to the field.

Major League's General Managers also adopted a new coach's helmet rule, which mandates all coaches "on the lines" shall wear a protective helmet.

The VFW uses Official Baseball Rules authorized by the Department of SD Baseball Chairman; therefore VFW coaches shall be mandated to observe the new coaching box rules as well as wearing a protective helmet. Coaches may wear a no-flap; a single flap or a double flap helmet. The type of helmet shall be a personal choice of the coach. MLB will not mandate the type of helmet nor shall the VFW dictate the type of helmet a coach wishes to wear while in the coaching box.

Helmet Rule Violations: Umpires are instructed not to put the ball into play and to warn the coach on wearing a protective helmet. If the coach refuses to wear a helmet he shall be ejected from the game.

Coaching Box Rule Violations: Umpires are instructed to warn the coaches on the rule. Coaches who fail to observe the rules shall be warned. Continued violation may result in the coach being ejected.

These rules are a result of a minor league baseball coach being killed in 2007. These rules are a safety rule. If coaches are confused as to what type of helmet to wear, we suggest they watch any Major League or Minor League ballgame and follow the lead of the professional coaches "on the lines."