



## Rose City Softball Association Casual Profanity Rule (To include verbal unsportsmanlike language)

Casual Profanity pertains to expletives and verbal unsportsmanlike language not directed at umpires or opposing players, but is most likely a player uttering them out of frustration. This type of behavior is penalized by "outs" being declared against the offending team.

- A. If the team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter will be declared out.
- B. If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat he/she will be called out.
- C. If the defensive team commits the act, the first person to bat in the next inning will be declared out.
- D. The outs will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation.
- E. If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning where the fielding team may not bat again, apply the ejection rule. If a team has an eligible substitute they can continue the game.
- F. A game may be ended by a casual profanity out!

The Casual Profanity-Verbal Unsportsmanlike Rule provides a lesser penalty for the gray area between accepted conduct and those situations where the offender must be ejected. This rule is to discourage the ball players from saying things others might feel are offensive. It has been discovered that the players will police themselves (and each other) after applying the rule a couple of times. How would you like to miss a turn at bat because a teammate cursed to air his frustrations?

Let's say a team has the bases loaded and the batter pops up to the infield. Immediately he/she lets out a profanity (fill in your favorite). What happens if the fielder catches the ball? The batter can't be called "OUT" because he/she already is. Therefore, the next batter is "OUT". If the batter would be first up in the next inning, that spot will be an "OUT". That's how the penalty is enforced.

If a defensive player "boots" the ball or drops the ball and utters a profanity where it can be heard by the people in the stands, the defense is penalized by having their first batter called out when they come to bat. This is the only aspect of the rule, along with the carry-over of the third out enforcement on the offensive team, where the rule will have to be enforced at a later time.

There are a few more clarifications to the Casual Profanity Rule. Profanity directed at others, especially umpires, will still result in ejection. If a player is called out on a bang-bang play at first and he/she utters a word under his/her breath as he/she runs by at first, the Casual Profanity Rule may not be enforced. That's because no one but the umpire and maybe the first base player has heard him/her.