

# BASEBALL

////////// **CASE** BOOK



2025



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## 2025 NFHS **BASEBALL CASE BOOK**

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**NFHS Publications**

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This Baseball Case Book is based on the 2025 NFHS Baseball Rules Book as adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The play situations and comments are based on questions that have been raised in administering the many thousands of interscholastic games played each season. State associations and allied groups conduct a series of baseball meetings at the beginning of each season and directors of these meetings have contributed reports, summaries and digests of discussions.

Interpretations: Rulings in this book are approved by the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee. They are official for situations as outlined.

Part One contains those plays that illustrate the changes and revisions.

Part Two covers all rules chapters. Plays that are new or revised are shaded.

## Case Book Format

For convenience, all players of the team in the field (not at bat) are given a number in accordance with the diagram on page 8 of the rules book. Any fielder is referred to as F with the fielder's proper number, i.e., F2 is the catcher and F9 is the right fielder.

A RUNNER is referred to as R. R1 indicates that the runner is on first base. R2 indicates that the runner is on second base. R3 indicates that the runner is on third base.

EACH BATTER is referred to as B. The first batter is B1 and, if there are two runners on base and one out, the batter is B4.

TEAMS are referred to as Team A and Team B.

When a RUNNER (including a BATTER-RUNNER) is touched with the ball by a fielder or with the glove or hand holding the ball, while such runner is not on a base, reference is made to a runner being TAGGED.

The statement "B1 HITS TO F5" means that the batter hits the ball in the direction of third base. It should not always be interpreted to mean a safe hit but merely a ball hit to fair ground.

When reference is made to a FOUL TIP, it always refers to a tipped ball that is caught by the catcher. If the ball is not caught, it is not a foul tip.

# PART I

## *Comments on the 2025 Rules Changes*

**Modified that resin, pine tar or any other drying agent is permitted on the bat in a specific area (1-3-2c1)** — This change allows the batter to have better control over a non-wood bat, so it does not slip out of the hands due to moisture or perspiration. It also makes the rule similar for wood bats and non-wood bats.

**Modified the definition of forfeiture (4-4-1c)** — There are seven criteria for forfeiture. This modification of the subsection "c" is the result when a coach, player or team personnel does not conform to the instructions of the umpire. An ejection is a serious violation of sportsmanship and game decorum. To aggravate the violation with a game forfeiture is egregious and contrary to the basic premise of education-based athletics.

## PART II

### Other Play Situations

#### Rule 1 Players, Field and Equipment

##### LINEUP CARDS

**1.1.2 SITUATION A:** During the pregame conference, head coaches of Team A and Team B hand in their lineup cards to the umpire-in-chief. Team A's starting players as well as all eligible substitutes are listed on the lineup card properly, but Team B's lineup card lists only starting players. During the first inning, Team B wishes to pinch hit with a substitute player who is not listed on the lineup card. **RULING:** The name and the shirt number of each eligible substitute shall be listed. The plate umpire accepts Team B's lineup card but encourages the head coach to list the eligible substitutes. Later, if Team B wishes to substitute a player who was not listed on the lineup card, it may do so without penalty.

**1.1.2 SITUATION B:** Team A's JV team has returned to join the varsity team during the sixth inning of the varsity game. A member of Team A's JV team attempts to enter the game as a pinch runner, but Team B's coach notices that Team A's JV player was not listed on the starting lineup card and argues the player should not be allowed to enter the game. **RULING:** There is no penalty if the names are not listed on the lineup card. However, it is suggested that all players who might possibly enter the game be listed with each player's proper name and shirt number.

**1.1.2 SITUATION C:** Team A's head coach in the third inning wants to substitute a player who is not on the original lineup card. **RULING:** There is no penalty if a coach wants to substitute a player whose name was not listed as a substitute on the lineup card. However, to help improve the pace of the game, all known substitutes, with each player's name and shirt number, shall be listed on the lineup card submitted at the pregame conference.

**1.1.3 SITUATION:** F4, Brown, listed in the batting order as wearing uniform No. 4, is wearing No. 21. After reaching base in the third inning, defensive coach appeals to the umpire that Brown is batting out of order. **RULING:** While Brown is in technical violation of the rule that requires that player's name, shirt number and position be on the lineup card, there is no penalty, since the batting-out-of-order rule requires only that the name be in the proper order. If the number was correct but the player batting was not Brown, the batting-out-of-order penalty would be imposed. Listing of both numbers and positions provides easier record keeping for scorekeepers and umpires.

##### THE FIELD

**1.1.4 SITUATION:** (a) F9 cuts in behind R1 for a throw from F1, who is in contact with the pitcher's plate, and receives a pickoff throw in foul territory; or (b) F3 has one foot in foul territory when receiving a pickoff throw; or (c) F3, in contact with the base, has one foot in foul territory as the throw is received. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (b) and (c). In (a), since F1 had not committed to pitching to the batter, the play is legal. In (a), (b), and (c) F3 is permitted to have a foot in foul territory, even at the time of the pitch. **COMMENT:** Rule 1-1-4 requires all defensive players except the catcher to be in fair territory at the time of the pitch. By definition and interpretation, at least one foot must be in fair territory to comply with this rule.

**1.2.2 SITUATION A:** Team A has constructed a new baseball field that has sports/field turf for the playing surface. The lines of the new field are "marked" in the school's official colors: black and red. **RULING:** This is legal since these lines are permanent.

**1.2.2 SITUATION B:** Team A has marked its foul lines with (a) maroon colored chalk, (b) a fire-hose painted maroon, or (c) wood 2 x 4s painted maroon. **RULING:** Illegal in (a); legal in (b) and (c) because these markings would be considered permanent in nature. **COMMENT:** Even though illegal in (a), the game will be played as scheduled. However, Team A should be informed that this is not a legal manner in which the lines shall be marked and the state association needs to be notified of this violation.

**1.2.4 SITUATION A:** Team A has small dugouts at its baseball field. In an effort to accommodate the teams, Team A uses chalk to draw temporary lines which extend parallel with the foul line and toward the outfield. **RULING:** This is legal.

**1.2.4 SITUATION B:** Team A increases the size of the dugouts at its field by installing permanent railings or walls in front of each dugout. The new structures are closer to the foul lines and home plate. **RULING:** This is legal. The rule does not pertain to permanent structures.

**1.2.4 SITUATION C:** Team A extends its dugout parallel to the foul line and toward the outfield but does not do the same for the visitor's dugout. **RULING:** This is illegal. The expansion of the dugout must be equally applied. If Team A is unable to extend the visitor's dugout, it cannot extend its own.

**1.2.4 SITUATION D:** In constructing new dugouts, the home team extends both facilities equal distance down both foul lines toward the outfield. **RULING:** This is appropriate.

**1.2.7 SITUATION:** The home team's coach purchases a commercially manufactured pitcher's mound pad for the team's field. The visiting team's coach protests the game because the team's pitchers are not accustomed to pitching on the artificial surface. **RULING:** The mound is legal if it meets the specifications under Rule 1-2-7. The protest would be invalid.



**MEDIA AREA**

**1.2.8 SITUATION A:** During the game, a photographer takes a position in foul territory beyond first base to take pictures. The umpire tells the photographer to return to dead-ball territory. The photographer indicates a preference for the umpire to designate an area in live-ball territory for an opportunity to shoot. **RULING:** If an area has not been established for the media prior to the game, then the media shall not be permitted on the field in live-ball area. A dead-ball area shall not be established once the game begins. The responsibility for a media dead-ball area is the home team's or game management. **COMMENT:** If, in the judgment of the umpire, the designated media area is not safely located or could be involved in play too much, the umpire has the authority to prohibit the use of the designated media area.

**1.2.8 SITUATION B:** Designated media areas are determined and properly chalked before the game. During the game (a) a thrown or batted ball touches or lands in an occupied designated media area, (b) a thrown ball passes through the designated media area in flight, (c) a fielder outside the designated media area reaches over the plane of the designated media area to catch an overthrow or foul fly ball. **RULING:** In (a) the ball is dead immediately. A designated media area is a dead-ball area, even though it may not be occupied. Therefore, it is recommended that designated media areas be located in an area least likely to affect play. In (b), the ball remains live. In (c), a fielder may reach into the designated media area or "break the plane" of the designated media area to field a ball, provided the ball has not touched the designated media area or anything inside the designated media area.

**DOUBLE FIRST BASE**

**1.2.9 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first base, B2 hits a fair ball to F8. B2, in rounding a double first base, (a) touches the colored part and continues to second, (b) touches the white part of the base and continues to second, (c) cannot make it to second safely and returns to first touching the colored part of the base. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b). In (c), the batter is out if tagged by defense before gaining the white part of the bag. The colored base should be used on the initial contact with the base. **COMMENT:** In (b), B2 is allowed to touch the white side of the base as long as the runner does not interfere with the fielder at first base.

**1.2.9 SITUATION B:** During the pregame conference the coach of the home team informs the umpire that a double first base is going to be used. The coach of the opposing team objects. **RULING:** A double first base is legal only by state association adoption. If the state association has adopted the double first base, it may be used.

**FIELD EQUIPMENT**

**1.2.12 SITUATION:** Prior to the game, coach of Team B notices that (a) the pitching mound is not regulation; or (b) there is an obstruction on fair ground 250 feet from home plate; or (c) all base bags and/or home plate are nonregulation.

At the end of the second inning with Team A leading 4-0, Team B's coach informs the umpire that the team is protesting the game because of those deficiencies. **RULING:** The umpire informs the coach that a protest for such reasons will not be considered once the game has started. **COMMENT:** Protests are allowed only when those state associations or allied groups have adopted that provision. Protests may no longer be honored because the game was played on a nonregulation facility. When a game is started on a nonregulation facility, the coaches have either by inference or by mutual agreement consented to play the game even though the field does not meet all rule specifications. There are many high school fields that are deficient in some part of the field requirements, but when coaches agree to play on such a field or the game is started, the nonregulation facility cannot be protested. (4-5-1, 10-2-3i)

**BALLS**

**1.3.1 SITUATION:** (a) The home team provides the umpire-in-chief with three new baseballs or (b) game management at a tournament or a playoff site provides the umpire-in-chief with three new baseballs. **RULING:** Legal in both (a) and (b). In fact, some leagues may have a rule that the visiting team will supply one new baseball and the home team will supply two. That would be legal, too, since the intent of the rule is to have enough baseballs to keep the game from being delayed when a ball is hit out of play.

**BATS**

**1.3.2 SITUATION A:** In the third inning, the batter comes to the plate with (a) a wood bat that has no certification mark; or (b) a non-wood bat with a visible certification mark; **RULING:** The wood bat, provided it is no thicker in diameter than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches or longer than 36 inches in length, is legal and is not required to be BBCOR-certified. All non-wood bats shall meet the BBCOR standard and shall be labeled with a completely visible silkscreen or permanent certification mark. Accordingly, the bat in (b) is legal if the BBCOR certification is completely visible.

**1.3.2 SITUATION B:** B1 appears at bat with a bat that is (a) wood, (b) aluminum, (c) bamboo, (d) composite, (e) fiberglass or (f) titanium. All have the BBCOR certification mark. **RULING:** Not needed in (a). Legal in (b) – (f).

**1.3.2 SITUATION C:** During the game, B1 enters the batter's box with a wood composite bat without the BBCOR certification mark, or a bat made of a grass, such as bamboo. The umpire-in-chief questions the coach. It is the coach's opinion that since the bats are partially made of wood, the bats are not subject to the BBCOR standard and do not require the BBCOR certification mark. **RULING:** The coach is incorrect. A bat is either a solid piece of wood or non-wood. Any bat that is not a solid piece of wood is considered a non-wood bat and is subject to the BBCOR requirements. The bat is illegal, B1 is out and the penalties of 4-1-3b are applied to the head coach.



**1.3.2 SITUATION D:** The batter enters the box with a non-wood bat (a) that has the BESR certification mark and appeared on the 2011 approved bat list, but does not have a BBCOR certification mark, or (b) that has a BBCOR certification mark. **RULING:** In (a), the bat is illegal and the penalty for an illegal bat shall apply, including the provisions of 4-1-3b applied to the head coach; in (b) the bat is legal for play.

**1.3.2 SITUATION E:** A batter enters batting box with an illegal bat in the first inning. The umpire detects the illegal bat. In the third inning, another player from the same team enters the box with an illegal bat and it is detected. In the fifth inning, a third player from the same team enters the box with an illegal bat and it is detected. **RULING:** For the offense in the first inning, the batter is out (7-4-1a) and the head coach is restricted to the dugout. For the offense in the third inning, the batter is out (7-4-1a) and the head coach is ejected. For the offense in the fifth inning, the batter is out (7-4-1a) and the person who is now acting as head coach is ejected.

**1.3.2 SITUATION F:** It is discovered that Player A (a) prior to entering the batter's box; (b) after entering the box; (c) after a base hit, is using a BBCOR certified bat that has pine tar at 19 inches from the base of the knob. **RULING:** In (a), the illegal bat is removed from the game. In (b), the batter is declared out and the illegal bat is removed from the game and the coach is restricted to the dugout. In (c), the batter is declared out; the illegal bat is removed from the game and all base runners return to previous occupied base and the coach is restricted to the dugout.

**1.3.4 SITUATION:** Team A is using a donut on a legal bat as a warmup device for on-deck batters. The umpire notices the donut fly off the barrel of the bat. The inside layer of the donut may have chipped away, making the device unsafe and illegal. Many devices that attach to bats are legal when new, but may become non-compliant due to excessive wear or damage. **RULING:** The device shall be declared illegal in its present state.

**1.3.5 SITUATION A:** The umpire notices that B1's bat has a "tacky" substance extending beyond the 18-inch limit (a) before B1 steps into the batter's box or (b) after B1 hits a long foul ball. **RULING:** In (a), B1 may obtain a legal bat without penalty. In (b), B1 would be declared out for using an illegal bat and the penalties of 4-1-3b are applied to the head coach.

**1.3.5 SITUATION B:** The first baseman hits a home run with the bases empty using a bat that, while otherwise legal, has a small crack in the barrel. The plate umpire notices the crack: (a) as the batter enters the box; or (b) when the defense complains before the next pitch that it is an illegal bat. **RULING:** In (a), the bat is illegal upon detection as the head coach had verified that all equipment was legal. The first baseman is declared out and the penalties of 4-1-3b are applied to the head coach. In (b), the home run stands. The bat will be removed from the game. If the same bat were subsequently to be used later in the game, it would be subject to the illegal bat rule.

**NOTE:** In (a), if the plate umpire feels that the damage to the bat was done during the course of play during that game, the bat may be removed from the game, and replaced with no penalty to the offense. If the same bat were subsequently used later in the game, it would be subject to the illegal bat rule.

**1.3.5 SITUATION C:** Bases are loaded with two outs, B6 hits a home run, and while B6 is circling the bases F2 hands the bat to the umpire-in-chief to examine the barrel. It is discovered that the bat's end cap has been removed and the bat has been stuffed with ping-pong balls. **RULING:** The bat is illegal, B6 is called for the third out and no runs score and the penalties of 4-1-3b are applied to the head coach. (1-3-5, 4-1-3b, 7-4-1a)

#### GLOVES/MITTS

**1.3.6 SITUATION A:** F1 prepares to pitch and the offensive team protests that the pitcher is wearing a multi-colored pitcher's glove. **RULING:** The multi-colored glove is legal, as long as it does not include the colors white or gray, and it is determined not to be distracting.

**1.3.6 SITUATION B:** F3 catches a routine fair fly ball. The offensive coach in the first-base coaching box notices something dark on F3's glove. After bringing it to the attention of the base umpire, it is discovered that F3 (a) has excess glove conditioning lotion or (b) has tacky pine tar on the glove near the pocket area. **RULING:** Legal in (a), illegal in (b). The runner will be awarded third base. (8-3-3b)

**1.3.6 SITUATION C:** F9 catches a fly ball with a first baseman's mitt. While leaving the playing field after the third out, the coach of Team B detects this. **RULING:** There is not a distinction between a glove or mitt. Therefore, the catch is legal. Gloves/mitts that meet the maximum specifications are legal.

**1.3.6 SITUATION D:** F1 prepares to pitch and is wearing a glove that has (a) white laces, (b) gray piping and (c) manufacturer's white logo. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), upon discovery, the glove must be removed from the game. The pitcher may resume wearing the glove if the white and/or gray is covered up or removed. The umpires shall not allow the game to be delayed while the equipment is being fixed.

**1.3.6 SITUATION E:** F1's glove is (a) red, (b) green, (c) multi-color with no white or gray or (d) black with white laces. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (b) and (c); in (d), upon discovery, the glove must be removed from the game. The pitcher may resume wearing the glove if the white and/or gray is covered up or removed. The umpires shall not allow the game to be delayed while the equipment is being fixed.

**EXCEPTION:** Any glove ruled distracting by the umpire-in-chief would not be allowed for the pitcher.

**1.3.6 SITUATION F:** F1 is wearing a glove that contains a white manufacturer's logo. The glove has not been discovered by the umpires. B1 bunts to the pitcher, who fields the ball and throws B1 out at first base. The offensive coach brings the glove to attention of the umpire-in-chief and wants the penalty for an illegal glove enforced. **RULING:** Although a pitcher is not allowed to wear a glove that includes white and/or gray, the only penalty is that the glove shall be removed from play upon discovery. There is no additional penalty (base award).



**LOOSE EQUIPMENT**

**1.3.7 SITUATION A:** With R2 on second base and one out, B3 gets a base hit line drive to short center field. As R2 advances to third base, F8 throws to F5 in an attempt to put out R2. The ball gets by F5 and is prevented from entering the dugout by a shinguard left on the field by the defense. **RULING:** The plate umpire, based on the circumstances of the play, judges that the ball would have entered the dead-ball area had it not been for the shinguard left outside the dugout. The umpire awards R2 home and B3 second base.

**1.3.7 SITUATION B:** B1 hits a high pop-up and Team A's F2 stumbles over some batting helmets near Team B's dugout and misplays the ball and it becomes foul. **RULING:** The umpire may award the out, may award base(s) or may return runner(s) of Team B's because of Team B's loose equipment near the dugout. Umpires are expected to enforce this rule for equipment that should not be in live-ball area. An example would be bats or helmets of the defensive team near a dugout or catcher's equipment or gloves of the offensive team near a dugout.

**UNIFORMS**

**1.4.2 SITUATION A:** Team A wears the new vest-type jersey. The school's colors are red and white. Its road uniform top is red, with a white undershirt. The pitcher is wearing this uniform. (a) The sleeve of the white shirt does not extend beyond the pitcher's elbow or (b) the pitcher is wearing a long-sleeved, white-compression shirt that extends beyond the elbow. **RULING:** Legal in (a), illegal in (b).

**1.4.2 SITUATION B:** Team A wears its gray road traditional sleeved jerseys. The sleeves of the jersey extend beyond the pitcher's elbow. **RULING:** This is an illegal jersey for the pitcher.

**1.4.4 SITUATION A:** In (a), the coach and/or the player-coach wears a jacket while in the coach's box; or (b) players other than the pitcher request to wear jacket over their uniforms while on base. **RULING:** Legal in (a), illegal in (b). If players other than the pitcher request a jacket while running the bases, the request shall be denied. Jackets are also prohibited on defense.

**1.4.4 SITUATION B:** A team's uniforms have commercial advertising. **RULING:** There is no NFHS rule prohibiting advertising on uniforms. State associations may have rules that do prohibit advertising on uniforms.

**1.4.4 SITUATION C:** Five team members are wearing a commemorative patch on their arms. Four other players are wearing the same patch on their chests. Is this legal? **RULING:** No, patches must be placed and worn uniformly.

**1.4.4 SITUATION D:** For the upcoming season, team captains vote to dedicate the season in memory of two previous players. Two different patches are designed that meet NFHS specifications. Are these legal to be worn on uniforms? **RULING:** Yes, if approved by the state association.

**1.4.4 SITUATION E:** Team A arrives at the field and the American Flag has been sublimated on the entire uniform jersey. **RULING:** The uniform is illegal. **COM-**

**MENT:** The American flag is limited to no larger than 2 inches x 3 inches and may be worn on each uniform item. The game shall be played and a report from the officials should be filed at the state association office.

**1.4.4 SITUATION F:** Team B has an American Flag located above the number on the back of the jersey. The dimensions of the patch are 2 inches x 3 inches. **RULING:** The uniform is legal. All uniforms must be compliant with Rule 1-4.

**BATTING HELMETS**

**1.5.1 SITUATION A:** In (a), B1, upon reaching first base, adjusts the helmet by lifting it, but not above the temples, and replaces it; or (b) B1 doubles and upon reaching second, removes the helmet, tossing it above the head in celebration; or (c) the bat attendant, without a helmet, leaves the dugout to retrieve a ball between home plate and the backstop. **RULING:** In (a), there is no violation because the helmet was not considered to have been removed. In (b), because the helmet was deliberately removed, the player is to be penalized as provided. In (c), bat boys and shaggers shall wear helmets when in live-ball area, even if the ball is dead. After being warned, any subsequent violation could result in that individual not being allowed on the field.

**1.5.1 SITUATION B:** In (a) after hitting a home run, B4 removes the helmet upon touching second base or (b) R3 scores and removes the helmet on the way to the dugout while R2 advances to third, or (c) R1 is called out sliding into second and as R1 leaves the field and play continues, R1 removes the helmet. **RULING:** In (a), there is no penalty because the ball is dead. In (b) and (c), the player who removes the helmet shall be ejected if a team warning already had been issued.

**1.5.1 SITUATION C:** Between innings, the umpire notices that a player in the coach's box is not wearing a batting helmet. **RULING:** The umpire shall have the player wear a batting helmet immediately. There is no penalty, since the ball was dead. If the ball had been live, the umpire would have issued a team warning to the coach of the involved team member. Subsequent players who may violate the rule while the ball is live shall be ejected.

**1.5.1 SITUATION D:** B1 receives a walk (not intentional). On B1's way to first base, B1 removes the helmet to give it to the on-deck batter. **RULING:** This is a delayed dead-ball situation. At the end of playing action, B1 and B1's coach are warned that subsequent violators shall be ejected. B1 is not declared out. If a team warning previously had been given to that team, B1 would be ejected and replaced by a legal substitute.

**1.5.1 SITUATION E:** Non-adult bat/ball shaggers appear in live-ball area not wearing a helmet while (a) the ball is live or (b) the ball is dead. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the bat/ball shaggers have committed a violation. Batters, runners, on-deck batters, players/students who occupy coaches' boxes and retired runners are required to keep their helmets on in live-ball area while the ball is live. Non-adult bat/ball shaggers are required to wear a batting helmet whenever in live-ball area, even if the ball is dead.



**1.5.1 SITUATION F:** The visiting team wants to use non-adult bat/ball shaggers, but does not have any helmets for them. The coach secures a couple of helmets from the team's equipment. The helmets are noticeably incorrect in size, but the coach claims some protection is better than none, and that these helmets meet the intent of the rule. **RULING:** The coach is incorrect. All helmets should fit reasonably well. A helmet that does not fit properly may not protect the wearer. Unless the coach can secure helmets that fit, the helmets shall not be worn and the bat/ball shaggers are prohibited from being in the live-ball area.

#### FACE MASKS

**1.5.2 SITUATION:** A player wants to wear a face mask when batting. The coach provides (a) a helmet with attached mask that is commercially manufactured, came assembled from the manufacturer and is NOCSAE approved, (b) a football helmet with a lineman's mask, (c) NOCSAE helmet that has been drilled out by the school shop instructor and assembled, but not NOCSAE nor manufacturer approved, (d) NOCSAE approved helmet and a face mask that requires assembly or (e) non-traditional face mask or eye protection attached to NOCSAE approved helmet which is NOCSAE and helmet manufacturer approved. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (d) and (e). Illegal in (b) and (c). In (d), even though assembly is required, as long as the face mask is designed specifically for that helmet, there is no violation. **COMMENT:** In all cases, the umpire has the final say as to whether equipment is legal and/or minimizes risk to the player(s).

#### CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT

**1.5.4 SITUATION A:** The home team's catcher takes a position behind the plate in the top of the first inning with a skull cap helmet-and-mask combination. **RULING:** This is illegal. A catcher will be required to wear head protection with double ear flaps that meets the NOCSAE standard. The catcher, F2, will be told to get a legal helmet-and-mask combination. If F2 does not comply, F2 will be ejected.

**1.5.4 SITUATION B:** The visiting team catcher has a hockey-style helmet. **RULING:** This is legal. The hockey-style helmet is legal, provided it meets the NOCSAE standard.

**1.5.4 SITUATION C:** F1 and a player are playing catch. F1 begins throwing hard. The player playing catch with the pitcher is standing up. Is that player required to wear a catcher's mask? **RULING:** No. Until a player playing catch with the pitcher or other player or substitute assumes a crouch position, the player is not required to wear protective equipment, no matter how hard the pitcher throws.

**1.5.4 SITUATION D:** The visiting team's catcher's one-piece hockey-style mask breaks, causing the catcher to use a traditional Brewer mask-and-Acme helmet combination, which have not been tested together. **RULING:** The umpire requests that the visiting coach provides documentation that the Brewer/Acme components were tested together. The coach is unable to comply. The Brewer mask-and-Acme

helmet combination is not allowed to be used. The catcher's helmet-and-mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard of being tested together.

**1.5.4 SITUATION E:** Prior to bottom of the first inning, the plate umpire notices that Team B's catcher has a face mask with an eye shield that has a light blue tint. **RULING:** This is considered illegal as the eye shield cannot have a presence of tint.

**1.5.4 SITUATION F:** The visiting team's catcher is wearing sunglasses with the presence of tint under the hockey-style catcher's mask. **RULING:** This is legal.

#### HEAD AND FACE PROTECTOR

**1.5.5 SITUATION A:** The umpire notices F6 is wearing a head or face protector with a glazed surface. **RULING:** Illegal, defensive players are allowed to wear a head or face protector as long as the outer surface is non-glare.

**1.5.5 SITUATION B:** The umpire notices F9 is wearing a non-glare head or face protector. **RULING:** Legal, the rule allows defensive players to wear non-glare head or face protector.

**1.5.5 SITUATION C:** F1 is wearing a non-glare hard skull cap. The offensive team coach complains to the umpire-in-chief that it is illegal to wear a skull cap. **RULING:** It is legal for any defensive player to wear a head or face protector as long as the outer surface is non-glare and does not require dual earflaps.

#### PLAYER EQUIPMENT

**1.5.7 SITUATION:** R1 is at first base and the outfield is shading left field. After the pitch, F2 attempts to pick off R1, but overthrows F3. The ball rolls to the outfield fence after touching F9's glove. R1 is between first and second. R1 continues to third and attempts to score, but is thrown out on a throw by F9. Before the next pitch, F9's glove is determined to be illegal by the umpire. **RULING:** The award for use of an illegal glove is two bases from the time the ball touched the illegal glove. Therefore, R1 would have been awarded third base. Since R1 advanced beyond the base that would have been awarded, R1's out stands and the infraction is ignored. The illegal glove shall be replaced.

**1.5.8 SITUATION A:** F4, having broken a wrist the previous week, has a hard cast on the catching hand. The cast is not covered. **RULING:** F4 will not be allowed to participate until the cast is padded with at least ½ inch of closed-cell, slow-recovery rubber or other material of the same minimum thickness with similar properties.

**1.5.8 SITUATION B:** The shortstop's arm cast is covered with ½ inch of closed-cell, slow recovery rubber. **RULING:** With inspection and approval by the umpire-in-chief, the shortstop may play.

**1.5.8 SITUATION C:** The catcher comes to bat with a knee brace that, while padded, still has an exposed hinge. **RULING:** This is legal. Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production do not require any additional padding.

**1.5.8 SITUATION D:** The visiting team's head coach, while in the third-base coaching box, has an elbow brace with a pointed hinge at the end of the brace. **RULING:** This is legal. Braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production do not require any additional padding.

**1.5.8 SITUATION E:** During the pregame meeting between both head coaches and the umpire, Team A's coach shows a letter from the local state association allowing one of its players with a forefinger prosthesis to play. **RULING:** Both the umpire and Team B's coach accept the letter from the state association because in the association's opinion it is no more dangerous than the corresponding human body part and does not place an opponent at a disadvantage.

**1.5.8 SITUATION F:** The umpire notices that F3's glove appears unusual. Upon further inspection, the glove is really a basket-shaped, glove-like prosthesis designed for F3 while the player is playing defense. **RULING:** The coach has a letter from the player's physician that the prosthesis was legally prescribed. The umpire advises that the prosthesis cannot be used because the local state association did not approve it and must be replaced if possible. If the ball is touched with the illegal glove, the offensive team has the choice of taking the result of the play or having the award for use of an illegal glove or mitt. (8-3-3a, b, c)

**1.5.8 SITUATION G:** Team A's coach inserts a substitute, who is in a wheelchair, to pinch hit. **RULING:** Because this accommodation may heighten the risk to the substitute – and other players – the substitute should not be allowed to enter the game. **COMMENT:** These situations should be reviewed and approved by each state association.

### JEWELRY

**1.5.12 SITUATION:** The umpire observes F2 wearing a loose-fitting bracelet. Examination shows that the bracelet describes F2's diabetic condition. **RULING:** The umpire will allow the medical bracelet. **COMMENT:** Jewelry is allowed. However, if the umpire feels that the jewelry is harmful to the wearer, the opponent or inappropriate in any way, the umpire will require the wearer to remove it.

### PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

**1.6.1 SITUATION A:** Players from a team are wearing information about defensive shifts/offensive plays/and other game instructions on (a) the belt; or (b) the wrist or forearm. **RULING:** In (a), this is illegal and the placards must be removed. In (b), this is legal provided if worn by the pitcher, it is not white, gray, distracting or worn on the pitching arm.

**1.6.1 SITUATION B:** The pitcher is wearing a wristband on the non-throwing arm with defensive/pitch information attached. In (a), the wristband is a single solid color that is not white/gray, not distracting, and has a white card listing pitch choices. In (b), the wristband is a single solid color that is not white/gray, not distracting, and has a red card listing pitch choices. **RULING:** In (a), the equipment is illegal and

must be removed unless the white card is covered by a flap that matches the color of the wristband. In (b), the equipment is legal since the card is not white/gray.

**1.6.2 SITUATION A:** Team A's head coach and the pitching coach both want to have access to the electronic communication device to communicate with the team's catcher. **RULING:** No, only one communication device is allowed in the dugout/bench area. Either the head coach or the pitching coach is allowed access to the device.

**1.6.2 SITUATION B:** Team A uses a one-way electronic communication device to communicate (a) from the dugout to the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches; (b) from the third-base coach's box to the batter; (c) from the dugout to another defensive player(s) besides the catcher. **RULING:** Legal in (a); Illegal in (b) and (c). (3-2-5 PENALTY)

**1.6.2 SITUATION C:** Both teams are using a one-way electronic communication device to communicate from the dugout to the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Team A's communication device stops working in the second inning. Is Team B allowed to continue using its electronic communication device? **RULING:** Yes. Since one-way electronic communication devices are not required, either or both teams are allowed to use them to communicate with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches.

**1.6.2 SITUATION D:** Team A's catcher is wearing a one-way electronic communication device on the wrist. In the sixth inning, the catcher notices it is not working. (a) The catcher goes to the bench and quickly exchanges the faulty wristband for one that works correctly; (b) Team A's coach requests a time-out and visits with the catcher near home plate as they attempt to fix the electronic equipment. **RULING:** Legal in (a). The team is charged with a defensive conference in (b).

## Rule 2 Playing Terms and Definitions

### BALL, BASE ON BALLS, INTENTIONAL BASE ON BALLS, LODGED BALL

**2.4.2 SITUATION:** B1 receives ball four and B1 or a teammate or coach of Team A immediately requests time. **RULING:** The umpire shall ignore the request and order B1 to go to first base, after which a player or coach of Team A may request time.

**2.4.4 SITUATION:** A pitched ball is uncaught by the catcher and gets stuck in/on the backstop padding. Prior to the catcher getting to the backstop, the ball falls to the ground. **RULING:** Lodged ball. When the ball becomes stuck or stops and does not fall or roll, immediately it becomes a lodged ball.

### FAIR BALL/BASE HIT

**2.5.1 SITUATION A:** B1 hits a fair line drive that is touched in flight by F4, after which it hits an umpire standing behind F4. The ball is then caught by F6 before it touches the ground. **RULING:** B1 is not out. The ball remains live because it has



been touched by a defensive player before it hit the umpire. Any batted ball that stays in play cannot be caught for an out if it hits an umpire.

**2.5.1 SITUATION B:** B1 hits a ground ball that rolls along third baseline and touches both outside and inside the foul line. The ball bounces directly over third or touches third. It lands on foul or fair ground. **RULING:** The ball is fair.

**2.5.1 SITUATION C:** B1 hits a fly ball that comes down on foul ground (a) between home and first or (b) beyond first. In each case, before it has touched anyone, it rolls to fair ground first, where it is then fielded or lies on the ground. **RULING:** In (a), it is a fair ball. In (b), it is a foul ball.

**2.5.1 SITUATION D:** B1 hits a line drive that is inside the foul line when it passes over the fence in front of the stands but which is blown by the wind or curves so it hits the back of the stands outside the foul line extended. **RULING:** This is a fair ball.

**2.5.1 SITUATION E:** The batter hits the ball, drops the bat and it unintentionally hits the ball a second time in (a) fair territory and is either touched by a fielder and/or comes to rest in fair territory; (b) foul territory and is either touched by a fielder and/or comes to rest in either fair or foul territory; or (c) fair territory and is either touched by a fielder and/or comes to rest in foul territory. **RULING:** In (a), the ball is fair. In (b) and (c), the ball is foul.

### CATCH

**2.9.1 SITUATION A:** B1 hits a ground ball to F5. The throw to F3 is wide causing F3 to stretch for the catch. The ball arrives in time, but as F3 attempts to regain balance, F3 drops the ball. Is the runner out? **RULING:** Attempts to regain balance after receiving the ball are considered a part of the act of catching; and if the fielder does not come up with possession of the ball, it is not considered a catch. In all such cases, judgment is a factor. If the ball is clearly in the fielder's possession and if some other new movement not related to the catch is then made, and if the ball is fumbled during such new movement, the umpire will declare it a catch followed by a fumble.

**2.9.1 SITUATION B:** B1 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to first. F3 juggles the ball so that it rolls up the arm and is clamped to F3's body by an elbow or forearm when B1 touches first. **RULING:** B1 is safe. It is not a catch until the ball is secured by the bare hand or glove hand.

**2.9.1 SITUATION C:** B1 hits a fly ball to F8. F8 gets the ball in the hands but it is dropped (a) when F8 falls to the ground and rolls over; or (b) when F8 collides with another fielder or a wall; or (c) when F8 starts to throw to the infield. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), it is not a catch. In (c), it is a legal catch if an umpire rules that the ball was dropped as the fielder voluntarily removed the ball from the glove. **COMMENT:** The playing field includes both fair and foul playing territory. Any other areas beyond the playing field are defined as being outside the playing field (dead-ball area). Any wall, fence, barricade, rope, wire, marked or imaginary line is considered a part of the playing field. Any areas beyond those boundaries

are outside the playing field. A fielder's status, generally, is determined by the location of the fielder's feet, and when a foot is touching a boundary line or the playing field inside the boundary line, the fielder has not left the playing field, even though the fielder's other foot might be in contact with the area beyond the boundary line. Umpires may use the following guidelines to determine the status of a fielder following the catch of a batted or thrown live ball: (1) It is a catch when the defensive player has one or both feet touching the playing field, or with both feet in flight prior to touching any dead-ball area. (2) If after making the catch both feet are entirely in a dead-ball area, the ball becomes dead. (3) If the ball is caught after the fielder has established position outside the playing field, it is not a legal catch. Also remember that whenever a dead ball follows a catch, there are instances when one or more runners may be awarded bases. (5-1-1i, 8-3-3d)

**2.9.1 SITUATION D:** B1 hits a two hopper back to the pitcher. F1 gloves the batted ball but cannot get the ball out of the glove. F1 quickly removes the glove with ball that is securely stuck inside the webbing of the glove and shovels the glove to F3 who is in contact with first base. F3 catches the glove with the ball in it, just before B1 touches first base. Is B1 out? **RULING:** B1 is out, because F3 had secure possession of the glove and ball.

### CONFERENCES

**2.10.2 SITUATION:** Five minutes prior to the start of the game the home plate umpire calls both team representatives together for the pregame conference. (a) The home team sends out the assistant coach. (b) The home team sends out the team captain. (c) The visiting team sends out the head coach and team captain. **RULING:** (a) Illegal, unless the head coach is not on-site or incapacitated and the assistant coach has assumed the responsibilities of the head coach. (b) Illegal, while team captains are permitted to attend the pregame conference, they do not replace the head coach. Head coaches must attend the pregame conference if available. (c) Legal.

### FOUL BALL

**2.16.1 SITUATION A:** On a count of 1-ball, 2-strikes, B1 hits a fly ball down the right-field line. While the ball is in the air, the umpire inadvertently declares 'foul ball'; (a) F9 catches the ball in flight, (b) the ball falls to the ground in fair territory, (c) the ball falls to the ground in foul territory. **RULING:** (a) The batter is out and the ball remains live, (b) and (c) the ball is immediately dead as soon as it touches the ground; the batter returns to bat with a count of 1-2.

**2.16.1 SITUATION B:** On a count of 1-ball, 2-strikes, B1 hits a ground ball down the third-base line and the umpire inadvertently declares "foul ball." F5 fields the ball in fair territory and throws to F3. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately once it hits the ground; B1 returns to bat with a count of 1-2.



**2.16.1 SITUATION C:** B1 hits a fly ball down the left-field line. F7 goes over near the foul line and is in fair territory when the defensive player reaches over the foul line and drops an attempt to catch the ball. **RULING:** Even though F7 is in fair territory when F7 first touches the ball, the ball is foul because it is the position of the ball and not the player that determines whether a ball is fair or foul.

**2.16.1 SITUATION D:** B1's bunt rolls up the first-base line where it hits B1's bat that was lying on the ground in fair territory. The ball deflects into foul territory. Is the ball fair or foul? **RULING:** The ball is foul, provided the bat was not placed there intentionally. The bat is considered to be part of the playing field. (2-5-1, 2-8-1, 8-4-1d) **COMMENT:** Determining when the ball becomes dead on a foul is sometimes tricky. With R2 on second and no one out, consider the following: (1) An attempted bunt on third strike by B2 is a foul fly that is caught by F2. B2 would have been out without the catch, but because of the catch, F1 is not credited with a strikeout and R2 may attempt to advance after the catch. (2) The first strike on B2 is a result of a foul fly that comes down near the backstop with F2 attempting a catch. While reaching into the field of play a spectator deflects it and (a) prevents the catch or (b) F2 gets the deflected ball in the glove and holds it. In (a) and (b), the ball shall be dead at the moment of spectator interference. B2 is declared out and R2 will be awarded the bases R2 would have reached in the judgment of the umpire had there been no spectator interference (8-3-3e). (3) B2 hits high foul fly to right field. It is not caught. R2, who was on second base, has passed third before the ball becomes dead. R2 must return to second. (4) A pitch touches the bat of B2. In (a), it goes directly to F2's glove, then to F2's protector and rebounds into F2's hand or glove or (b) it goes directly to F2's protector or mask and rebounds into F2's hand or glove. In (a), it is a foul tip and a catch. In (b), the ball becomes dead when it touches the body of F2 and is an uncaught foul. In a related situation, a foul ball rises and comes down to strike the catcher's mask or protector and then rebounds into F2's hand. It is a caught foul. B2 is out and the ball remains live. Care must be taken with premature rendering a "foul ball" situation considering that a foul call renders the ball dead that touches the ground. (5-1-1d, 7-2-1d)

**2.16.1 SITUATION E:** While B1 is batting, B1 hits the ball and the ball strikes B1's body (a) while B1 is in the batter's box, (b) when B1 is outside the batter's box. **RULING:** (a) declared a foul ball, (b) runner is declared out. In both situations, the ball is immediately dead once it touches the batter.

#### FOUL BALL/FOUL TIP

**2.16.2 SITUATION A:** B1 swings and tips the ball and a) the ball goes directly to the catcher's glove and then rebounds to the catcher's chest protector, then the ball is caught by the catcher; or b) the ball goes directly to the catcher's chest protector and then is caught by the catcher. **RULING:** In a), the pitch is a strike and remains live. In b), this is a foul ball.

**2.16.2 SITUATION B:** With R1 on first base, B2 attempts to hit on the first pitch, which goes directly from B2's bat to F2's mitt, then rebounds to F1, who catches the ball in flight as R1 is advancing. **RULING:** This is a foul ball. The ball is dead and R1 returns to first base.

**2.16.2 SITUATION C:** With R1 on first base, B2 has a one-and-one count and attempts to bunt. The ball goes from B2's bat high into the air with a perceptible arc to F2's glove, and rebounds toward F1, who catches the ball while R1 is advancing. **RULING:** This is not a foul tip, but a caught foul fly. R1 is in jeopardy of being out if R1 does not return to properly retouch first base.

#### INFIELD FLY RULE

**2.19 SITUATION:** With one out, R2 is on second and R1 is on first when B4 hits an infield fly. Base runners believe there are two outs and start running as soon as the ball is hit. F4 fails to catch the infield fly and both runners cross home plate. **RULING:** B4 is out for hitting an infield fly, but the runs count since runners may advance at their own risk.

#### INNINGS

**2.20.2 SITUATION:** With two outs and R3 on third, B4 has a count of three balls and two strikes. The pitch hits the ground in front of home plate and bounces over it. B4 swings and misses. R3 crosses home plate, but B4 makes no effort to go to first. F2 catches the bounce and rolls the ball toward the pitcher's mound and all infielders leave the diamond. **RULING:** If the batter gives up and enters the dugout or other dead-ball area, the batter is out. The run would not count.

#### INTERFERENCE

**2.21.1 SITUATION A:** With R2 on second base, B2 hits a grounder to F6. Just as F6 starts to throw to first base, R2 on the way to third base, yells at F6, which startles F6, causing the defensive player to throw the ball over F3's head into dead-ball territory. **RULING:** R2 is called out immediately for verbal interference, and if in the judgment of the umpire the interference prevented a possible double play, B2 also would be called out.

**2.21.1 SITUATION B:** R3 is on third and R2 on second. B4 hits down the left-field line. R3 scores, but R2 maliciously runs over F5 after R3 touches home plate. **RULING:** Interference because of malicious contact. The ball is dead immediately. R3's run counts because R3 scored before the interference. R2 is called out and ejected because of malicious contact. The batter-runner shall be returned to the base last legally touched before interference occurred.

**2.21.1 SITUATION C:** With two outs, B3 strikes out, but F2 drops the ball, which rebounds into B3's base path. As B3 begins running to first, B3 accidentally kicks ball. **RULING:** B3 is not guilty of interference and the ball remains live, unless in the umpire's judgment B3 intentionally kicked the ball. (8-4-1a)

**2.21.2 SITUATION:** With R2 on second base, the umpire inadvertently interferes with catcher's throw back to F1 and R2 advances to third base. **RULING:** If, in the umpire's judgment, umpire interference permitted R2 to reach third base safely, the umpire shall send R2 back to second base. (5-1-2c)

### OBSTRUCTION

**2.22.1 SITUATION A:** R1 attempts to steal second. F2, upon receiving the pitch, throws a pop-up to F6. F5 yells "get back, get back." R1 thinks B2 has hit a pop-up and starts back to first where the runner is tagged out. **RULING:** This is verbal obstruction and R1 shall be awarded second base.

**2.22.1 SITUATION B:** B1 hits the ball into the gap. B1 rounds first and heads to second base. F6 blocks the base (a) while the outfielder still has the ball, (b) after F6 catches the ball, or (c) the ball is in motion from the outfield and F6 will probably make a play on B1. **RULING:** Obstruction in (a); legal in (b); obstruction in (c) if F6 denies access to the base without possession of the ball.

**2.22.1 SITUATION C:** A runner is advancing to score when F7 throws home. F2 completely blocks home plate with the lower leg/knee while (a) in possession of the ball or (b) while juggling and attempting to secure the ball or (c) before the ball has reached F2. **RULING:** Legal in (a); obstruction in (b) and (c) if the catcher denied access to home plate prior to securely possessing the ball.

### PITCH

**2.28.3 SITUATION A:** R3 is on third and R1 on first with no outs. F1 contacts the pitcher's plate and assumes the set position stance. As F1 begins the stretch, R1 advances toward second base attempting to steal. F1 realizes R1 is stealing but does not throw to second, fearing that R3 will break for home and score. F1 completes the stretch, coming to a pause with the ball in both hands in front of the body. R1 reaches second and rounds it, after which F1 delivers the ball to B3, who fouls a pitch into the stands. **RULING:** R1 is allowed to remain on second because the runner was there prior to the time of the pitch. The definition of "time of the pitch" determines the base to which R1 is entitled.

**2.28.3 SITUATION B:** R3 is on third base with two outs. F1 contacts the pitcher's plate and assumes the wind-up position with the glove hand in front of the body and F1's pitching hand at the side. As F1 brings the pitching hand to the glove hand, R3 takes off for home. F1 steps legally off the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot and throws to F2 to tag out R3. **RULING:** This is not a balk. With the pitcher's glove hand in front of the body and the pitching hand by the side, the act of bringing the two hands together does not constitute the "time of the pitch." The out stands.

**2.28.3 SITUATION C:** With R3 on third base, F1 steps on the pitcher's plate to take a sign from F2. After taking the sign, F1 brings both hands up together in front of the body and then stops to adjust the ball. **RULING:** This is balk. R3 is awarded home. The time of the pitch occurred when F1 moved both arms. **COMMENT:** What is the time of the pitch for the (a) windup or (b) set position?

For the windup position, the "time of the pitch" occurs when the pitcher (a) after stepping onto the pitcher's plate, with both hands in front of the body first starts any movement of the arm(s) or leg(s) prior to delivering the pitch; (b) with both hands at the side, the pitcher first starts any movement with both arms or the non-pivot foot prior to delivering the pitch; (c) with either hand in front of the body and the other hand at the side, after bringing the hands together, the pitcher first starts any movement of the arm(s) or leg(s) prior to delivering the pitch. In (b), it occurs the instant the pitcher, after coming to a complete and discernible stop, starts any movement with arm(s) and/or leg(s) that commits the pitcher to pitch.

### FORCE PLAY

**2.29.3 SITUATION:** With one out and R1 on first base, B3 hits a fly ball to short left field. R1 rounds second, but retreats toward first base when R1 thinks the ball will be caught. The ball drops, but F7 retrieves the ball and throws it to second base. R1 is between first and second. **RULING:** R1 is out, as the force was reinstated when R1 retreated past second base.

### APPEAL PLAY

**2.29.6 SITUATION A:** B1 hits a ground ball to F5, who throws the ball into the dugout. B1 misses first base while advancing to second. The coach of the offensive team says an appeal cannot be honored because the act of throwing the ball into a dead-ball area was a play. **RULING:** An appeal can be made for the missed base by the defensive team. The throw by F5 was part of the initial play and did not end the team's right to appeal.

**2.29.6 SITUATION B:** Following a base hit by B2, the visiting team wishes to appeal R1 missing third base as R1 advanced to home. After all playing action is over, the pitcher throws the ball to F5 while claiming that R1 missed the base. F5 is not watching and the throw goes into a dead-ball area. **RULING:** After B2 has been awarded two bases, the visiting team may now verbally appeal R1's missed base. Because an appeal is not a play, the visiting team retains its ability to appeal the baserunning error.

### SLIDE

**2.32.1 SITUATION:** With R1 at first base, a ground ball is hit to F6, who throws to F4 covering second. R1 slides late at second, stays in the baseline, but R1 makes contact with F4 who is in front of the base, causing F4 to overthrow first base. **RULING:** Providing the slide is legal and the contact is not malicious, there is no violation.

**2.32.2 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first base, B2 hits a ground ball to F4, who makes a throw to F6 in an effort to turn a double play. R1 (a) slides directly into second base, (b) does not slide directly to the base, but slides or runs away from F6. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the actions are legal.



**2.32.2 SITUATION B:** R3 is on third base and R1 is on first base with no outs. A ground ball is hit to F6, who throws to F4 at second base. R1 slides out of the base path in an attempt to prevent F4 from turning the double play. **RULING:** Since R1 did not slide directly into second base, R1 is declared out, as well as the batter-runner. R3 returns to third base, the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

**2.32.2 SITUATION C:** Bases loaded. A ground ball to F1 is thrown to F2. R3 slides directly into and past home plate. On F2's throw to another base, F2 is contacted by R3 in the baseline extended. **RULING:** Because R3 slid directly into home plate in the baseline extended and the contact was not malicious this is not a violation of Rule 8-4-2b.

**2.32.2 SITUATION D:** Bases loaded. A ground ball to F1 is thrown to F2. R3 slides on the ground not in a direct line to the plate, reaching out with the hand to touch the plate. The contact hinders F2's attempted throw to another base. **RULING:** This is force-play, slide-rule interference. The ball is immediately dead. R3 is out as well as the batter-runner.

**2.32.2 SITUATION E:** R2 is on second base with one out. B3 hits a single and R2 scores. After catching the throw, F2 tries to throw to second base. R2's slide was (a) not in a straight line through the plate, or (b) in a straight line into, over and through the plate in the baseline extended. In both cases, this contact hinders F2's throw. **RULING:** In (a), the ball is immediately dead ball, R2's run counts and B3 is called out on the interference. In (b), R2's slide is legal.

#### **SPEED-UP RULES**

**2.33.1 SITUATION:** By mutual agreement, coaches of both teams decide to allow a courtesy runner for the catcher for the duration of the game. **RULING:** Suggested speed-up rules may be used in part or their entirety only if the state association has approved their use.

#### **STRIKE ZONE**

**2.35.1 SITUATION:** The pitch is across home plate and at the batter's arm pits. **RULING:** This is a ball. Had the pitch been halfway between the batter's shoulders and waistline, the pitch would have been a strike. **COMMENT:** It is not necessary that the entire ball, when legally pitched and before it has touched the ground but not swung at, pass through the batter's strike zone to be called a strike. It is a strike when any part of the ball on a legal pitch enters the strike zone. The umpire shall determine a batter's strike zone according to the usual stance of the batter.

## **Rule 3**

### **Substituting – Coaching – Bench and Field Conduct – Charged Conferences**

#### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

**3.1.1 SITUATION A:** B1 has a count of one ball and two strikes when the captain or coach decides to put in pinch hitter S1. **RULING:** The coach should ask the umpire to call time to make a substitution. When S1 enters, S1 is charged with one ball and two strikes. If S1 strikes out, the strikeout and time at bat are charged against B1, since B1 had more than half of the allotted number of strikes. In any other case, the time at bat is charged to S1. (9-3-6)

**3.1.1 SITUATION B:** S1, who is an unreported eligible substitute, steps into the batter's box in place of B1, and after the first pitch to S1 (a) member of team at bat discovers that S1 has not been properly reported to umpire-in-chief; or (b) member of defensive team discovers that S1 has not been properly reported to umpire-in-chief; or (c) umpire discovers that S1 has not been properly reported to umpire-in-chief. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), S1 was officially in the game once S1 entered the batter's box and the ball was live. Therefore, S1 assumes the count. There is no penalty.

**3.1.1 SITUATION C:** S1, who was not a starter and has already been in and out of the game once, appears at bat in place of B2. This is discovered while S1 is at bat by (a) the offensive team; (b) the defensive team; or (c) an umpire. **RULING:** In each case S1 is an illegal substitute and is restricted to the dugout for the duration of the game. S1 shall also be called out. The penalty for an ineligible substitute supersedes the penalty for batting out of order. The out is credited to F2.

**3.1.1 SITUATION D:** S1 enters the game for starter F3. S1 or S1's coach fails to report to the umpire-in-chief. While S1 is playing, the (a) team at bat; or (b) the defensive team; or (c) an umpire discovers the infraction. Has F3 been out of the game? **RULING:** Yes. F3 may re-enter according to Rule 3-1-3.

**3.1.1 SITUATION E:** The coach of Team A tells the umpire that Jones will hit for Smith, who is the next batter, and replace Lee in left field the next time on defense. **RULING:** The umpire-in-chief shall accept the substitution of Jones hitting for Smith. However, no substitution shall be reported to the umpire-in-chief until such time as the substitution actually is made. Therefore, the umpire will tell the coach of Team A to wait until Team A is going on defense before reporting any defensive substitution.

**3.1.1 SITUATION F:** S1 replaces B5 in the third inning. In the seventh inning with two outs, R2 on second and R1 on first, B5 re-enters without reporting. B5 hits to F4 who misplay the ball, and all runners are safe after advancing. The defensive team's coach approaches the plate umpire to question if B5 had been reported. **RULING:** S1 is out of the game; B5 is a legal substitute even though B5 did not report.

**3.1.1 SITUATION G:** With two outs and an illegal substitute on second base, B4 hits a home run out of the park. Before the next pitch, the illegal substitute is discovered. **RULING:** The illegal substitute is called out and restricted to the bench. No runs score, since the out on the runner at second base was the third out. The home run is nullified. B4 leads off the next inning.

**3.1.1 SITUATION H:** S1, an unreported substitute, is batting for B2 instead of B3. While at bat, S1's coach realizes S1 is not batting for the correct player. **RULING:** Since S1 became a legal substitute upon entering the batter's box when the ball became live, S1 is officially at bat and B2 is considered out of the game. The next batter is B3. (2-36-2, 3-1-1)

**3.1.1 SITUATION I:** S1, who is an illegal substitute, scores, but B4 is thrown out for the third out attempting to advance to second base on a base hit. As both teams change positions, and before a pitch to the next batter can be made, the umpire is informed by the opposing team's coach that S1 is an illegal substitute. **RULING:** Even though both teams changed positions, a pitch had not been thrown to the next batter. Therefore, the previous play is nullified. S1 is called out, and the run does not count, and B4 shall lead off the next inning. (2-36-3, 3-1-1, 8-4-1k)

**3.1.1 SITUATION J:** S1 comes in for F7 in the second inning, but is not discovered. In the seventh inning, S1 comes in for F8 and is batting when the opposing team contends that S1 was a substitute earlier in the game. **RULING:** Unless the umpire has knowledge that S1 had in fact been in the game earlier, S1 cannot be treated as an illegal substitute.

**3.1.1 SITUATION K:** (a) Before the pregame conference, or (b) after the pre-game conference, Team A's coach decides not to start F1. **RULING:** Lineups become official after they have been exchanged, verified and then accepted by the umpire-in-chief during the pregame conference. In (a), lineup changes may be made without penalty. In (b), unless F1 is injured, ill or ejected, or removed by the coach for disciplinary reasons, F1 shall pitch to one batter. If F1 does not pitch to one batter, F1 shall not pitch for the remainder of the game, but may play another position. (1-1-1, 3-1-1)

**3.1.1 SITUATION L:** With one out and R3 on third, S1, an illegal substitute, bats and hits an inside-the-park home run, scoring two runs. The illegal substitute is detected by the opposing team (a) before the next pitch or (b) a pitch to the next batter. **RULING:** In (a), the illegal substitute is declared out and restricted to the bench. The runner before S1 will be placed back on third. In (b), since the pitch has been thrown, the illegal substitute is no longer on the bases and the play stands and both runs count.

**3.1.1 SITUATION M:** With the bases loaded and two outs, an illegal substitute (a) hits a home run or (b) while at bat, F1 throws a wild pitch, which allows R3 to score. The illegal substitute is detected before the next pitch. **RULING:** In (a), the illegal substitute is restricted to the bench and no runs score because the illegal substitute was the third out. In (b), the run counts and the illegal substitute is declared out and restricted to the bench. The inning is over.

**3.1.1 SITUATION N:** Smith is the catcher and Jones is the left fielder as their team leaves the field to come to bat. Their coach tells PU that Smith will go to left field and Jones will go in as catcher when the team returns to defense. The coach is really wishing to make the change so that the slower Jones can have a courtesy runner if Jones gets on base in the half-inning. **RULING:** The umpire shall not allow a projected substitution. Therefore, a courtesy runner would only be allowed to run for the player who was the catcher on defense before coming to bat. (Courtesy Runner Rules)

**3.1.1 SITUATION O:** S1, who is an illegal substitute, is discovered playing second base and who was previously restricted to the dugout. **RULING:** S1 is ejected upon discovery by an umpire or either team.

**3.1.1 SITUATION P:** With runners on second and third bases, respectively, S1, who is an illegal substitute, and was previously restricted to the dugout, bats and advances to second base. **RULING:** S1 is called out and ejected. All other runners are returned to bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

**3.1.1 SITUATION Q:** With R1 on first base, B2 doubles and, (a) before the next pitch R1 is discovered to be an illegal player, (b) after the next pitch R1 is discovered to be an illegal player. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), R1 is out and restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.

**3.1.1 SITUATION R:** In the first inning, C1 is a courtesy runner for the pitcher. In the second inning, C1 is a courtesy runner for the catcher. **RULING:** Upon discovery, C1 is called out and restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.

**3.1.2 SITUATION A:** F1 is replaced by S1. The catcher or coach of the defensive team indicates to the umpire-in-chief that their team wishes to grant an intentional base on balls. Following the intentional base on balls, S1 is replaced by S2. **RULING:** That is legal, since S1 has faced the necessary one batter.

**3.1.2 SITUATION B:** While taking warm-up pitches prior to the start of the fourth inning, F1 develops a blister on the tip of the index finger and is replaced as pitcher. F1's replacement takes (a) the remaining number of warm-up pitches due starter F1, or (b) more warm-up pitches than starter F1 was entitled. **RULING:** As a substitute for the pitcher, S1 is allowed eight warm-up pitches. If S1 only takes eight warm-up pitches, F1 may return to pitch later in the game provided all other aspects of pitcher substitution have been met. If S1 needs to take more than eight warm-up pitches, that may be allowed by PU, but F1 could no longer return to pitch in this game.

**3.1.2 SITUATION C:** In the top half of the first, S1 pinch hits for F1. In the bottom half of the first inning, F1 (a) re-enters to face the first batter or (b) does not re-enter until later. **RULING:** A substitute may replace F1 while F1's team is at bat without penalty. Since F1 is a starter, F1 shall re-enter and pitch to the first batter in the bottom of the first inning. In (a) F1 has complied with the rule. In (b), since F1 did not pitch to the first batter, F1 may not return to pitch. However, that player may play another position. (3-1-1, 3-1-3)



**SUBSTITUTES RE-ENTERING**

**3.1.3 SITUATION A:** A starting player re-enters the game a second time (third time in the game) either as (a) F1, or (b) F8 or (c) batter. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the fielder shall be restricted to the bench immediately when discovered. In (c), the illegal substitute is out and restricted to the bench.

**3.1.3 SITUATION B:** Jones is a starting player in center field and batting second in the batting order. In the third inning, Smith replaces Jones. Subsequently, the coach desires to re-enter Jones as catcher and bat in the eighth position. **RULING:** Illegal. Jones may re-enter only to replace Smith. If Smith had been replaced earlier by Gregory, Jones can only re-enter to replace Gregory. Jones, Smith and Gregory are all required to occupy the second place in the batting order. However, they may play various positions. Neither Jones, Smith nor Gregory may be transferred to any other position in the batting order nor may they replace any other players already in the lineup, and only Jones could re-enter (once) because of being a starting player. When a substitute is withdrawn from the game, the substitute may not be re-entered. **COMMENT:** What does Rule 3-1-3 allow? It permits any of the starting players to be withdrawn from the game and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting position when in the lineup. Additionally, 3-1-3 indicates that a substitute or a player who replaces the pitcher whose team is not at bat shall pitch to the first opponent to bat against the defensive team until that batter has advanced to first base, or has been put out, or until there is a third out. This is an excellent rule because it provides more players an opportunity to participate.

**DESIGNATED HITTER (DH)**

**3.1.4 SITUATION A:** DH Jones, who has been batting for F3 in the fourth position in the batting order, hits a triple in the fifth inning and sprains an ankle sliding into third base. The coach has S1 enter the game to be a pinch runner for DH Jones. How does that affect the playing status of DH Jones and F3? **RULING:** When a pinch runner or pinch hitter replaces the DH, that player becomes the DH. F3 would not be affected by the substitution. However, if the DH were to play defense, F3 would have to leave the game.

**3.1.4 SITUATION B:** DH, batting in the second position in the lineup for starter F5, safely reaches first base, where the starter is replaced by pinch-runner S1. **RULING:** The DH has been out of the game once. S1 may become the new DH or the original DH may re-enter as DH or may play defense. If S1 plays defense, the role of DH is terminated. Whenever any current or former DH enters the game on defense, the role of the DH is terminated.

**3.1.4 SITUATION C:** F4, for whom the DH is batting, pinch hits or pinch runs for the DH. **RULING:** The DH position is eliminated for the remainder of the game. However, the starting DH could re-enter as a player but not in the role of DH. If the starting DH does re-enter, the re-entry must be in the same position in the batting order, replacing F4.

**3.1.4 SITUATION D:** The starting DH, who is batting for F4, goes on defense for F4 at the end of the second inning. **RULING:** This eliminates the DH position for the remainder of the game.

**3.1.4 SITUATION E:** Prior to the start of the game at the pre-game conference meeting, the (a) home team's coach presents the plate umpire a lineup card with Holaday the DH for Feldhausen the RF and the (b) visiting team's coach presents a lineup card with Sullivan listed as the RF/DH. **RULING:** Legal in both (a) and (b). Teams may choose to use either DH option or no DH for a particular game as long as a team declares such prior to the start of the game.

**3.1.4 SITUATION F:** Sanders is listed as the P/DH, hitting in the third position in the batting order. (a) In the fifth inning, McNeely enters the game as pitcher with Sanders reaching the state association prescribed pitch count limit. Sanders continues as DH for McNeely; (b) in the sixth inning, substitute Jackson enters to pitch replacing McNeely. Sanders remains the DH for Jackson; and (c) in the seventh inning, Sanders returns to defense as the catcher and is still listed as the DH. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (b) and (c).

**3.1.4 SITUATION G:** Kruger is listed as the RF/DH, hitting third in the batting order. In the fifth inning, substitute Brodell enters as the right fielder with Kruger still the DH, hitting for Brodell. **RULING:** This is legal.

**3.1.4 SITUATION H:** With Dolan listed in the starting lineup as the 2B/DH and batting fourth in the order, the coach wants to bring in Tatelman to hit for Dolan. **RULING:** If substitute Tatelman comes in to hit (or run) for Dolan, the role of the DH is terminated for the game. If eligible, Dolan may re-enter the game on defense and bat in the same spot in the batting order.

**3.1.4 SITUATION I:** In the fourth inning, Montalbo replaces Colgate as the starting P/DH as pitcher. In the fifth inning, Colgate sprains an ankle while sliding into second base on a double. Colgate cannot continue and requires a pinch-runner. **RULING:** If an eligible substitute enters the game to pinch-run for Colgate, the role of the DH is terminated and Colgate is removed from the game. The coach may substitute another player, but this will end Montalbo as the pitcher since the substitute enters the game in the batting order spot already occupied by Montalbo. However, if the coach has Montalbo pinch-run for Colgate, Montalbo may continue to pitch and hit in the same spot in the lineup.

**3.1.4 SITUATION J:** In the fourth inning, Federico, who is listed fourth in the batting order as P/DH and hitting fourth, sprains an ankle running the bases and is taken out of the game and replaced by McGinnis, who later has an at bat. Later in the sixth inning, Federico re-enters to (a) pinch-hit for McGinnis or (b) play defense for Russell at first base with McGinnis still pitching. **RULING:** Legal in (a); illegal in (b). Federico and McGinnis are locked into the same lineup spot and cannot be in the game on defense at the same time.



**UNCONSCIOUS/BLEEDING PLAYER**

**3.1.5 SITUATION A:** In the second inning, F8 runs into a fence chasing a fly ball and later exhibits signs of a concussion. The coach and the player's father agree that F8 is okay to continue in the game. **RULING:** Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

**3.1.5 SITUATION B:** In the first inning, Jones is hit on the helmet with a pitch. In the fourth inning, Jones is hit again on the helmet by a pitch. In the sixth inning, Jones exhibits some balance problems. **RULING:** Jones shall be removed from the game and shall not return until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

**3.1.6 SITUATION A:** R1, upon sliding into second base, (a) suffers an open wound on the elbow, or (b) is bleeding from the nose, or (c) twists the ankle involving no external bleeding or open wound. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), R1 must receive appropriate treatment before participating further in the game. In (a), (b) and (c), if the umpire believes that an undue delay would result or if the bleeding or injury requires extensive treatment, the player must leave the game. The re-entry rule applies.

**3.1.6 SITUATION B:** R1, after sliding into second base, has an excessive amount of blood on the uniform jersey. The umpire rules that R1 must change the jersey. (a) R1 changes the jersey with a teammate who is not presently in the game. (b) Cleans the blood with a special blood removal spray. (c) The coach of Team A replaces R1's uniform jersey with a white tee shirt and writes a number eight inches high on the back of the tee shirt using a permanent marker. (d) The JV team has returned from its game and the coach of Team A requests R1 to wear a JV shirt, which is a different color. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b). The umpire shall change R1's uniform number on the lineup card and scorebook. In (c) and (d), it is umpire judgment whether or not the change should be allowed. Every effort should be made to allow the player to participate.

**3.1.6 SITUATION C:** R1 after sliding into second base, has blood on the uniform jersey. **RULING:** The umpire rules that R1 must change or clean the jersey.

**EQUIPMENT IN COACHING BOX**

**3.2.1 SITUATION A:** During the game, the coach from Team A goes onto the field to have a defensive conference. The coach is not wearing the team uniform. **RULING:** Illegal. Coaches are required to be in team uniform. If the coach is not properly attired, then the coach cannot leave the bench/dugout unless attending to a player.

**3.2.1 SITUATION B:** (a) The home team's assistant coach appears in the first base coach's box wearing team-colored wind pants and jacket. (b) The assistant coach appears in the first base coaches' box wearing team pants and a batting practice top. **RULING:** (a) Illegal. In (b), while occupying a coach's box, the coach shall be in team uniform. However, state associations may allow for reasonable accommodations that are consistent with the team uniform.

**3.2.1 SITUATION C:** The home team's head coach appears in the game not in the team uniform but in business casual dress. (a) The head coach calls time-out and calls the infield over to the dugout; (b) the head coach calls time and walks out to the mound to confer with the pitcher; (c) the head coach calls time-out to attend to an injured player. **RULING:** (a) No penalty. Coaches who have been restricted to the dugout are permitted to conduct charged conferences from the team bench/dugout. That conference shall end when the players involved start to return to their positions on the field. (b) Illegal. Only persons in uniform shall appear outside of the bench/dugout. (c) Legal. A coach not in uniform may leave the bench/dugout, when requested by the umpire, to attend to a player who becomes ill or injured.

**COACH ASSISTING RUNNERS**

**3.2.2 SITUATION A:** B1 hits a home run out of the park and, while rounding third, trips over the base. The third-base coach helps B1 up off the ground. **RULING:** The ball is dead and, since B1 is awarded four bases for the home run, B1 is allowed to score with this type of assistance by the third-base coach.

**3.2.2 SITUATION B:** With R3 on third base and one out, B3 hits a fly ball that (a) F8 is about to catch, (b) is going over the fence for a home run or (c) bounces off the fence into play, as R3's coach at third physically assists R3 at third base. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), R3 is called out immediately because of R3's coach's physical assistance. In all cases the ball shall remain live and any subsequent outs or advances by runners shall be allowed. In (a), F8's catch would be the third out of the inning. In (b), if there had been two outs instead of one out at the time of the pitch, the physical assistance by the coach would have been the third out. As a result, B3's home run would not have counted.

**BALL HITS COACH IN COACHING BOX**

**3.2.3 SITUATION:** The third-base coach is accidentally hit by a thrown ball when standing in (a) the coach's box, (b) foul territory or (c) fair territory. **RULING:** There is no penalty in (a) and (b), and the ball remains live. In (c), it is automatic interference.

**MANDATORY COACHES PREGAME CONFERENCE**

**3.2.4 SITUATION A:** The head coach of Team A is caught in traffic and (a) has notified Team A's assistant of a delayed arrival by 30 minutes or (b) does not notify anyone at the game site. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the assistant coach may represent the team at the pregame conference and must certify that the team is legally and properly equipped. The head coach is not restricted and may assume normal duties upon arrival.

**3.2.4 SITUATION B:** The head coach of Team A dislikes the umpire-in-chief and refuses to leave the dugout to attend the pregame conference. In the head coach's place, the head coach sends the assistant coach and team captain to the pregame conference. **RULING:** The head coach is restricted to the dugout for the duration



of the game. The assistant coach must represent the team at the pregame conference and must certify that Team A is legally and properly equipped.

**3.2.4 SITUATION C:** The head coach of Team A is (a) on the bus, tending to an injured player or (b) in the bullpen, supervising Team A's pitcher's warmup or (c) finishing field preparations. In both (b) and (c) the head coach refuses the request of the umpire-in-chief to attend the pregame conference. In all cases, the head coach sends the assistant coach and team captain to the pregame conference. **RULING:** In (a), the head coach is legal, is not restricted and may assume normal duties upon the head coach's return. In (b) and (c), the head coach is restricted to the dugout for the duration of the game. The assistant coach must represent the team at the pregame conference and must certify that Team A is legally and properly equipped.

#### COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT (COACHES)

**3.2.5 SITUATION A:** Team A uses a one-way electronic communication device to communicate (a) from the dugout to the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches; (b) from the third base coach's box to the batter; (c) from the dugout to another defensive player(s) besides the catcher. **RULING:** Legal in (a); illegal in (b); (c) issue a team warning to the offending team. The next offender and the head coach will be ejected.

**3.2.5 SITUATION B:** Team A's catcher is using a two-way communication device. The plate umpire notices the catcher is using the device to talk to someone in the dugout between pitches. **RULING:** Illegal. Issue a warning to Team A. The catcher must remove the two-way communication device. The next offender and the head coach will be ejected.

#### LEAVING THE DUGOUT/BENCH DURING LIVE BALL

**3.3.1 SITUATION A:** Score tied and R3 at third. B2 hits single to right. R3 scores and several players leave dugout to congratulate R3. **RULING:** At the end of playing action, the umpire will issue a warning to the coach of Team A and eject the next offender. If a warning has already been issued all players leaving the bench/dugout area will be ejected.

**3.3.1 SITUATION B:** B1 hits a single and the batboy runs out to retrieve the bat. Should the bat boy be ejected? **RULING:** No the intent is to limit offensive players from flooding the plate area and possibly interfering with play around home plate.

**3.3.1 SITUATION C:** As the go ahead run scores on a gapper to left center field, several players come out of the dugout/bench to congratulate the runner and to celebrate the run. Following cessation of play, the opposing coach argues that all, or at least some, of the players be ejected. **RULING:** The umpire-in-chief will treat this incident as a single incident. The umpire-in-chief will warn the team's coach that a subsequent violation of the rule by a member of the team will result in an ejection and will record this warning on the lineup card.

**3.3.1 SITUATION D:** The home team, having previously been given a warning for players approaching home to congratulate a teammate while the ball was still live and in play, Smith and Black rush out to "high-five" Jones who just scored on a sacrifice fly. **RULING:** Following the end of playing action, the umpire-in-chief will inform the home team coach that Smith and Black are ejected for leaving the dugout during a live ball. The umpire-in-chief should remind the coach of the previous incident and warning which has led to these ejections because of the repeated offense.

**3.3.1 SITUATION E:** The runner scores on the batter's double, while the ball is still live, players from the offensive team dugout come out to congratulate the runner. **RULING:** At the end of playing action, the umpire shall issue a warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be ejected.

**3.3.1 SITUATION F:** During live playing action Team A sends two players out to the bullpen down the left field line to warm up. **RULING:** Legal, warming up a pitcher is an authorized reason for players to be outside their dugouts while play is live.

#### UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

**3.3.1 SITUATION G:** F1 is removed by the head coach during the game. Following the last out of the game, (a) F1 makes an unsportsmanlike comment to PU near home plate regarding the umpire-in-chief's strike zone; (b) F1 berates the umpires as they leave the field heading to their vehicles. **RULING:** In (a), the umpires have jurisdiction until all of them leave the confines of the field, F1 is ejected and a written report is sent to the state association; (b) while no longer having jurisdiction, the umpires shall send a written report to the state association, which will determine the appropriate response. (10-1-2)

**3.3.1 SITUATION H:** Team A is taking infield practice and Team B has lined up along the first base foul line making unsportsmanlike comments to Team A members. **RULING:** The umpire warns Team B to return to its dugout or its bullpen or the umpire will enforce the unsportsmanlike penalty. (3-3-1g PENALTY)

**3.3.1 SITUATION I:** Team B players have positioned themselves along the third base line. The umpire has previously issued a warning to Team B's coach. Jones makes disconcerting comments about Team A's player, Smith, during infield practice. Smith throws a ball at Jones and a fight ensues. **RULING:** Team B's coach is restricted to the bench for the duration of the game. Jones is ejected from the game. Smith is ejected from the game and any player who participated in the fight is ejected from the game.

**3.3.1 SITUATION J:** As Team A takes infield prior to the game, several members of Team B yell insulting remarks to various players of Team A. **RULING:** The umpire should warn the coach of Team B immediately that if any of Team B's players make further remarks or try to intimidate Team A in any way, the offender(s) shall be ejected from the game and directed away from live-ball territory.

**3.3.1 SITUATION K:** With R3 at third, teammates in the third-base dugout, start yelling, "Squeeze, Squeeze," on each pitch as the pitcher starts the pitching motion. The umpire requests that players refrain from continuing. The coach replies that there is no rule prohibiting such action. **RULING:** After a warning, the coach may be restricted to the dugout, or if warranted, ejected for failure to comply with an order from an umpire.

**3.3.1 SITUATION L:** The umpire-in-chief requests that the third-base coach remain within the confines of the coaches' box. However, the coach argues that it is permissible since the position taken is outside the line farthest from home plate. **RULING:** After a warning, the coach may be restricted to the dugout, or if warranted, ejected for failure to comply with an order from an umpire.

**3.3.1 SITUATION M:** In the top of the second inning, the plate umpire judges a pitch to be a "ball." The defensive team's head coach, who had not previously received a verbal or written warning, yells at the umpire from the dugout in protest of the umpire's call. **RULING:** If the umpire judges the coach's yelling to be rudimentary in nature, the umpire should verbally warn the head coach that any further arguing may result in the coach's restriction to the dugout or ejection from the game. If the umpire judges the coach's actions to be more ill-mannered, the umpire may issue a written warning and restrict the coach to dugout. If the umpire judges the coach's action to be "inappropriate," the coach should be ejected.

**3.3.1 SITUATION N:** The defensive team's head coach, who had previously received a verbal warning, yells at the umpire from the dugout in protest of another call. **RULING:** If the umpire judges the coach's yelling to be rudimentary in nature, the umpire should issue a written warning to the coach and restrict the coach to the dugout for the remainder of the game. The umpire should notate on the umpire's copy of the team's lineup card the coach's name, the point in the game of the warning (inning, number of outs and location of runners) and the reason for the warning. If the umpire judges the coach's yelling to be "inappropriate," the head coach should be ejected.

**3.3.1 SITUATION O:** The umpire observes F2 wearing a loose-fitting bracelet. **RULING:** The umpire determines the bracelet does not impose a risk to the player or any other players.

**3.3.1 SITUATION P:** B1 is wearing a chain that has some offensive phrases on the medallion. **RULING:** Considering that jewelry is allowed, the umpire determines this jewelry is in violation of NFHS sportsmanship rules and directs the player to remove the jewelry.

#### TECHNOLOGY AIDS IN COACHING BOX

**3.3.1 SITUATION Q:** An individual occupying a coach's box has (a) stopwatch, (b) rules book (hard copy) or (c) scorebook (hard copy). **RULING:** Legal in (a), (b) and (c).

**3.3.1 SITUATION R:** An individual occupying a coach's box has (a) miniature radar gun or (b) any electronic device, including but not limited to a cell phone, smartphone, tablet, netbook or notebook computer. **RULING:** Illegal in (a) and (b). The umpire may either restrict the coach to the bench/dugout or eject the coach from the game.

#### COACH CONDUCT

**3.3.1 SITUATION S:** The defensive team's head coach, who had previously received a verbal warning and a subsequent written warning (and restriction to the dugout) now yells at the umpire from the dugout in protest of another call. **RULING:** The coach shall be ejected.

**3.3.1 SITUATION T:** The defensive team's head coach comes out of the dugout to argue a call. During the argument, the coach (a) swears at the umpire, (b) makes contact with the umpire, (c) turns to the crowd and incites the spectators. **RULING:** In (a) (b) and (c), if the umpire judges the coach's actions to be "inappropriate," the coach shall be ejected even though the coach had not received a previous verbal or written warning.

**3.3.1 SITUATION U:** If an umpire judges a coach's unsportsmanlike conduct to be more than "rudimentary" in nature, but not "severe" enough to warrant an ejection, may the umpire issue a written warning and restrict the coach to the dugout? **RULING:** Yes, in such a situation an umpire may issue a written warning and restrict to the dugout a coach who had not previously been verbally warned.

**3.3.1 SITUATION V:** R3 is on third base with one out. B3 hits a pop fly to F7 and the ball is caught for an out. The assistant coach is in the dugout recording the play. The head coach brings the recording to the field to challenge that R3 left the base early and insists on reviewing the play. **RULING:** The umpire informs the coach to return to the dugout. If the coach continues to argue, the umpire shall restrict and, if deemed unsportsmanlike, may eject the coach.

**3.3.1 SITUATION W:** The coach is using a radar gun in the dugout to record the pitches of the opposing player. **RULING:** Legal. Coaches may use radar guns in the dugout, but not on the field.

#### ASSISTANT COACH CONDUCT

**3.3.1 SITUATION X:** With a base runner on first and following an attempted steal, the assistant coach for Team A who is coaching first, leaves the coaching box and charges onto the field to talk to the base umpire in a two-person crew arguing that the runner was safe on the steal attempt. **RULING:** The assistant coach who was coaching first, and the head coach receive a written warning and are both restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. If the conduct of either coach were of such gravity to violate Rule 3-3-1f in other parts, the coach(es) could be ejected.



**3.3.1 SITUATION Y:** With a base runner on first and following an attempted steal, the assistant coach for Team A who is coaching first, steps toward the base umpire but remains in the vicinity of the coaching box and asks for clarification from the umpire about the play. The coach commits no other 3-3-1f violation.

**RULING:** There is no penalty against the assistant coach for this act.

**3.3.1 SITUATION Z:** The batter/runner is called out on a close play at first base. The assistant coach for that team (which is in the third-base dugout) leaves the vicinity of the dugout to voice displeasure with the call by the first-base umpire.

**RULING:** The assistant coach who left the dugout, and the head coach receive a written warning and are both restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. If the conduct of either coach were of such gravity to violate Rule 3-3-1f in other parts, the coach(es) could be ejected.

**3.3.1 SITUATION AA:** Team A has three adult coaches. In the first inning, Assistant Coach A violates 3-3-1f(6) resulting in a written warning and restriction along with the head coach to the dugout. In the third inning, Assistant Coach B leaves the dugout protesting the call on a check swing. **RULING:** The head coach remains restricted to the dugout even though two different assistant coaches have now been penalized in accordance with this rule. **COMMENT:** Each act must be judged on its own merit and multiple violations do not automatically call for ejection of the head coach.

**3.3.1 SITUATION BB:** Team A has three adult coaches. One assistant coach leaves the dugout to object to a call at the plate resulting in the PU issuing a written warning to the assistant coach and head coach, who are now restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. The second assistant now enters the discussion directing profanity toward the umpire or otherwise violating 3-3-1f(6). **RULING:** The second assistant coach is ejected from the contest. The first assistant coach and the head coach are restricted if no other violations occurred by these individuals. **COMMENT:** Each act must be judged on its own merit and it is possible that differing penalties are imposed on different people.

**3.3.1 SITUATION CC:** At the end of a half-inning, the first-base coach leaves the coaching box to return to the third base dugout. In passing the umpire(s), the assistant coach asks for clarification on a play or stops for a quick discussion about a ruling. The coach commits no other 3-3-1f violation. **RULING:** There is no penalty against the assistant coach for this act as leaving the vicinity of the coaching box is required to go to the dugout between innings.

#### **BENCH CONDUCT**

**3.3.1 SITUATION DD:** Team A has one of its players in uniform in the bleachers behind home plate or in the bleachers along the third-base line. **RULING:** All players, attendants and bench personnel shall remain in the dugout (bench) or bullpen at all times, unless they are a batter, runner, on-deck batter, an occupant of a coach's box or one of the nine players on defense. The umpire shall eject the of-

fender from the game, unless the offense is judged to be of a minor nature, in which case the umpire may warn the offender and then eject the offender if the offender repeats the offense. Failure to comply shall result in the game being forfeited.

#### **PLAYER THROWS A BAT**

**3.3.1 SITUATION EE:** After hitting a line drive toward F5, B1 releases the bat, which strikes F2 or the umpire. The act was judged by the umpire to be (a) intentional or (b) unintentional. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), this is a delayed dead-ball situation. In (a), the offender will be ejected from the game. If B1's fair hit ball is a base hit, B1 will be replaced with a substitute runner. In (b), the umpire will warn the coach of that player's team that the next player on that team to violate the rule shall be ejected from the game.

#### **MALICIOUS CONTACT**

**3.3.1 SITUATION FF:** R3 is advancing to home and initiates malicious contact with F2, who is standing out of the baseline. F2 does not have the ball, and there is no play at the plate. **RULING:** This is considered to be interference, and the ball is dead immediately. R3 is declared out, and because the act is malicious, R3 is also ejected from the game. Any other runners must return to the bases they last touched at the time of the interference. If the declaring of a dead-ball prevented the defense from completing an obvious double play, the umpire shall award the additional out.

**3.3.1 SITUATION GG:** Upon rounding second, R1 maliciously runs into F6 who is (a) in the baseline or (b) not in the baseline. **RULING:** In (a), the malicious contact supersedes the obstruction. In (a) and (b), R1 is out and is also to be ejected because of the unsportsmanlike act.

**3.3.1 SITUATION HH:** With two outs and the bases loaded, B6 hits a home run out of the park. R1 maliciously runs over (a) F4 before touching second base or (b) F5 before touching third. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), R1 is declared out and ejected. In (a), the third out is a force, so no runs score. In (b), the third out was not a force play, so runners who have touched the plate prior to the infraction would score. Please note that in awarded situations it is not the base that is awarded, but rather the right to advance and legally touch a base with no play being made.

**3.3.1 SITUATION II:** While sliding into second base feet first, R1 maliciously slashes out with the right leg and trips F6 who is in the act of making the pivot in an attempt to complete a double play. Consequently, F6's throw is wild and goes out of play. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately. R1 is out and ejected for malicious contact. B2 shall be called out by the umpire because this was a force-play slide situation and R1 did not execute a legal slide. (8-4-2b)

**3.3.1 SITUATION JJ:** R1 slides safely into second base and, in doing a pop-up slide, maliciously crashes into F4, who was standing by the base without the ball. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately, and R1 is called out and ejected from the game for malicious contact.

**3.3.1 SITUATION KK:** With no outs, and R2 on second base, B2 hits the ball in the gap, R2 touches and rounds third and heads for home, and initiates malicious contact with F2 a) before touching the plate, or b) after scoring. **RULING:** In (a) the ball is dead, the runner is out and ejected for malicious contact. In (b) the run counts, the ball is dead and the runner is ejected for malicious contact. In either case the batter-runner must return to the last legally acquired base at the time of the malicious contact.

**3.3.1 SITUATION LL:** With two outs, and R2 on second base and R1 on 1st, B5 hits the ball in the gap. R2 touches and rounds third, R1 touches and rounds second. B5 touches and rounds first, F3 initiates malicious contact with B5 as a play is developing at third base on R1 a) before a tag, or b) after a tag. **RULING:** In (a), the ball is dead, and in the umpires judgment R2 scores, R1 is awarded third base, B5 is awarded second base, and F3 is ejected for malicious contact. In (b) the ball is dead, the out at third base is recorded, thus making R2's score a timing play. F3 is also ejected for malicious contact.

#### **BALLS HIT TO DEFENSE AFTER GAME HAS STARTED**

**3.3.1 SITUATION MM:** During a charged conference, the coach or other bench personnel (a) hits or (b) throws fly balls to a substitute outfielder, F8. **RULING:** Illegal in (a) and (b).

#### **PLAYER THROWS A BAT**

**3.3.1 SITUATION NN:** With Team B at bat (a) B1 receives ball four and on the way to first base, B1 carelessly flips the bat toward Team B's bench, almost hitting the on-deck batter, or (b) after hitting a ground ball to F5, B1 flips the bat behind the back as B1 advances to first base and the bat strikes F2, or (c) F1, while backing up home plate, picks up a bat and tosses it out of the way, but in doing so almost hits the plate umpire. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the player committing the infraction. (3-3-1c)

#### **USE OF PROFANITY**

**3.3.1 SITUATION OO:** B1, the team's top hitter, goes to the plate representing the winning run. B1 works the count to 3-1. The opposing team decides to put B1 on and has the pitcher deliver an intentional ball. Upon receiving ball four, B1 angrily utters profanity. **RULING:** The umpire shall give the dead-ball signal and eject B1 at the end of playing action. A substitute is allowed to replace B1 at first base.

#### **JEWELRY**

**3.3.1 SITUATION PP:** In the first inning, the umpire discovers that Team B's players are wearing (a) an earring that has a razor blade attached, (b) rings that form a set of brass knuckles on the hand or (c) a class ring. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the umpire directs the players to remove the jewelry because it poses danger to the player, teammates and opponents. If the players do not comply, then they are ejected from the contest.

#### **VIDEOTAPING GAME**

**3.3.1 SITUATION QQ:** The umpire observes the assistant coach in uniform videotaping the game from the (a) dugout or (b) stands. **RULING:** Legal in (a); illegal in (b).

**3.3.1 SITUATION RR:** The third-base coach is in the coach's box using a video camera to tape the pitcher's move to first base. **RULING:** This is not legal. The third-base coach shall be restricted to the dugout bench for the remainder of the game or ejected.

#### **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

**3.3.1 SITUATION SS:** Players from Team A begin taunting a player from Team B. **RULING:** If, in the judgment of the umpire, the infraction is of a minor nature, then the umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the involved players. Otherwise, the umpire shall eject the players, which also shall serve as a team warning.

#### **USE OF TOBACCO**

**3.3.1 SITUATION TT:** The umpire discovers Team A's coach (a) using tobacco while on the bench, (b) using tobacco while outside the confines of the field or (c) with a tin of smokeless tobacco in the coach's hip pocket. **RULING:** In (a), the umpire shall eject the coach. In (b), there is no penalty since the coach is outside the confines of the field. In (c), the umpire shall ask the coach to remove the tobacco or tobacco-like products.

**3.3.1 SITUATION UU:** While on the bench, two players appear to the umpire to be using tobacco. The umpire discovers that the substance is not tobacco, but a tobacco-like product. **RULING:** Both players are in violation of the rule and shall be ejected. Even though the players were not using tobacco, they gave the appearance of using a tobacco product, which is not acceptable.

**3.3.1 SITUATION VV:** B1 hits a home run over the fence. Before B1 touches home plate, the umpire notices that B1 has smokeless tobacco in the player's mouth. **RULING:** At the end of playing action, B1 shall be ejected. The run counts.

#### **WEARING HEADBANDS**

**3.3.1 SITUATION WW:** A player from Team A is discovered wearing a bandana while (a) on the field, (b) on the bench or (c) behind the dugout. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the involved player. In (c), there is no violation because the rule is to be enforced within the confines of the field. **COMMENT:** Headbands are legal.



**ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTE**

**3.3.1 SITUATION XX:** The scorekeeper or a fan informs the umpire of (a) an illegal substitute or (b) a player batting out of order. **RULING:** In (a), the umpire shall call the illegal substitute out and restrict the player to the bench, because once the umpire is aware of the infraction, the umpire shall enforce the penalty. In (b), the umpire shall remain silent, unless the defense brings the infraction to the umpire's attention. (3-1-1 PENALTY, 7-1-2 PENALTY 2)

**FIGHTING**

**3.3.1 SITUATION YY:** R1 slides hard into F4. R1 and F4 begin pushing each other. F6 and the on-deck batter run to second base to break up the fight. **RULING:** All are ejected. Once F6 and the on-deck batter left their positions and advanced toward the fight, they were in violation of the rule.

**3.3.1 SITUATION ZZ:** R1 and F6 begin shoving each other. Their respective coaches rush to the field to control their players. **RULING:** R1 and F6 are ejected, but the coaches are not, because coaches are allowed on the field to break up the fight or to help restore order.

**3.3.1 SITUATION AAA:** As a fight breaks out, Team A's coach rushed on to the field to control a Team A player. As Team A's coach begins to leave the field, a Team B player advises Team A's coach to have Team A show better sportsmanship. Team A's coach advances toward the player and says something to Team B player. **RULING:** Team A's coach shall be ejected.

**3.3.1 SITUATION BBB:** During the third inning, a fight breaks out between the batter and the pitcher near home plate, and (a) a non-participating player leaves the dugout/bench to retrieve a bat near the two combatants; (b) several players leave the dugout/bench to restore order; (c) F8 leaves the center field position to observe the confrontation. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the umpire shall eject all players who left the dugout/bench and/or their position during a fight.

**LEAVING THE DUGOUT/BENCH AREA DURING A DEAD BALL**

**3.3.1 SITUATION CCC:** A player from Team A (who has been previously warned) hits a 3-run home run out of the field of play and wins the game by one run. The teammates of Team A rush out of the dugout and excitedly cheer for their teammate. The coach from Team B wants the players' violation of the rule to be the second violation and have the game forfeited to Team B because Team A failed to comply with the previous warning. **RULING:** Incorrect interpretation. By rule, no one should be out of the dugout/bench area or bullpen if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the nine players on defense during a live ball. The home run is an exciting element in the game of baseball. Since the ball is dead, the teammates of the batter are permitted to be out of the dugout to celebrate. However, precautions should be taken not to interfere with the umpire's ability to see the batter touch all the bases. In fact, the players should be behind the umpire until the runner scores.

**3.3.1 SITUATION DDD:** Between innings, the non-playing players of Team A run in foul territory toward the outfield fence to stay loose. The coach of Team B protests that this is not legal and is delaying the contest. **RULING:** The coach of Team B is incorrect. It is legal provided this activity does not delay the start of the next half-inning.

**EJECTION**

**3.3.2 SITUATION A:** The coach has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. Later in the game, the coach's pitcher complains of a sore arm. The coach returns from the parking lot. **RULING:** This is not allowed. The coach must be requested by the umpire before the coach can return.

**3.3.2 SITUATION B:** After being ejected, Team A's coach (a) returns to the field to break up a fight; (b) returns to the field without being requested to attend to an injured player; (c) returns to check on a sick player; or (d) returns after being requested by the umpire to attend to an injured player. **RULING:** Illegal in (a), (b) and (c). A coach must first be requested by an umpire before a coach can return to attend to an ill or injured player. It is legal in (d).

**3.3.2 SITUATION C:** F4 is injured by R1's slide into second base. F4's coach, who is also the team's athletic trainer, was ejected earlier in the game. The coach is sitting in the parking lot away from the game. **RULING:** If the umpire believes that the injured player needs to be attended, the umpire may request the ejected coach to return to the field. The coach cannot return unless requested by the umpire.

**PITCHER WARMING UP**

**3.3.3 SITUATION:** As a pitcher is warming up, the coach of the team at bat calls the next batter for a visit near home plate. **RULING:** A member of the team at bat should not be allowed to be any nearer home plate than the on-deck circle when a pitcher is warming up. **COMMENT:** When it is apparent the pitcher has completed warmup pitches or when summoned by the umpire, the next batter may come to the plate. A player may report to the umpire, who is near home plate, but the player must return to the area of the on-deck circle.

**3.3.4 SITUATION:** Player(s) are loosening up beyond first base and in foul territory, the area is unprotected (a) a player with a glove is positioned between the player(s) loosening up and the batter to serve as a protector. (b) No player is available to assume a position between the player(s) loosening up and the batter to serve as a protector. (c) a player without a glove is positioned between the player(s) loosening up and the batter to serve as a protector. **RULING:** In (a), legal. In (b), illegal, if no player is available to assume a position between the player(s) loosening up and the batter, the player(s) must loosen up outside the confines of the field. In (c) illegal, the player serving as the protector to the player(s) loosening up must have a glove. **COMMENT:** It is not mandatory that the protector wear a helmet.



**CHARGED CONFERENCES**

**3.4.1 SITUATION A:** The coach of the defensive team moves to the pitcher's mound in the eighth inning (a) after having used three allowable defensive charged conferences in the first seven innings or (b) not having used any of the three allowable defensive charged conferences in the first seven innings. **RULING:** There is no penalty in either (a) or (b). A team is permitted three defensive charged conferences in a seven-inning game, and if a game goes into extra innings, that team is permitted only one charged defensive conference in each of the extra innings. Unused defensive charged conferences in the first seven innings are not accumulative.

**3.4.1 SITUATION B:** The coach of the team at bat requests and is granted time so the coach may have a conference with either the batter or runner(s). Thereafter, if the defensive team's coach goes to the mound to talk to the pitcher, should the defensive team be charged with a conference also? **RULING:** No. When either team is granted time for a conference the other coach or representative may do likewise without being charged with a conference, unless the opposing coach or representative delays the game by not being ready to play when the other team's charged conference is completed.

**3.4.1 SITUATION C:** The coach of the defensive team has used three charged conferences. In the seventh inning, the coach (a) stops play to confer with the team's infielders about a bunt situation or (b) goes to the mound to check the pitcher who has just been hit by a batted ball. **RULING:** In (a), F1 must be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game. In (b), this is not a charged conference.

**3.4.1 SITUATION D:** In the third inning, the coach of the defensive team, who has yet to have a charged conference, goes to the mound to talk to the team's pitcher. The coach (a) changes pitchers or (b) does not change pitchers. The next inning, the coach receives time to visit with the catcher. How many charged conferences has the coach accumulated? **RULING:** The meeting with the catcher is one charged conference. In (a), there is no charged conference, so the coach still has two charged conferences remaining. In (b), the coach has accumulated two charged conferences: one for the visit with the catcher and one for the pitcher who was not removed. Therefore, the coach would have one charged conference remaining.

**3.4.1 SITUATION E:** Team A has had two charged conferences. The coach of Team A is granted time to visit with the team's pitcher. At the same time, Team A's assistant coach goes out to talk to F3. The opposing team's coach claims that another conference also should be assessed and that the pitcher would have to be removed, since it would be that team's fourth. **RULING:** As long as the assistant coach does not delay the game when play is to resume, there is no penalty. If the coach does delay, the team is subject to an additional charged conference being called, which then would require the pitcher to be removed as pitcher for the rest of the game.

**3.4.1 SITUATION F:** In the top of the fifth inning, (a) the defensive team's head coach asks for "Time" to check on the center fielder who appeared to be ill. At the same time (b) the assistant coach goes to the pitcher's mound to visit with the pitcher. Has a charged conference occurred? **RULING:** A conference is not charged when "Time" is called for an obviously incapacitated player. In (a), if the umpire judged the player the coach went to check on was ill and unable to continue, then no conference would be called. In (b), since "Time" is out, the assistant coach is permitted on the field to talk to any defensive player. When play is to resume, if the coach is not off the field, the team shall be charged a conference for delay.

**NOTE:** If the umpire believes that a player is faking an injury so that a coach can talk to the pitcher or another defensive player without being charged a conference, the umpire may prohibit additional conferences from taking place at that time.

**3.4.1 SITUATION G:** Team A has had three charged conferences by the fifth inning. With the game tied in the sixth inning, the coach of Team A informs the umpire that (a) F6 and F1 are going to trade positions or (b) that S1 is replacing F1. Can the pitcher who is being replaced return to pitch later in the game, or is this considered a charged conference? **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the pitcher being replaced may return to pitch as long as all conditions of 3-1-2 NOTE are met. The umpire shall permit the coach to switch players or substitute, provided the coach does not take advantage of the situation by having a conversation with any of the players. A violation shall result in a charged conference being assessed, which would be more than allowed, resulting in the pitcher not being able to return to pitch. (3-1-2)

**3.4.1 SITUATION H:** Between innings the coach of Team A walks from the third base coach's box to the pitcher's mound and proceeds to visit with F1. **RULING:** F1 has one minute in which to complete warmup throws. At that point, the coach should leave the field. The umpire should not allow play to begin until the coach is off the field. The umpire may assess the team a charged conference if the coach delays leaving the field. (6-2-2c EXCEPTION)

**3.4.1 SITUATION I:** The coach of the defensive team, just after the ball is returned to F1, yells from the dugout: (a) giving instructions to F4 and F6; or (b) to have F6 and F9 switch positions. **RULING:** Situations (a) and (b) do not warrant a charged conference being called. (3-4-1, 3-4-3)

**3.4.3 SITUATION:** A coach goes to the pitcher's mound for a defensive charged conference. The coach (a) starts to return to the dugout but does not cross the foul line and returns to the pitcher's mound to continue the charged conference or (b) starts to return to the dugout, crosses the foul line, and then returns to the pitcher's mound. **RULING:** In (a) the coach is not charged for a second conference unless the umpire has advised previously that time was up. In (b), the coach is charged with a second conference as the coach ended the initial charged conference when the coach crossed the foul line unless the coach removes the pitcher after returning to the mound.



**3.4.4 SITUATION:** A coach requests an offensive charged conference with R2 who is on second base. The coach goes to second base for the conference with the runner and then starts to return to the coach's box. **RULING:** The offensive charged conference ends when the coach starts to return to the coach's box.

## Rule 4 Starting and Ending Game

### STARTING A GAME

**4.1.2 SITUATION A:** During the pregame conference, the home team's coach, in covering the ground rules, explains that the fence does not go completely to the ground in right field and that a batted ball could go underneath it. Since the distance to the fence is more than 500 feet, should the ball go underneath the fence, the batter would automatically be awarded a home run. **RULING:** Ground rules shall be established if there are unusual conditions. However, ground rules do not supersede the NFHS Baseball Rules Book. Therefore, in this play the batter shall be awarded a ground-rule double.

**4.1.2 SITUATION B:** An outfield fence has a distance of 350 feet down the lines, but it is 270 feet to straightaway center field. During the pregame conference, the home team's coach informs the umpire that any batted ball that goes over the center-field fence shall be considered a ground-rule double. **RULING:** Ground rules shall not supersede the NFHS Baseball Rules Book. Therefore, the award shall be four bases, not two. (8-3-3a)

**4.1.3 SITUATION A:** During the pregame conference, the umpire-in-chief asks the respective coaches if their players are properly equipped according to rule. The home team coach verifies that the home team's players are properly equipped. The visiting team coach is not sure about the visiting team's players. **RULING:** The game shall not begin until both coaches verify to the umpire-in-chief that all participants are properly equipped.

**4.1.3 SITUATION B:** As the pregame conference concludes, the umpire-in-chief emphasizes to both coaches that all participants are expected to exhibit good sporting behavior throughout the game. The home coach questions why this was mentioned. **RULING:** By rule, the umpire-in-chief should emphasize the importance of sportsmanship to both coaches and captains.

### ENDING A GAME

**4.2.2 SITUATION A:** A state association chooses not to use the 10-run mercy rule. **RULING:** This is permissible. The use of the 10-run mercy rule is by state association adoption.

**4.2.2 SITUATION B:** A state association wants to use a mercy rule, but wants to use: (a) a 15-run rule; or (b) an eight-run rule. **RULING:** Neither run rule is permissible. If a state association adopts a mercy rule, it must only be a 10-run rule.

**4.2.2 SITUATION C:** A state association establishes a run rule at (a) eight runs or (b) 12 runs. **RULING:** Illegal in (a) and (b). A 10-run rule is the only differential allowed.

**4.2.2 SITUATION D:** Team B is the visiting team and is leading by 10 runs (a) going into the bottom of the fifth or (b) after five complete innings. **RULING:** In (a), Team A must be permitted to bat in the bottom of the fifth. In (b), the game is terminated since Team B is 10 runs ahead after the fifth inning and each team has had an equal number of turns at bat.

**4.2.2 SITUATION E:** At the end of the (a) third inning or the (b) fifth inning, the home team is behind by 10 runs. **RULING:** In (a), the 10-run rule is not in effect because only three innings have been played. In (b), the game is over.

**4.2.3 SITUATION A:** In an interscholastic contest, seven innings is considered a full game. Rain or darkness causes a game to be called at the end of 3½ innings with the home team leading 3 to 0. Is this considered a regulation game? **RULING:** No. In games that are seven innings in length, the regulations concerning a called game are that at least 4½ innings are required for the game to be completed.

**4.2.3 SITUATION B:** At the end of the fourth inning, the score is H1, V2. There is no score in first half of the fifth, but in the last half H scores (a) one run or (b) two runs. In either case, game is called for rain when only one or two are out. **RULING:** In either case, it is a regulation game. In (a), it is a tie game but all records count. If state associations treat regulation tie games as suspended games, the game will be continued from the point of interruption. In (b), H is the winner.

**4.2.3 SITUATION C:** At the end of the fourth inning, the score is H4-V5. In the fifth inning, V does not score and H has scored one run when the game is called because of rain. Does the score revert to that at the end of the last completed inning? **RULING:** No. It is a regulation tied game.

**4.2.3 SITUATION D:** A state association has not adopted special game-ending procedures. In the top of the fourth inning, rain, darkness or an automatic sprinkler system causes the game to end. The home team is leading at the time. **RULING:** A regulation game must go at least 4½ innings to be regulation. Therefore, this game is declared "no game." Had the state association adopted a suspended game rule, the game would have continued from the point of interruption. (4-2-4)

**4.2.4 SITUATION A:** At the beginning of the game, the opposing coaches agree to play two five-inning games. **RULING:** A regulation varsity game consists of seven innings. Predetermining a game(s) to be five innings is not legal.

**4.2.4 SITUATION B:** After three innings, the coach of the visiting team wants to end the game because the visiting team is so far behind. **RULING:** If the state association allows coaches to agree, the game shall be terminated. If the opposing coaches do not agree to end the game, the game shall continue until such time the 10-run rule takes effect.

**CALLED GAME**

**4.3.1 SITUATION A:** At the end of the fourth inning or during the top of the fifth inning, (a) the score is tied or (b) either team is ahead when rain halts play. **RULING:** Because the game has not gone the required number of innings to be regulation, the game shall be called "no game," unless the state association has adopted a game-ending procedure covering this situation. In (a) and (b), if 4½ innings had been completed and the home team was leading, the game would be regulation.

**4.3.1 SITUATION B:** At the end of the fifth, sixth or seventh inning, (a) one team is ahead or (b) the score is tied when rain halts play. **RULING:** Since the required number of innings have been played to be a regulation game, a winner can be determined in (a). In (b), the game is tied, unless the state association has adopted a game-ending procedure covering the situation.

**4.3.1 SITUATION C:** At the end of five innings the score is tied. In the top of the sixth inning, the visiting team scores to go ahead when rain halts play. **RULING:** If a state association has adopted a game-ending procedure in which the game is suspended, it will be continued from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.

**4.3.1 SITUATION D:** In the top or bottom of the (a) second inning or (b) the sixth inning, the lights fail or the automatic sprinkler is activated and the game is halted. **RULING:** If there is the possibility that an individual purposely attempted to influence the outcome of a game by shutting off the lights or turning on the sprinklers, the state association may choose to suspend the game or adopt another game-ending procedure to cover this situation.

**FORFEITED GAME**

**4.4.1 SITUATION A:** F8 must leave the game in the sixth inning (a) due to an ankle injury, (b) for band practice or (c) because F8 was ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior. There are no eligible substitutes available. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the game will be continued with an automatic out being called whenever it is F8's turn at bat. The team may play with eight and if an eligible substitute shows up later, the team may return to playing with nine players.

**4.4.1 SITUATION B:** B1 is injured (a) before reaching first on ball four, (b) sliding safely into second base or (c) while running to third base. Team A has no eligible substitutes available. **RULING:** Team A can continue playing with eight players. The most recent batter not on base may serve as a courtesy runner for the injured B1 in (a) and (b) but not in (c) if the player is tagged, provided the player is not awarded a base. An out will be called out whenever that batter's turn is reached in the batting order. Depending on the circumstances, time is normally not called when a player is injured.

**4.4.1 SITUATION C:** Because of an injury in the fourth inning and with no substitutes available, Team A is forced to play with eight players. In the sixth inning, (a) several junior varsity players, or (b) a couple of varsity players who were involved with exams arrive at the game. The coach of Team A would like to return to a nine-player lineup by replacing the injured player. Is this legal? **RULING:** Yes in (a) and (b). Even though these players were not at the game or listed on the lineup card when it started, these player would not be prohibited from playing. **COMMENT:** Team A is not required to return to a nine-player lineup. The players in (a) and (b) may be used as substitutes for any of the remaining players.

**4.4.1 SITUATION D:** The center fielder collides with the outfield wall in the third inning and must leave the game. With no available substitutes, the team must play with only eight players. In the sixth inning, the center fielder returns with a written authorization from an appropriate health-care professional to play. **RULING:** The team may continue play with only eight players, having an out declared whenever F8's spot in the lineup comes to bat. If other players were to show up, it would be legal for them to become a substitute for F8, allowing the team to return to nine players. With F8 returning, F8 may now legally re-enter the game (if F8 has re-entry available) in F8's original spot in the lineup.

**4.4.1 SITUATION E:** The opposing coaches submit their lineups to the umpire-in-chief. However, not all of the players of the visiting team are at the field. The coach lists the players not at the game as the eighth and ninth hitters to give them time to arrive. **RULING:** This is not allowable. At the time the lineups are exchanged, all starters must be at the field. Therefore, the coach of the visiting team must replace the players not at the game. If the coach does not have enough players to start the game, the game is forfeited. (1-1-1)

**4.4.1 SITUATION F:** After waiting past the scheduled starting time for the visiting team to arrive, the coach of the home team asks the umpire-in-chief for a forfeit. **RULING:** State associations are authorized to determine circumstances and/or the time frame before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.

**4.4.1 SITUATION G:** A coach from Team A is ejected for violation of the rules and (a) refuses to leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately, (b) although outside the field, continues to communicate with his team, or (c) exits the field but stands along the fence and refuses to leave the premises. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the game shall be forfeited if the action causes a delay in the resumption of play.

**PROTESTED GAME**

**4.5.1 SITUATION:** The base umpire is out of position and calls R1 safe at third base while at the same time plate umpire calls R1 out. After consultation, it is decided that the base umpire's decision will stand. The coach of the team in the field protests the game. **RULING:** There is no protest allowed, since the play in question did not involve the misapplication of playing rules 1 through 9.



## Rule 5 Dead Ball – Suspension of Play

### DEAD BALL

**5.1.1 SITUATION A:** With runners on first and third base and no outs, R3 and R1 proceed with a double steal, B3 hits a high pop fly over foul territory and the wind starts to carry the ball into fair territory. The umpire-in-chief prematurely calls foul ball as F2 makes the attempt to catch the ball. F2 drops the ball in fair territory. **RULING:** The fact that the ball touches the ground has made the ball dead and the umpire sends R3 and R1 back to their respective bases.

**5.1.1 SITUATION B:** On an 0-1 pitch, B1 hits a high pop fly on the foul line just past first base. F3 attempts to make a play, but drops the ball. The plate umpire signals fair ball but the base umpire verbalizes foul ball. **RULING:** This conflicting play would have been eliminated with better pregame planning of the officials. The foul ball call of the first base umpire would prevail. However, the ball touched the ground and that rendered it dead. B1 would return to the plate with a 0-2 count.

**5.1.1 SITUATION C:** On a 1-1 pitch, B1 hits a line drive down the left field line that goes out of play. The ball clearly kicked up chalk when it landed. The plate umpire, inadvertently blocked by F5, mistakenly ruled a foul ball. The offensive team requests that the plate umpire ask for help. **RULING:** Even though this was a fair ball, because the umpire inadvertently called it foul and it touched the ground, the ball is dead and B1 will return to the plate with a count of 1-2.

**5.1.1 SITUATION D:** R1 is on first when B2 receives ball four. F2 (a) drops the ball or (b) ball four is caught and, while B2 is walking to first, it is thrown to F3 who drops it. In either case, R1 advances to third and B2 advances to second. Is the ball dead after the fourth ball? **RULING:** No. Those are legal advances.

**5.1.1 SITUATION E:** On the third strike, B1 swings at and misses a pitch. The ball touches B1's arm or person. **RULING:** B1 is out. The ball becomes dead immediately. (5-1-1a, 8-1-1d)

**5.1.1 SITUATION F:** With R1 on first, B2 steps out of batter's box and then (a) swings at a pitch but misses or (b) hits a foul or a fair ball. **RULING:** There is no infraction in (a), unless B2 interferes with a throw by F2. In (b), B2 is out as in 7-3-2 and R1 returns to first.

**5.1.1 SITUATION G:** B1 hits a ground ball to left field. F7 throws the ball to the infield where it hits an umpire or base runner. Is the ball dead? **RULING:** Not unless it is ruled interference on the base runner. Such ruling would be made if the runner deliberately allowed to be hit by the ball.

**5.1.1 SITUATION H:** With R2 on second, B2 hits between F5 and F6, both of whom are playing in for a bunt in front of R1. The batted ball touches R2 and is deflected to foul ground. F6 was in such a position with no chance to play the ball. **RULING:** If the

touching by R2 is accidental, it is ignored because the batted ball has passed a fielder other than the pitcher and no other infielder has a play on the ball. If R2 intentionally deflected the batted ball, the umpire shall rule interference and declare the ball dead. R2 is declared out. B2 is credited with a base hit and placed on first. (8-4-2k)

**5.1.1 SITUATION I:** With R3 on third and R1 on first, a ball batted by B3 hits the umpire who is (a) on fair territory behind F5 or (b) behind the pitcher but in front of F4. **RULING:** In (a), the ball remains live since it has passed a fielder. In (b), unless the ball touches F1, it becomes dead and each runner is sent to the base occupied or to which each runner was being forced when the ball became dead i.e., R3 remains on third and R1 and B3 go to second and first. (8-1-2b)

**5.1.1 SITUATION J:** With a fielder in position to make a play, R1 is on first and R2 is (a) between second and third or (b) touching second. R2 is hit by ball batted by B3. **RULING:** The ball becomes dead immediately in (a) and (b). In (a), R2 is out. R2 is also out in (b), unless it is declared an infield fly. In (a) and (b), unless B3 is out because it is an infield fly, B3 is entitled to first base. R1 is awarded second base.

**5.1.1 SITUATION K:** A ball thrown wildly to third base continues toward Team A's dugout and is intentionally touched by the (a) bat boy for Team A or (b) photographer. **RULING:** The ball becomes dead immediately.

**5.1.1 SITUATION L:** F7, while attempting to catch a fly ball near dead-ball area (a) makes the catch with one foot on the dead-ball area line and the other foot in dead-ball area, or (b) makes the catch with both feet in the dead-ball area, or (c) makes the catch with both feet in the playing area and then steps with both feet or falls into the dead-ball area. **RULING:** In (b) and (c), the ball becomes dead. In (a) and (c), it is a legal catch, but in (c), F7 has left the playing area and if there are any runners on base, they each are awarded one base. In (b), it is not a catch. (8-3-3d)

**5.1.1 SITUATION M:** R1 is on first base with less than two outs when (a) B2 hits a line drive to F4 or (b) B2 hits a fair pop fly to F3. In both (a) and (b), the infielder intentionally drops the ball. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), B2 is out and R1 returns to first base. The ball becomes dead immediately when it is intentionally dropped by an infielder except in the case of an infield fly. (5-1-1j, 8-4-1c)

**5.1.1 SITUATION N:** With R3 at third and F5 playing deep, B2 hits a ball that caroms off the base into foul territory where it touches R3. **RULING:** A runner who is hit by a batted fair ball in foul territory is not out and the ball remains live.

**5.1.1 SITUATION O:** With R1 at first base, a ground ball is hit to F6, who throws to F4 covering second. R1 slides late at second, stays in the baseline, but R1 makes contact with F4 in front of the base, causing F4 to overthrow first base. **RULING:** Providing the slide is legal and the contact is not malicious, there is no violation. (2-32-2f)

**5.1.1 SITUATION P:** F7 makes a diving catch. As F7 slides over the line designating dead-ball territory, F7's feet remain in live-ball territory. Is the ball dead? **RULING:** No. F7 must be entirely in dead-ball territory before the ball shall be declared dead. As long as any part of F7's body is touching the designated dead-ball line, the ball remains live. (5-1-1i)

**5.1.1 SITUATION Q:** With a runner on first base, on a bounding ball F6 lays out and catches the ball in the glove. After several attempts to remove the ball from the glove, F6 is finally successful after the batter-runner acquires first base. **RULING:** There is no base awarded; the play stands. The ball was temporarily stuck, not lodged, in F6's glove.

#### DELAYED DEAD BALL

**5.1.2 SITUATION A:** What is meant by "delayed dead ball"? **RULING:** The term applies to situations in which an infraction is not to be ignored, yet the play not be immediately dead. The umpire declares the ball dead after appropriate playing action occurs for the purpose of making an award(s) or enforcing a penalty. These situations include interference by a batter, batter being obstructed, ball being touched with detached player equipment, runner being obstructed or a coach physically assisting a runner. "Delayed dead ball" also applies when a batter commits batter interference or when a fielder touches the ball with an illegal glove/mitt. The infraction is not to be ignored, the penalty results in an out being declared or base awarded. (8-1-1e, 8-3-1c, 8-3-2, 8-3-3)

**5.1.2 SITUATION B:** With runners on third and first base, a double steal is called. R3 attempts to steal home, and the umpire interferes with F2's throw to second base. **RULING:** The umpire gives the dead-ball signal after the result of the play. If R1 is not put out on F2's throw, the umpire shall declare the ball dead, and R3 and R1 must return to the base they occupied before the interference. (5-1-2c, 8-2-9)

**5.1.2 SITUATION C:** With R3 on third, R1 on first and no outs, R1 attempts to steal second. F2 is obstructed on the throw to second base by the plate umpire. The throw is cut off by the shortstop and relayed back to the plate in time to retire R3 trying to score. **RULING:** If an out was not made at the end of F2's throw, the umpire shall call the ball dead immediately. Both runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference.

**5.1.4 SITUATION:** The umpire decides the ball is not suitable for play and gives F2 a new ball. Is the ball live? **RULING:** When the umpire calls "Time" for inspection of a ball, it remains dead until held by F1 while on the pitcher's plate, B1 and F2 are in their respective boxes and the umpire calls "Play." The umpire then should give the proper signal.

#### SUSPENSION OF PLAY

**5.2.1 SITUATION A:** After F1 has started the delivery, B1 steps out of the batter's box without being granted "Time." **RULING:** If F1 delivers a legal pitch, the umpire shall call the pitch a strike regardless of the location. A second strike may be called, if, in the umpire's judgment, B1 caused unnecessary delay. The ball remains live. Whether time is granted to the batter shall be umpire judgment.

**5.2.1 SITUATION B:** The third strike by B1 is missed by F2. The ball lodges between the body and protector. While F2 hunts for the ball, B1 continues to second. **RULING:** The umpire shall call "Time" and give the dead-ball signal as soon as it is clear that the ball is trapped behind F2's chest protector. B1 is entitled to first base only since B1 was en route there when the ball became dead. Had there been other base runners, they would have been awarded one base as well.

**5.2.1 SITUATION C:** B1 (a) hits a home run over the fence or (b) receives a base on balls or, (c) is struck by a pitched ball. In each instance, B1 is unable to reach the awarded base because of an injury sustained during the play. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), because bases are awarded, a pinch runner may replace the injured player and continue to the awarded bases. In (b), since the ball is live, the umpire has to call "Time." Then the umpire will permit a substitute to run for the injured player according to 10-2-3g.

**5.2.1 SITUATION D:** With two outs and R3 on third base and R2 on second base, B5 hits a line drive that scores both R3 and R2. As B5 leaves the batter's box, the batter's knee goes out and the batter collapses to the ground, and is unable to advance. The ball is relayed to first base. **RULING:** B5 will be declared out and both runs nullified, since the third out resulted because B5 did not reach first base safely.

**5.2.2 SITUATION A:** B1 hits a ground ball to F6 and continues to run as F6 overthrows first. The ball goes out of play. B1 continues to second and stops at third. The umpire rules that B1 must return to second because the throw by F6 went out of play and B1 had not reached first base at the time of the throw, which was the first play by an infielder. The defense tags B1 with the ball while B1 is returning to second, stating that because B1 touched a succeeding base (third), B1 may not return. **RULING:** No action by the defense during the time the ball is dead can cause a player to be put out except a dead-ball appeal.

**5.2.2 SITUATION B:** R1, while advancing to second, interferes with a ground ball or F4 to prevent a double play. If the umpire declares batter-runner out as well as R1, is that in conflict with the statement that a player may not be put out during dead ball? **RULING:** No. The two outs occurred at the time of the interference, (i.e., while ball was alive, even though the announcement was made after ball became dead). (5-1-1e)



## Rule 6 Pitching

### PITCHING REQUIREMENTS

**6.1.1 SITUATION A:** F1 pitches with the toe of the pivot foot (right foot for right-handed pitcher) in contact with the pitcher's plate but F1's heel is outside a line through the end edge of the plate. F1 pitches from (a) windup position, or (b) set position. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b), provided that F1's pivot foot is parallel to the pitcher's plate.

**6.1.1 SITUATION B:** With R3 on third, B2 has three balls and two strikes. F1 balks, but then delivers a pitch. The pitch is over F2's head and B2 (a) swings at it or (b) does not swing. In either case, R3 goes home. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately when the balk occurs, and the balk penalty is enforced. (6-2-4, 6-2-5 PENALTY)

**6.1.1 SITUATION C:** When is a pitch a ball even if it goes through the strike zone? **RULING:** An illegal pitch, such as pitching with pivot foot off the pitcher's plate, is a ball if there is no runner on base. A pitch that hits the ground and then bounces through the strike zone is a ball unless the batter strikes at it.

**6.1.1 SITUATION D:** F1 takes the sign in the (a) windup position or (b) set position. R3 at third attempts to steal home. F1 steps forward off the pitcher's plate and throws to F2. **RULING:** This is a balk in (a) and (b). **COMMENT:** After assuming a windup or set position stance on the plate, the pitcher must step clearly backward off the plate with the pivot foot in order to play on R3 at the plate. (6-1-2, 6-1-3)

**6.1.1 SITUATION E:** With the bases loaded, F1 pitches from the windup position. After F1 intentionally contacts the pitcher's plate, F1 (a) fakes a throw to first, or (b) steps forward off the pitcher's plate. **RULING:** This is a balk in (a) and (b). F1 must step clearly backward off the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot first to disengage the pitcher's plate or make a play. The umpire shall declare the ball dead immediately when the infraction occurs.

**6.1.1 SITUATION F:** Switch-hitting B1 steps in against ambidextrous F1. B1 assumes a position in the batter's box as a left-handed hitter, prompting F1 to prepare to pitch left-handed. B1 quickly changes to the other batter's box to bat right-handed. F1 then switches to pitch right-handed. How is this situation prevented? **RULING:** The umpire shall call "Time" and require the pitcher to face B1 as either a left-hander or right-hander, but not both. Only after B1 is put out, reaches base, is replaced by a substitute, or a third out ends the inning, may F1 change to the other hand to face the next batter.

**6.1.1 SITUATION G:** The bases are loaded. F1, while on the pitcher's plate (a) fakes a throw to first while in the windup position or (b) from the set position prior to beginning the stretch, turns the shoulder and glances at the runner. **RULING:** In (a) this would be a balk and (b) is legal.

**6.1.1 SITUATION H:** From the set position, F1, while in the stretch, slowly brings the hands to the belt and then delivers a pitch. **RULING:** Unless F1 came to a complete stop, one that is clearly recognizable, F1 has committed a balk.

**6.1.1 SITUATION I:** When is a pitcher permitted to step backward off the pitching plate in the windup position stance and the set position? **RULING:** The pitcher can legally step backward off the pitcher's plate in the windup position stance at any time prior to the start of any motion indicating the start of the windup. While in the set position stance, the pitcher may step backward off the pitcher's plate prior to the start of the pitch. (2-28-3)

**6.1.1 SITUATION J:** With R1 on first base, F1, from the set position and prior to bringing the hands together while in contact with the pitcher's plate, (a) abruptly and quickly turns the shoulders toward first base in an attempt to drive back the runner; or (b) casually turns the shoulders to observe the runner at first base. **RULING:** Legal in both (a) and (b).

**6.1.1 SITUATION K:** While off the pitching plate, the pitcher looks to the dugout and receives a signal for the next pitch. The pitcher next legally steps on the pitching plate, looks at the catcher, and then delivers a legal pitch. The opposing coach insists that a balk should be called because the pitcher did not take the "sign" from the catcher. **RULING:** There is no balk. A pitcher is required, once on the pitching plate, to take or simulate taking the sign from the catcher. While the pitcher took the pitching sign from the dugout, the pitcher did simulate taking a sign from the catcher.

### THE WINDUP

**6.1.2 SITUATION A:** With no runners on base, F1 starts the windup or preliminary motion and the ball slips from F1's hand. **RULING:** There is no infraction provided F1 delivers a pitch within 20 seconds after receiving the ball. If F1 fails to do so, the batter is awarded a ball. If there had been a runner or runners on base, dropping the ball while in contact with the pitcher's plate is a balk if the ball did not cross the foul line. Each base runner shall be awarded one base.

**6.1.2 SITUATION B:** What is meant by a pump or rotation? **RULING:** A pump or rotation is a movement of the arms, by a pitcher when in the windup position, immediately prior to delivering a pitch to the batter. The pump is an alternate downward and upward motion of the arms generally terminated by placing both hands together. A rotation is a circular movement of the pitching arm immediately prior to delivery to the batter during the windup position. The rules limit a pitcher to not more than two pumps or rotations when using the windup position.

**6.1.2 SITUATION C:** With a runner on third base, F1 steps on to the pitcher's plate in the windup position with the glove hand in front of the body and F1's pitching hand at the side (a) immediately brings the hands together for the purpose of taking the sign but does not begin the delivery, or (b) gets the sign and then brings the hands together and stops before delivering a pitch, or (c) gets the sign, brings the hands together and continues the pitching motion. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), these are all legal moves.

**6.1.2 SITUATION D:** F1, while on the pitcher's plate in either the windup or set position, (a) adjusts the cap or (b) shakes off the signal with the glove, or (c) shakes off the signal with the head. **RULING:** In (a) through (c), these are legal actions if these movements of the arms and legs are not associated with the pitch.

**6.1.2 SITUATION E:** With the bases loaded, F1 steps on the pitcher's plate in the windup position with the ball in the glove hand in front of the body and F1's pitching hand at the side. F1 then brings the pitching hand to the glove and adjusts the ball after receiving the sign from the catcher. F1 then (a) delivers the pitch or (b) steps back off the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b).

**6.1.2 SITUATION F:** With R3 on third base, F1 steps on the pitcher's plate and the hands already together in front of the body. F1 then drops the pitching hand to the side and stops. **RULING:** This is a balk and R3 is awarded home. F1 separated the hands without delivering the pitch.

**6.1.2 SITUATION G:** From the windup position, F1 steps onto the pitcher's plate with both hands together. As F1 moves the non-pivot leg behind the pitcher's plate, F1 completely stops the motion. **RULING:** Balk. This is an illegal pitch.

**6.1.2 SITUATION H:** F1, with both arms at the side in the wind-up position, first moves the glove to a position in front of the chest, stops momentum, and then moves the pitching hand into the glove. **RULING:** This is legal.

**6.1.2 SITUATION I:** With one hand at the side and the other hand in front of the body, F1 looks into the catcher for a sign from the wind-up position. F1 then brings the hands together and pauses. The opposing coach yells that this is a balk and that the runner on third base should score. **RULING:** This is not a balk. This is a legal pitching position. The pitcher is permitted to have one hand forward prior to bringing the other hand forward.

**6.1.2 SITUATION J:** F1 positions for the windup with the non-pivot foot in front of the pitcher's plate. **RULING:** This is legal as there are no requirements regarding the placement of the pitcher's non-pivot foot. **COMMENT:** The placement of the pivot foot determines if the pitcher is in the windup or set position.

#### THE SET POSITION

**6.1.3 SITUATION A:** F1 takes the set position with only a portion of the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. **RULING:** If the pivot foot is parallel to the pitcher's plate, this is legal since only part of the pivot foot is required to be in contact with the pitcher's plate.

**6.1.3 SITUATION B:** Left-handed F1 assumes a set position with R1 on first. F1 steps back off the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot and throws to first base without stepping to the base. **RULING:** This is legal, provided F1's pivot foot touches the ground prior to separating the hands.

**6.1.3 SITUATION C:** With R1 at first, F1, while in the set position, takes the sign with ball in the glove and pitching hand at the side or behind the back, and begins the stretch. Before F1 is set, F2 changes sign and F1 (a) stops without stepping backward off the pitcher's plate or (b) steps backward off the pitcher's plate and stops. **RULING:** This is a balk in (a). F1 must come set without interruption and in one continuous motion. This is legal in (b).

**6.1.3 SITUATION D:** With R1 on first, F1, in a set-position stance with the ball in the gloved hand and the pitching hand at the side, takes the sign. F1 removes the ball from the glove and goes to a set position. **RULING:** This is a balk.

**6.1.3 SITUATION E:** With R1 on first, F1 receives the ball from F2 and with the feet in set position stance and in contact with the pitcher's plate (a) nervously tosses ball in glove two or three times, or (b) removes the ball from the glove. **RULING:** This is a balk in (a) and (b). Restrictions on F1's movements begin when F1 intentionally contacts the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot.

**6.1.3 SITUATION F:** With R2 on second (a) F1 stretches and comes to a stop, or (b) F1 stretches a second time and comes to a stop. In both (a) and (b), F1 then steps toward third and throws there in an effort to put out R2 who is attempting to steal. **RULING:** Legal in (a), provided F1 did not start a pitch after coming set. In (b), the umpire shall declare the ball dead as soon as the second stretch occurs. R2 is awarded third on balk by F1.

**6.1.3 SITUATION G:** With R1 on first, F1 is in set position in a wide stance. F1 lifts the nonpivot foot to shorten the stance and then returns to a wide stance (a) during the stretch and before a stop or (b) after a stop. **RULING:** This is legal in (a), but is a balk in (b). If nonpivot foot is lifted after the stop, F1 must immediately pitch or step directly toward base and throw to that base.

**6.1.3 SITUATION H:** With R1 on first, F1 is in set position. F1 stretches the arms and, without stopping, steps toward and throws to first. **RULING:** This is legal. Stopping is required only before a pitch.

**6.1.3 SITUATION I:** R2 is on second. From the set position, F1 uses a jump turn. F1 comes down astride the plate with nonpivot foot toward second base and throws or feints there. **RULING:** Legal. Comment: F1's pivot foot shall contact the ground before releasing the ball.

**6.1.3 SITUATION J:** Does a quick pitch or other illegal pitch always result in a ball being called? **RULING:** Not always. If there is a runner, it is a balk and no ball is called.

**6.1.3 SITUATION K:** With R3 on third, F1 assumes the windup position, and takes the sign from the catcher. F1 now desires to pitch from the set position. **RULING:** It is legal for F1 to assume the windup position and then change to the set position. After F1 assumes either position, F1 must step backward from the



plate with the pivot foot first to become an infielder, before again assuming either pitching position. As long as F1 has not made a preliminary motion F1 may step backward off the pitcher's plate. (6-1-1, 6-1-2)

**6.1.3 SITUATION L:** With R2 on second base, F1, a right-handed pitcher, assumes the set position stance as a left-handed pitcher to keep R2 close. **RULING:** Balk. The pitcher's pivot foot is the right foot since F1 is right-handed. If F1 takes the pitcher's plate with the left foot, F1 will be in violation of the rules.

**6.1.3 SITUATION M:** With the bases loaded, F1 takes the set position with the ball in both hands in front of the body and comes to a complete stop with the glove over the head. **RULING:** This is not legal. This is a balk. F1 must come to a complete stop with the glove at or below the chin.

**6.1.3 SITUATION N:** With R3 at third and R1 at first, F1 comes to a complete stop with the glove partially above F1's chin. Is this legal? **Ruling:** This is legal.

**6.1.3 SITUATION O:** With R3 at third and R1 at first, F1 is in contact with the pitcher's plate but has not yet come set. F1 brings the pitching hand to the mouth and distinctly wipes it off. **RULING:** Balk, award R3 home and R1 second. The pitcher cannot bring the hand to the mouth because the pitcher is required to go to the set position without interruption and in one continuous motion.

**6.1.3 SITUATION P:** With a runner on first, Team A right-handed pitcher is in the set position, bent at the waist and the pitching arm naturally hangs down slightly in front or to the side away from the body. As F1 looks to the catcher for a signal, (a) the pitcher's arm is stationary or (b) the pitching arm rocks slightly from side to side. **RULING:** In (a), the position of the arm is natural and can be considered by the side in meeting the rule. Any movement would then start the pitch. In (b), any movement of the arm is considered the start of the pitching motion and a pitch must be delivered to the plate so this motion results in a balk.

#### PITCHER AS INFIELDER

**6.1.5 SITUATION:** With R3 on third base and R1 on first base, F1 legally steps off the pitcher's plate and feints to third and then steps and throws to first attempting to pick off R1. The throw goes into dead-ball territory. The offensive team's coach wants a balk to be called because the pitcher never threw the ball toward third. **RULING:** When the pitcher stepped off the pitching plate in the pitcher's feint to third, F1 became an infielder. Hence, when F1's throw goes into dead-ball territory, all runners are awarded two bases. R3 gets home and R1 gets third. Had F1 stayed on the pitching plate during the feint to third and the throw to first, all runners would be awarded one base. R3 would get home and R1 would get second. This would not be a balk as F1 made a legal feint and a legal pickoff attempt with no prior motion to pitch.

#### PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

**6.1.6 SITUATION A:** The coach of Team A has an ambidextrous pitcher and wants to know if the player can pitch the limitation both left-handed and right-handed. **RULING:** Pitching limitations are to apply to the player as an individual, not as a left-handed and right-handed pitcher.

**6.1.6 SITUATION B:** F1 is a replacement relief pitcher. F1 attempts to pick off R1 from first base. The offensive team's coach realizes that F1 has exceeded the number of pitches thrown per the state association pitching restrictions and requests from the umpire-in-chief that the opponent forfeit the game. The defensive team argues that F1 has not thrown a pitch and therefore replaces the pitcher with a legal substitute. **RULING:** The forfeit is not honored. F1's attempt to pick off R1 by definition is not considered to be a pitch. (2-28-2) The defensive coach is allowed to replace the pitcher with an eligible pitcher. **COMMENT:** During the pre-game conference, the coach of Team A tells the umpire that Team A's best pitcher will throw as many pitches as necessary to ensure a win or that he is authorizing the pitcher to pitch both games of the doubleheader since the pitcher's family and friends have traveled so far to watch. **RULING:** It is not an official's responsibility to determine if a team has violated a state association's pitching restriction policy. Limitations may vary from state to state. However, limitations are to ensure that pitchers are not overused and have had reasonable rest between pitching appearances.

#### INFRACTIONS BY PITCHER

**6.2.1 SITUATION A:** With no runners on base, F1 places the pitching hand on the mouth and distinctly wipes off the pitching hand prior to touching the ball, (a) while not touching the pitcher's plate, (b) while touching the pitcher's plate. **RULING:** (a) Legal; (b) illegal, and a ball shall be awarded to the batter's count.

**6.2.1 SITUATION B:** With R1 at first, F1 places the pitching hand on the mouth and distinctly wipes off the pitching hand prior to touching the ball (a) while not touching the pitcher's plate or (b) while touching the pitcher's plate in the set position. **RULING:** Legal in (a). In (b), the pitcher has barked and R1 is awarded second base. (6-1-3)

**6.2.1 SITUATION C:** The umpire notices F1 (a) wearing an adhesive strip around the index finger on the pitching hand or (b) tape on the palm of the pitching hand. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), this is illegal because contact with the ball could occur. There is no penalty. The tape shall be removed.

**6.2.1 SITUATION D:** With R2 at second, F1 is not on the pitcher's plate. F1 goes to the mouth and goes directly to the ball with the pitching hand. (a) F1 calls time and requests a new ball or (b) F1 legally engages the pitching plate. **RULING:** Legal in (a). In (b), time is called and a ball is added to the count.

**6.2.2 SITUATION A:** F1 intentionally throws at B4 and is ejected from the contest. The opposing coach feels that S1 is only allowed five warm-up pitches. **RUL-**



**ING:** Incorrect interpretation. S1 is allowed the same number of warm-up pitches (8) as if the pitching change was a result of injury or inclement weather.

**6.2.2 SITUATION B:** S1 replaces F1. How much time or how many throws are permitted for S1's warm-up? **RULING:** S1 is permitted eight pitches completed in one minute. The umpire is authorized to allow more when the weather is inclement or if F1 is removed because of injury and S1 did not have time to warm up before entering.

**6.2.2 SITUATION C:** F1, who was a base runner in the previous half of the inning, is slow in coming out to take warm-up pitches. The umpire refuses to permit F1 to warmup, stating F1 used up the one-minute allotted time. **RULING:** The umpire is correct. The one-minute time limit begins at the conclusion of the final out of the previous half-inning. However, in the above situation, the umpire should use good judgment in enforcing this rule.

**6.2.2 SITUATION D:** With R2 on second base, F1, in the set position, suddenly turns and makes a legal feint to F4 in an effort to drive R2 back to the base. **RULING:** Even though the 20-second period may have elapsed during the play, there is no penalty. The count restarts once F1 returns to a position on the pitcher's plate.

**6.2.2 SITUATION E:** Prior to the start of the third inning, starter F1 is (a) late in getting to the mound to take warm-up throws or (b) is replaced by a relief pitcher. **RULING:** In (a), the starter may take five warm-up throws, if the pitcher can get them in within the one-minute time limit. In (b), the pitcher may take eight warm-up throws. The one-minute time limit at the start of each half-inning begins at the conclusion of the final out of the previous half-inning or timed from the first pitch for a relief pitcher. (6-2-2c EXCEPTION)

**6.2.2 SITUATION F:** With R1 at first, F1 (a) looks at the runner four or five times in an effort to hold R1 close and 20 seconds elapse or (b) makes repeated throws to first base at about 10-second intervals in an effort to hold the runner. **RULING:** In (a), umpire will call time and award a ball to B2's count. In (b), this is legal. F1 must pitch or make a play or a legal feint within the 20-second time period. After such a play or feint, the 20-second count is restarted. **COMMENT:** This rule is intended to maintain the flow of the game with continuous action and to eliminate "dead" periods of inactivity. While it may be argued that the delay is still present if F1 makes the throw, action is continuing and there is still the element of risk for the defense of making an errant throw or committing a balk.

**6.2.2 SITUATION G:** With R1 at first and B2 in the batter's box, F1 steps back off the pitcher's plate after having the ball for 18 seconds. **RULING:** The pitcher is required to pitch, or make/attempt a play, including a legal feint, within 20 seconds. Stepping backward off the pitcher's plate can be considered part of a feint, if in the umpire's judgment there is accompanying action. However, if this is not the case, a ball shall be credited to the batter.

**6.2.4 SITUATION A:** With R3 on third and R1 on first, F1 stretches and comes set. F1 then swings the entire nonpivot foot behind the back edge of the pitcher's

plate, steps toward second and (a) throws the ball to second in an attempt to retire R1, who is advancing there or (b) feints throw to second to drive R1 back to first, who has neither attempted nor feinted an advance to second. **RULING:** In (a), this is legal. In (b), it is a balk.

**6.2.4 SITUATION B:** With R1 on first, F1 attempts a pickoff while stepping at an angle but to the home plate side. **RULING:** Balk. To comply with the requirement to "step directly toward," F1 must step to the first-base side of a 45-degree angle between center of pitcher's plate and between home and first base. (6-2-4b)

**6.2.4 SITUATION C:** With R3 on third and R1 on first, F1 comes set. F1 then feints toward third, or removes one hand from the ball and makes an arm motion toward third but does not step toward third. F1 follows with a throw to first base. **RULING:** This is a balk. F1 must step toward third base when feinting there. F1 may not feint to first base. F1 must step toward the base and throw. F1 might, while on the plate, step toward occupied third and feint a throw, and then turn to step toward first and throw there with or without disengaging the pitcher's plate. If F1 steps and feints to first, F1 must first disengage the pitcher's plate or F1 is guilty of a balk.

**6.2.4 SITUATION D:** With a runner or runners on base, F1 assumes the set position. F1 stretches the arms above the head, brings them down together and pauses with the ball in both hands in front of the body after which F1 (a) separates hands and then steps back off pitcher's plate with pivot foot or (b) steps back off pitcher's plate with pivot foot and feints throw to unoccupied first. **RULING:** In (a), this is a balk. In (b), this is legal.

**6.2.4 SITUATION E:** With R2 on second base, F1 wheels and fakes a throw to second on a pickoff attempt. As R2 dives back to the base, F4 and F6 run into short center field as if chasing an errant throw. R2, seeing this, takes off for third base where R2 is thrown out by F1. **RULING:** This is legal and is not considered unsportsmanlike conduct. R2's base coaches have the responsibility to keep R1 informed.

**6.2.4 SITUATION F:** With R2 and R1 on second and first bases, respectively, F1, who is a left-handed pitcher, is in the set position. F1 stretches and comes to a complete stop with the ball in the glove completely below the chin in front of the body. F1 then lifts the entire nonpivot foot and swings it behind the perpendicular plane of back edge of the pitcher's plate and (a) throws to F3 in an attempt to pick off R1 or (b) continuing through, throws or feints a throw to second base. **RULING:** This is a balk in (a). Action in (b) is legal, provided the nonpivot foot movement was not interrupted nor stopped prior to completion of the action.

**6.2.4 SITUATION G:** R2 is on second and R1 is on first. After F1 has come set, F1 steps with the nonpivot foot (a) toward second or (b) toward first or home. F1 does not throw the ball. **RULING:** In (a), the act is legal. In (b), F1 has committed a balk.

**6.2.4 SITUATION H:** R3 is on third base. There are two outs and B4 has a count of 3-2. While F1 is in motion, B4 requests time-out, which is not granted, and steps out of the box with (a) one foot or (b) both feet. F1 delivers a pitch that sails over F2's head. B4 advances to first while R3 scores. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the



run counts. B4 is charged with a strikeout and remains on first base. Since B4 did not intentionally try to cause F1 to balk or throw a wild pitch, the umpire shall not eject B4. The ball remains live. (7-3-1 PENALTY)

**6.2.4 SITUATION I:** With R3 on third base, F1 starts the pitching motion and B2 requests "Time," but the umpire does not grant "Time." B2 steps out of the batter's box with both feet and (a) F1 delivers a pitch, (b) does not deliver the pitch or (c) throws a wild pitch. **RULING:** (a) The umpire shall call two strikes on B2, one on the pitch, and one for stepping out of the box. In (b), the umpire shall call a strike on B2 for stepping out of the batter's box. The balk is nullified. In (c), two strikes shall be called on B2, one on the pitch and one for stepping out. The ball remains live. (7-3-1 PENALTY)

**6.2.4 SITUATION J:** With R1 on first base and two outs, F1 attempts to pick off R1. As F1 pivots to throw, F1 quickly realizes that F3 is not on the base, but is in a normal defensive position. F1 completes the throw without interruption. The coach of the offensive team wants a balk called on F1. **RULING:** As long as F3 is in the proximity of the base, F1 would not be guilty of a balk. Proximity is umpire judgment and is based on whether the fielder is close enough to the base to legitimately make a play on the runner.

**6.2.4 COMMENT A:** There is a distinction between "stepping off" the pitcher's plate and "stepping toward" a base. "Stepping off" means that pitcher has removed the pivot foot backward from the plate and has become an infielder. "Stepping toward" indicates movement of the nonpivot foot toward a base.

**6.2.4 COMMENT B:** How does an illegal pitch differ from a balk? A pitch is illegal if it does not conform to the requirements of the windup position or the requirements of the set position. An illegal pitch can occur with or without a runner(s). If there is a runner(s), it is one type of balk. If the pitch is illegal and there is no runner, a ball is awarded to the batter, whether or not it is pitched. A balk can occur only when there is a runner(s). When a balk is called, it never includes the awarding of a ball in addition to an advance by the runner(s). As an example of the differences, with no runner(s), a quick pitch is an illegal pitch and is called a ball whether or not it goes through the strike zone. If there is a runner(s), a quick pitch is a balk. The ball is dead immediately when an illegal pitch is called.

**6.2.5 SITUATION A:** With R1 at first, F1, in the stretch position, steps quickly backward off the pitcher's plate and with a motion much like F1's pitching delivery throws to the plate where (a) B2 hits the throw or (b) R1 is thrown out stealing by F2 on a pitchout. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), it is a balk. While F1 is not touching the pitcher's plate, F1 shall not make any movement naturally associated with the pitch.

**6.2.5 SITUATION B:** With R1 on first base, the umpire calls "balk" just as F1 delivers the pitch. B2 hits the ball over the outfield fence for a home run. **RULING:** The ball becomes dead the moment the balk occurs. Therefore, B2 does not have the opportunity to hit the pitch in this case; R1 is awarded second base and B2 remains at the plate.

## Rule 7 Batting

### POSITION AND BATTING ORDER

**7.1.1 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first, B7 is the next batter in the batting order, but B8 erroneously takes B7's place. The error is discovered by opposing team personnel (a) after B8 has received two strikes, or (b) after B8 has received a base on balls or is hit by a pitch, or (c) after B8 has hit a foul that is caught or has made a safe hit to advance R1, or (d) after a pitch has been delivered to B9. **RULING:** In (a), there is no penalty. B7 takes the place of B8 at the plate with a two-strike, no-ball count. If R1 should have advanced through a steal or wild pitch while the incorrect batter was batting, it is a legal advance. In (b) and (c), B7, the proper batter, is declared out. B8 is removed from base and bats again with no balls or strikes. R1 must return to first. In (d), no correction is made and B7 and B8 do not bat again until their regular times. B9 is now the proper batter.

**7.1.1 SITUATION B:** B7 erroneously bats instead of B5. With a count of three balls, two strikes on B7, the batting infraction is detected by (a) B5, or (b) F6, or (c) coach of the other team or (d) B7. **RULING:** When the improper batter's infraction is first discovered by either team, time may be requested and the improper batter replaced by the proper batter with the improper batter's ball-and-strike count still in effect, provided the infraction is detected before the improper batter is put out, or becomes a baserunner. In all cases B5 will take the place of B7 at the plate with a count of three balls, two strikes.

**7.1.1 SITUATION C:** The batting order is B1, B2, B3, B4. If B3 erroneously bats in place of B1 and the batting infraction is not detected by anyone before a pitch to the next batter, is B2 or B4 the next correct batter? **RULING:** B4, since B4 follows B3 in the batting order. Neither B1 nor B2 may legally bat until their turns come again as listed.

**7.1.1 SITUATION D:** With R3 on third and two outs, improper batter, B5, appears at bat. During F1's windup, R3 breaks for home base and beats the pitch there, and is called safe by the umpire. The pitch is not strike three or ball four. The team in the field then realizes that B5 is an improper batter and calls it to the attention of the umpire. **RULING:** The proper batter shall take a place at the plate with B5's accumulated ball-and-strike count. The run scored by R3 counts. The activity of improper batter B5 did not assist nor advance R3. The advance was made on merit. Of course, if the pitch to improper batter B5 had been strike three and the catcher either caught the ball or threw out B5 before reaching first base, then R3's run would not count.

**7.1.2 SITUATION A:** B1 singles and is followed by (a) improper batter, B3, who has a two-ball, two-strike count, or (b) improper batter, B3, who also singles. In (a) and (b), the defense discovers the irregularity at that point. **RULING:** In (a), the proper batter, B2, takes the place of B3 at the plate and assumes B3's accumulated count. In (b), B2 is out and any advance or score is nullified. B3 then becomes the next batter.



**7.1.2 SITUATION B:** B5 is batting instead of the proper batter, B4. The count is (a) 2-2 or (b) 1-1 and two outs. R3 is on third. On the pitch, B5 swings and misses, but F2 cannot come up with the ball. In (a), B5 reaches first base safely and in (a) and (b) R3 scores. Batting out of order is then appealed by the defense. **RULING:** In (a), B4 is declared out and since the third out was made by the batter-runner, who technically did not reach first base, R3's run does not count. In (b), R3's run counts. B4 would simply replace B5 and assume B5's ball-and-strike count.

### STRIKES, BALLS AND HITS

**7.2.1 SITUATION A:** With F1 having a hard time throwing strikes, the coach of the team at bat instructs B1 to assume an exaggerated crouch stance to lessen B1's strike zone. F1's first pitch is directly over the plate, but approximately chin high, which the umpire calls a strike. The coach of the team at bat requests time to ask the umpire how the strike zone is being interpreted. **RULING:** The umpire informs the coach that the strike zone is the space over home plate which is half-way between the batter's shoulders and the batter's waistline and the knees when B1 assumes a natural batting stance. If a batter assumes an exaggerated stance, such as crouching, the umpire shall use judgment to determine what a natural batting stance would be for the batter. (2-35-1)

**7.2.1 SITUATION B:** B1 starts to swing at the pitch but attempts to hold back on it or it appears as though B1 attempts to bunt the ball. In either case, B1 misses the ball. How does umpire determine what to call the pitch? **RULING:** A call of that nature is based entirely upon the umpire's judgment. Therefore, the umpire must, in order to be consistent, have criteria to assist in making the decision. The rule that most umpires follow is that if the bat is swung so it is in front of the batter's body or ahead of it, it is a strike. In bunting, any movement of the bat toward the ball when the ball is over or near the plate area, is a strike. The mere holding of the bat in the strike zone is not an attempt to bunt. (10-1-4a)

### BATTING INFRACTIONS

**7.3.1 SITUATION A:** B1, who is leading off the third inning, walks halfway to third base to get a sign from Team B's coach who has not yet reached the coaching box. **RULING:** As soon as F1 has completed warm-up throws, the 20-second count on the batter begins and B1 must be in the box ready for the pitch before the count ends. The umpire should caution B1 that B1 is on the clock and has "10 seconds" or "5 seconds" and, if B1 has not established a position in the box, after 20 seconds, a strike shall be called.

**7.3.1 SITUATION B:** With F1 on pitcher's plate ready to deliver, B1 in the batter's box holds up a hand while digging a hole in the box to get better footing. **RULING:** Umpire will not permit the pitcher to pitch but will caution the batter as the batter nears the end of the 20-second count. If the batter's box is in poor condition because of rain during the game, or for some other good reason umpire will properly grant a time-out to the batter to make an adjustment.

**7.3.1 SITUATION C:** B1, who is leading off the inning, decides to try to upset F1 and delays entering the batter's box. F1, seeing B1 is not in the box, does not assume a pitching position on the pitcher's plate. Twenty seconds elapse. **RULING:** B1 is charged with a strike. While F1 did not deliver the pitch within 20 seconds, F1 cannot pitch until the batter is set in the batter's box and therefore is not penalized.

**7.3.1 SITUATION D:** B1 steps out of the batter's box (a) without requesting time, or (b) after requesting time, or (c) fails to enter batter's box within 20 seconds. **RULING:** In (a), the umpire shall call a strike if B1 delayed the game. In (b), if the umpire grants time, the 20-second count will begin again as soon as the ball is declared "live." If time is not granted by the umpire and B1 steps out of the batter's box, a strike shall be called on B1 for delaying the game. In (c), the umpire shall call a strike. The pitcher does not have to throw a pitch.

**7.3.1 SITUATION E:** With no runners on, B1 is properly in the batter's box and F1 is on the pitcher's plate. After 10 seconds F1 steps back off the plate to say something to F6. The 20-second count elapses. **RULING:** Since F1 was responsible for the delay, the umpire shall award a ball to B1's count. If F1 had returned to the pitcher's plate and delivered the ball within the 20-second count, there would have been no penalty. **COMMENT:** If F1 steps off the plate for good reason, such as to tie a shoe, wipe perspiration from glasses, etc., F1 should request time, but if the reason is obvious, umpires should grant time regardless. The same would apply to batters.

**7.3.1 SITUATION F:** B1 has a count of three balls and one strike. In (a), F1 throws a pitch which B1 thinks is ball four and starts running to first base prior to the umpire calling the pitch a strike or (b) B1 incorrectly thought the count was two balls and two strikes and heads to the dugout after the umpire called the pitch a strike. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), as long as the umpire judges that B1 did not delay the game, B1 would be allowed to continue to bat with a count of three balls and two strikes. If the umpire felt that the game was delayed, the umpire shall charge a strike to B1. Because of the additional strike which now has been called, the batter is declared out in both (a) and (b).

**7.3.1 SITUATION G:** B2 has a count of two balls and one strike. (a) F1 delivers a pitch which gets past F2 and goes to the backstop. B2 steps out of the batter's box. (b) B2 attempts a drag bunt, but does not swing at the pitch, and ends up out of the batter's box. (c) F2, after receiving the pitch, attempts to pick R3 off third base. B2 steps out of the batter's box. **RULING:** Legal in (a) unless the umpire judges that B2 delayed the game, a strike shall be called on B2 for violation of the batter's box rule. In (b), neither the pitcher nor the batter has violated the rule. In (c), neither the catcher nor the batter has violated the rule.

**7.3.1 SITUATION H:** B1 is at bat with a three ball, one strike count when F1 delivers a pitch. Thinking the pitch is a ball, B1 takes a couple of steps toward first base. Hearing the umpire call the pitch a strike, B1 (a) returns immediately to the batter's box, or (b) is disgusted with the call and takes time returning to the batter's box. **RULING:**



In (a), the umpire will not call an additional strike on B1 as B1 did not delay the game. The count is 3-2. In (b), since B1 delayed the game, the umpire shall declare an additional strike for violation of the batter's box rule. B1 is out, the ball remains live.

**7.3.1 SITUATION I:** With no runners on base, B1 is properly in the batter's box and F1 is on the pitcher's plate. F1 steps back off the plate to say something to F5. Seeing this, B1 steps out of the box (a) without requesting "Time" or (b) after requesting and being granted "Time" by the umpire. **RULING:** In (a), the umpire shall call a strike on the batter if B1's action has delayed the game. In (b), neither the pitcher nor the batter has violated any rule.

**7.3.1 SITUATION J:** B1 does not swing at a pitch, which F2 catches then drops to the ground. There are less than two outs. **RULING:** B1 may not leave the batter's box and delay the game without penalty because F2 caught the pitch and then dropped it.

**7.3.2 SITUATION A:** When is a batter's foot considered to be inside the batter's box? **RULING:** The batter is considered to be in the batter's box when no part of either foot is touching the ground outside the boundary lines forming the batter's box. It is permissible for the feet to be touching the boundary lines that form the batter's box, since the lines are a part of the box. The batter may legally hit the ball with one foot in the box and the other foot in the air outside the box, and then contact the ground outside the box with the foot that was airborne.

**7.3.2 SITUATION B:** B1 assumes a batting stance (a) with B1's right foot on the back line but not outside the back line of the batter's box, (b) with B1's right foot partially on the back line and partially outside the back line of the batter's box, or (c) with B1's right foot completely outside the back line of the batter's box. **RULING:** The stance in (a) is proper. However, in (b) and (c), the umpire shall instruct the batter to assume a stance so neither foot is outside the lines of the batter's box.

**7.3.2 SITUATION C:** B1 strides forward when making contact with the pitched ball. B1's front foot (a) is in the air when contact is made and then lands completely outside the line of the batter's box, (b) is partially on the line of the batter's box, and partially on the ground outside the line of the batter's box, or (c) is on the ground entirely outside the line of the batter's box. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), this is legal, but in (c), the batter is out for making contact with the pitched ball while being out of the batter's box. **COMMENT:** The lines of the batter's box are within the box. When taking a stance in the box, both of the batter's feet must be completely in the batter's box (not touching the ground outside the batter's box). When making contact with the pitched ball, if the foot is touching the line of the batter's box, it is considered to be in the batter's box even if it is also touching the ground outside the line of the batter's box.

**7.3.2 SITUATION D:** B1 hits (a) a fair ball, (b) a foul ball, (c) a foul tip while either foot or knee is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box or touches home plate. **RULING:** Illegal in (a), (b) and (c). The batter is out for making contact with the pitched ball while being out of the batter's box or touching home plate.

**7.3.4 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first, B2 has two strikes. B2 swings at the next pitch, which touches B2. R1 steals second. **RULING:** B2 is out. The ball becomes dead and R1 must return to first.

**7.3.4 SITUATION B:** B1 is at bat with a three-ball, two-strike count. B1 swings at the next pitch and the ball hits B1's right fist and, without contacting the bat, goes into foul territory. F2 retrieves the ball and throws to F3 who is covering first base and tags B1 with the ball. **RULING:** As soon as the ball hit the batter it became dead. B1 is declared out. To have the play ruled a foul ball, the ball would have to have hit the bat of B1 before it touched B1's hand.

**7.3.4 SITUATION C:** B1 is at bat with a three-ball, no strike count. The batter rolls the elbow into the strike zone and a) the pitch hits B1 in the shoulder and would have been a ball; or b) the pitch hits the batter in the elbow and was in the strike zone. In both cases, the batter made no other movement. **RULING:** In a), B1 is awarded first base as it was ball four, and in b), B1 is charged with a strike, and remains at bat with a 3 ball, 1 strike count.

**7.3.4 SITUATION D:** B1 is at bat with a two-ball, no-strike count. The batter is fooled by the pitch and did not permit the ball to the batter's person. The pitch hits B1 in the shoulder. The batter made no other movement. **RULING:** B1 is awarded first base.

**7.3.5 SITUATION A:** With R2 going to third, B2 steps across home plate to hinder F2 who is fielding the ball or throwing to third, or attempting to throw to third. **RULING:** If R2 is tagged out despite the hindrance, the interference is ignored, and with less than two outs, the ball remains live. If R2 is not tagged out, B2 is declared out, and when there are less than two outs, the ball becomes dead immediately and all runners must return to the bases occupied at time of the pitch.

**7.3.5 SITUATION B:** With one out and R1 on first base, B3 swings and misses making contact with F2 on B3's follow-through. This action interferes with F2's throw to second base in an effort to put out advancing R1. **RULING:** B3 is out and R1 is returned to first base.

**7.3.5 SITUATION C:** B1 is currently up to bat with a 3-2 count, swings and misses at the pitch and contacts the catcher on B1's follow-through. The result of contact knocks F2 to the ground causing F2 to drop the ball. B1 runs to first base and is safe. **RULING:** B1 is ruled out.

**7.3.5 SITUATION D:** With R1 on first base and R2 on second base, one out and two strikes on B4, R1 and R2 attempt a double steal. B4 swings and misses the pitch and interferes with F2's attempt to throw out either R1 or R2. **RULING:** If in the umpire's judgment F2 could have made a putout on the runner(s) but cannot determine where the play was going to be made because of the nature of the interference, the umpire will then call out the runner nearest home plate, which is R2.

**7.3.5 SITUATION E:** With less than two outs, R2 on second and B2 at the plate, R2 attempts to steal third. In the process, B2, who bats right-handed, after swinging or not swinging at the pitch (a) makes no attempt to get out of the way of F2 throwing to third or (b) is unable to make an attempt to get out of the way of F2



throwing to third. As a result, F2 cannot make a play on the runner. Is B2 out, and must R2 return to second? **RULING:** B2 is not guilty of interference in (a) or (b). B2 is entitled to a position in the batter's box and is not subject to being penalized for interference unless B2 moves or re-establishes a position after F2 has received the pitch, which then prevents F2 from attempting to play on a runner. Failing to move so F2 can make a throw is not batter interference.

**7.3.5 SITUATION F:** With R3 on third, one out and two strikes on B3, B3 swings at and misses the pitch. The ball bounces off F2's glove into the air, where it is hit by B3's follow-through. The ball rolls to the back stop. B3 reaches first base safely and R3 scores. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately. B3 is out for interference and R3 returns to third base. A batter is entitled to an uninterrupted opportunity to hit the ball, just as the catcher is entitled to an uninterrupted opportunity to field the ball. Once the batter swings, B3 is responsible for B3's follow-through.

**7.3.5 SITUATION G:** With no outs and F1 in the set position, R3, who is on third base, attempts to steal home. F1 legally steps backward off the pitcher's plate and throws home. B2 hits the ball. **RULING:** Typically, batter's interference is a delayed dead ball in order to give the defense an opportunity to make an out on the initial putout attempt. Since the batter hit the ball, the defense was not afforded an opportunity to make a play. Therefore, the ball is declared dead immediately. R3 is out because of B2's interference. (5-1-2a, 7-3-5, 8-4-2l)

**7.3.5 SITUATION H:** With no one out and R3 on third and R1 on first, R1 attempts to steal second. B3 interferes with F2. F2's throw is in time to retire R1. On the play, R3 scores. **RULING:** Since F2 was able to retire R1, the interference is ignored and the ball remains live. Therefore, R3's run counts. (7-3-5)

**7.3.5 SITUATION I:** With a runner on third base and one out, B3 receives ball four for a base on balls. B3 takes several steps toward first base and then realizes B3 is still holding onto the bat. With B3's dugout on the third base side, B3 stops and tosses the bat in front of home plate towards B3's bench. As B3 tosses the bat, F2 throws the ball to third in an attempt to put out R3. The ball contacts the bat in mid-air and is deflected into dead-ball territory. **RULING:** The ball is dead. Interference is declared on the batter. If R3 had been attempting to steal home, R3 would be declared out and B3 awarded first base on the base on balls. If R3 was attempting to return to third base on the play, B3 is declared out for the interference. (7-3-5)

**7.3.5 SITUATION J:** With R1 on first base, B2 swings and misses the pitch for strike one. B2's follow-through hits the catcher while F2 is attempting to throw out advancing R1. **RULING:** If R1 is not out on the throw by F2 then B2 is out and R1 is returned to first base. If R1 is out, B2 remains at bat.

**7.3.5 SITUATION K:** With less than two outs, R3 attempts to steal home. B2 swings and misses the pitch for strike two. On the follow-through, B2's bat releases and strikes F2 in the facemask. **RULING:** The ball is dead and R3 is declared out. With two outs, the batter is declared out.

**7.3.6 SITUATION:** In hitting a slow roller to F5, the (a) whole bat slips out of B1's hands and interferes with F5 or (b) B1's bat breaks and hits the ball or F5 as F5 attempts to field the ball. **RULING:** In (a), the ball is dead immediately. B1 is declared out for interference, because B1 is responsible for controlling the bat and not allowing it to interfere with a defensive player attempting a play. In (b), there is no penalty and the ball remains live.

**7.3.7 SITUATION:** Prior to the pitch R1 is on first base, R2 is on second base, R3 is on third base. B4 makes contact with the catcher while taking a practice swing. **RULING:** The ball is immediately dead. No runners advance.

### BATTER IS OUT

**7.4.1 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first, B2 has two strikes and swings at the next pitch. F2 drops the ball and fails to throw to F3 at first. There are (a) no outs or (b) two outs. **RULING:** In (a), B2 is out because first base was occupied. In (b), B2 is safe at first if B2 reaches first before the half-inning ends or before all infielders leave the diamond. B2 is out if abandoning running to first base by entering the bench or dugout area.

**7.4.1 SITUATION B:** With (a) one out or (b) two outs, and R3 on third and R2 on second, F2 drops the third strike delivered to B5. **RULING:** B5 is safe at first if, in either (a) or (b), B5 reaches base before the ball is held by the fielder touching the base, or before B5 is tagged, provided in (a), it is before the time of the next pitch to the following batter or before B5 enters B5's bench and, provided in (b), it is before the half-inning ends.

**7.4.1 SITUATION C:** Is it a "delayed dead ball" when (a) an infield fly occurs, (b) a fair fly, fair line drive or fair bunt in flight is declared intentionally dropped by an infielder, (c) a spectator leans into center field to deflect a batted ball in flight that fielder could have caught, or (d) a batted ball in flight over foul ground in front of stand is touched by a spectator and catcher then catches it in flight? **RULING:** None of those causes a delayed dead ball. In (a), nothing has occurred to cause the ball to become dead. In (b), the ball is declared dead as soon as infielder intentionally drops the ball. All runners return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch. In (c) and (d), the ball becomes dead as soon as the spectator touches it. The batter is out when interference by a spectator clearly prevents any fielder from catching the batter's fly ball. If the umpire does not impose any penalties or make any awards to nullify the act of interference, then all runners must return to the bases they legally occupied at time of the pitch. (5-1-1e, 8-3-3e, 8-4-1)

**7.4.1 SITUATION D:** With R2 on second and R1 on first, B3, using an illegal bat, hits a ground ball to F6 who steps on second base in time to force out R1, but then throws the ball into dead-ball territory. R2 advances to third base and then scores. B3 advances to second base. Prior to the next pitch, the illegal bat is detected and brought to the attention of the umpire-in-chief. **RULING:** The umpire will give the defense the option of taking the result of the play or having the illegal bat penalty



enforced, which would result in B3 being called out and R2 and R1 returning to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. In addition, the penalties of 4-1-3b are applied to the head coach.

**7.4.1 SITUATION E:** The umpire calls "infield fly if fair" but the ball curves to foul territory. **RULING:** The announcement is reversed. It is not an infield fly but an ordinary foul. The batter is not out unless foul fly is caught. If the fly is caught, runners must retouch their respective bases before attempting to advance. (8-4-1j)

**7.4.1 SITUATION F:** With less than two outs and R2 on second and R1 on first, B4 hits a pop-up that comes down over foul territory. Is this an infield fly if (a) it touches the ground out of reach of all infielders and then takes a long hop into fair territory between home and first or (b) it is within reach of a fielder who does not touch it and ball bounces to fair territory? **RULING:** Not an infield fly in (a) if umpire thinks it is not within reach of any fielder, but it is a fair ball. In (b), it is an infield fly (2-19-1, 8-4-1j)

**7.4.1 SITUATION G:** With R2 on second and R1 on first and one out, B4 hits a high fly to second base which could have been caught by F4. Neither umpire declares "infield fly." F4 unintentionally drops the ball but picks it up and tags R2 who is off the base. **RULING:** The half-inning is over as R2's out is the third out. The infield fly out for the second out holds even though it was not declared. The situation determines the out, not the declaration. The umpires should always declare "Infield Fly, If Fair" to lessen any confusion.

**7.4.1 SITUATION H:** B1 batting, hits a high foul pop-up just beyond first base. F3 starts toward the ball, B1's coach tries to get out of F3's way but hinders F3's attempt to catch the ball. **RULING:** The ball is dead and B1 is out due to B1's coach's interference with F3. Though unintentional, the interference still stands.

**7.4.1 SITUATION I:** Team A has a runner on second base, B2 hits a high foul fly ball in the vicinity of the on-deck circle. While watching F2 come in the direction of the on-deck circle, the on-deck batter backs away from the ball but into the path of F5 and makes contact. **RULING:** B2 is out.

## Rule 8 Baserunning

### WHEN BATTER BECOMES A RUNNER

**8.1.1 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first base, B2 bunts to F3 who fields the ball on the first bounce near the foul line. B2 stops and reverses toward home to avoid being tagged out by F3, who then throws to F6 for a force-out on R1, and the relay throw fails to retire B2 at first base. **RULING:** As long as B2 did not touch or run beyond home nor leave the base path to avoid a tag, the action is legal.

**8.1.1 SITUATION B:** F2 drops the third strike. B1 starts toward the dugout and F2 does not throw to first. B1 then makes a quick dash to first. **RULING:** If F2 does not throw to first, F2 risks failure to put out B1. However, B1 should be declared out for failure to attempt to reach first if B1 does not reach the base before the time of the next pitch, B1 reaches B1's bench or dugout area, or a half inning is ended because the infielders have left the diamond. (8-4-1i)

**8.1.1 SITUATION C:** With the count of ball three on B2 and (a) R2 on second or (b) none on base, the next pitch is ball four and goes into the stands. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), B2 is entitled to first base only and in (a), R2 is awarded third base. (8-3-3d)

**8.1.1 SITUATION D:** When may a batter be hit by a pitch and not be awarded first base? **RULING:** (a) When the pitch is a strike; (b) when the batter permits the ball to touch the batter's person; (c) with no runners on base, the pitch is illegal and is not ball four or (d) when the batter attempts to hit the pitch.

**8.1.1 SITUATION E:** R2 is on second. F2 obstructs B2 but B2 hits and reaches first safely but R2, who was not moving on the pitch, is thrown out at home plate. **RULING:** Obstruction is ignored since R2 advanced one base and B2 reached first base safely. R2's advance past third was at R2's own risk and R2 is out. (5-1-2b, 8-3-3d)

**8.1.1 SITUATION F:** R2 is on second base. After B2 takes a position in batter's box, F2 clearly reaches out over home plate (a) prior to; (b) after F1 has made a movement that has committed F1 to pitch; or (c) to receive the pitch. **RULING:** It is catcher obstruction in both (b) and (c), and B2 is awarded first base and R2 is awarded third base only if R2 was stealing on the pitch. F2 may not catch the pitch until it has passed home plate. In (a), there is no violation provided F2 and F2's equipment are removed from the area over home plate before pitcher has made a movement that committed F1 to pitch. (8-3-1c)

**8.1.1 SITUATION G:** R3 is on third. After F1 winds up, R3 starts home as in a squeeze play. F3, who is playing close for a bunt, cuts off the pitch and tags R3. **RULING:** This is a defensive obstruction. The ball becomes dead when touched by F3. R3 is awarded home and batter is awarded first. (5-1-2b, 8-1-1e, 8-3-1c)

**8.1.1 SITUATION H:** R2 is on second with one out. F2 obstructs B3, but B3 hits a ground ball to F4 who throws B3 out. F3 overthrows third in attempt to retire R2 who scores on overthrow. **RULING:** The coach of the offense may elect to take the result of the play, scoring R2, or the coach may accept the catcher's obstruction penalty, placing R2 on second and B3 on first.

**8.1.1 SITUATION I:** R2 is on second base with one out. B3 hits a long fly ball to F8 after B3's swing was obstructed by F2. R2 tags up and scores after the catch. **RULING:** The coach or captain of the offense may advise the umpire-in-chief that the team elects to decline the obstruction penalty and accept the resulting play. Such election shall be made before the next pitch, legal or illegal, before the award of an intentional base on balls, or before the infielders leave the diamond.



**8.1.1 SITUATION J:** With R2 on second, F2 tips the bat of B2 who swings and misses the pitch. R1 was stealing on the pitch. F2 attempts to throw out R2 at third in which case R2 is called (a) out or (b) safe. **RULING:** The umpire signals dead ball at the end of playing action. In (a), R2 is awarded third base and the batter is awarded first base. In (b), the batter is awarded first base. Since R2 is stealing at the time of the pitch, R2 is awarded third base and may remain there.

**8.1.1 SITUATION K:** With the bases loaded and the infield-fly rule in effect, F2 obstructs the batter's swing which results in a high fly ball. Umpires invoke the infield-fly rule. The ball is caught. **RULING:** Because of the result of the batter being awarded first base, each runner will be awarded one base because of the force situation.

**8.1.1 SITUATION L:** With R3 on third base and trying to score on a steal or squeeze play, F2 obstructs the batter's swing. **RULING:** This is defensive obstruction and R3 is awarded home. The batter is awarded first base. **COMMENT:** If the catcher, or any other defensive player, obstructs the batter before the batter has become a batter-runner, the batter is awarded first base. If on such obstruction a runner is trying to score by a steal or a squeeze from third base, the play will be a delayed dead ball which results in the runner on third scoring and the batter being awarded first base. Runners not attempting to steal or not forced to advance remain on the bases occupied at the time of the obstruction.

**8.1.1 SITUATION M:** With R2 on second base, B2 is obstructed by F2 but hits to F6 who throws B2 out at first base. F3 throws to third base to retire R2 who overslides third base. R2 was not attempting to steal on the pitch. **RULING:** This is defensive obstruction. B2 is awarded first base. R2 is returned to second base.

**8.1.1 SITUATION N:** R3 is on third base and R2 on second base, with one out. F2 obstructs B4 who hits a ground ball to F4. R2 was attempting to steal third, even though third was occupied. B4 is thrown out at first on the play. **RULING:** B4 did not reach first safely, so the coach has the option of taking the play or the penalty. If the offensive coach takes the penalty, B4 is awarded first. R2 is awarded third because R2 was attempting to steal on the pitch, and R3 is forced to advance to home.

**8.1.1 SITUATION O:** With two outs, R2 attempts to steal third. F2 obstructs B4 as B4 swings. F2 overthrows F5 at third trying to get R2. R2 attempts to score and is thrown out at the plate by F7. **RULING:** The coach of the team at bat, after being informed of F2's obstruction, elects to have the penalty for defensive obstruction enforced. Therefore, B4 is awarded first base and R2 is awarded third base. (8-1-1e)

**8.1.1 SITUATION P:** With R2 on second and R1 on first and one out, B4 hits a pop fly to F4 that is declared a legal infield fly. During B4's swing, F2 obstructed the swing with the mitt. The defense does not catch the ball, and R2 scores with R1 advancing to third base. B4 ends up on second base. **RULING:** U1 announced "That's Obstruction" when B4, in an attempt to hit the ball, makes contact with F2's glove by the bat. Although U1 declared "Infield fly, batter's out," the offense may choose to take the result of the play or the penalty. If the play stands, R2 will

score, R3 will remain at third and B4 will be out due to the infield fly. If the offense chooses to have the penalty for the obstruction enforced, R2 will be returned to third base, R1 will return to second base and B4 will be awarded first base. B5 will come to bat with the bases loaded and one out.

**8.1.1 SITUATION Q:** A 1-1 pitch is thrown behind the batter and makes contact with the batter's sliding glove, which was in the batter's back pocket. **RULING:** The pitch is declared an immediate dead ball and the batter is awarded first base.

**COMMENT:** The batter's person is defined to be a player's body, as well as the hat, helmet, uniform, shoes, protective gear, etc., worn correctly and normally. Preventive officiating, asking the batter to tuck the sliding glove fully into the pocket, could have prevented the situation.

**8.1.1 SITUATION R:** B1 hits a fair ball in front of home plate. Both the batter-runner and catcher make contact while trying to complete their respective responsibilities. **RULING:** If either player attempts to alter the play, interference or obstruction shall be called depending on who violates the rule. If neither player attempts to alter the play, no call shall be made.

#### **TOUCHING, OCCUPYING AND RETURNING TO A BASE**

**8.2.1 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first, B2 hits safely to right field. An overthrow at first (a) goes into the stands or (b) hits the fence behind home plate and rebounds to the catcher. In going to third, R1 misses second base and has passed second or is approaching second when ball leaves the hand of F9. **RULING:** In (a), R1 will be awarded home if R1 is past second base or awarded third base if R1 has not reached second base when the throw leaves the hand of F9. R1 is responsible for touching all bases regardless of whether or not the bases are awarded. At the end of the play, upon a proper defensive appeal, the umpire will call R1 out for any base R1 did not touch. In (b) upon a proper defensive appeal, the umpire will call R1 out for any base R1 misses in advancing.

**8.2.1 SITUATION B:** With R2 on second base, R1 on first base and no outs, B3 doubles. Both runners cross home plate, but R2 fails to touch third and (a) R2 gets back to third before the ball arrives at third or (b) after all play has ended, the defensive team properly appeals the missed base by R2 and the umpire calls R2 out for failing to touch third base. Does run by R1 count? **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the run by R1 counts. In (a), if there is no defensive appeal, the play will stand. If the defense properly appeals, R2 will be called out as R2 cannot return to correct a missed base when a following runner has scored behind the runner.

**8.2.1 SITUATION C:** With R1 on first base, B2 hits safely to center field. (a) The ball goes over the fence in flight, (b) bounces over the fence or (c) is fielded by F8 after which the overthrow at first goes into the stands. Both runners advance, but R1 fails to touch second or B2 fails to touch first. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), each runner is awarded bases when the ball goes out of play. In (a), R1 and B2 will be awarded home. In (b), R1 will be awarded third base and B2 second base. In (c),



R1 and B2 will be awarded two bases from where each was located when the ball left the hand of F8. However, the runners must touch all awarded bases or risk being called out by the umpire upon a proper defensive appeal for not touching each base while advancing. (8-3-3)

**8.2.1 SITUATION D:** R3 is on third with no outs. R3 attempts to score on a fly ball to F8. F8's throw to F2 is near perfect. R3 sees that the play is going to be close. As F2 stretches for the ball to tag R3, R3 attempts to hurdle F2's outstretched arms as the ball bounces in front of the plate and skips into dead-ball territory. As R3 is in the air, F2's glove catches R3's foot and both lose their balance and tumble to the ground. (a) R3 gets up and proceeds to the dugout or (b) R3 crawls back and touches the plate. **RULING:** Hurdling the outstretched arms of a fielder is legal. Hurdling or jumping over a fielder who is not lying on the ground is illegal. In (a), the umpire shall call R3 out for missing the plate upon a proper defensive appeal. In (b), R3's run would count.

**8.2.1 SITUATION E:** With R1 on first, B2 hits a long foul fly down the right field line that F9 cannot catch. R1, who is almost at third, does not retouch second on the way back to first. **RULING:** R1 is not out. If the ball is dead because of being an uncaught foul, it is not necessary for a returning runner to retouch intervening bases. **COMMENT:** The procedure for appealing a missed base or failure to tag up (retouch a base) has changed. An umpire must now wait until the defense initiates the appeal during either a live- or dead-ball situation. The right to appeal does not end until: (1) the next pitch (legal or illegal) is made; (2) at the end of an inning, when the infielders (which includes the pitcher and catcher) leave the field (cross the foul lines); (3) at the end of the game, when the umpire(s) leave the field; (4) a request for an intentional base on balls is granted; or (5) a defensive-initiated play or attempted play has occurred.

**8.2.2 SITUATION A:** The runner on second base misses third base and subsequently scores on a double by the batter. There is no appeal by the defense, and a pitch is made to the next batter. **RULING:** The run counts.

**8.2.2 SITUATION B:** With the bases loaded and one out, a fly ball is hit to deep center field and caught. The runner on third legally tags and advances to home plate. The runner on second leaves before the ball is touched by the center fielder. With runners now standing on third and second base, and before a pitch, the defense is granted time and verbally appeals that the runner on second left the base too early. **RULING:** This is a valid appeal and the runner is declared out. The run scoring on the proper tag-up from third base will count.

**8.2.2 SITUATION C:** R1, the runner from first base, misses second base on the way to third. R1 is: (a) standing on third base; or (b) halfway between second and third base when the throw from the outfield sails into the bleachers. **RULING:** In (a), all the defense needs to do is verbally state that the runner missed second base. R1 would be ruled out. R1 cannot legally attempt to return to touch second, since R1 was on a subsequent base when the ball became dead. In (b), the runner

may attempt to return and touch second base since R1 has not yet gained third base. The defense cannot appeal the missed base if the runner has initiated an attempt to return to the base or until all playing action is over.

**8.2.2 SITUATION D:** The runner from first base misses second base on the way to third. With the ball still live and all playing action over, the defense: (a) touches the runner standing on third base with the ball; (b) touches second base while holding the baseball; (c) the coach verbally states that the runner missed second base; or (d) requests and is granted time and then states the runner missed second base. **RULING:** In (a), (b), and (d), these are legal appeals, and the runner would be declared out. In (c), since the coach can only verbally appeal when the ball is dead, this appeal would not be honored by the umpire.

**8.2.2 SITUATION E:** The runner misses second base and, with the ball still in play, attempts to return and touch second base. The defense simply announces that the runner missed the base. **RULING:** Since the runner has initiated action to return, the defense must tag the returning runner unless it is a force play, in which case all the defense would need to do is touch the base with the ball.

**8.2.2 SITUATION F:** Following a pitch to the next batter, the defensive coach states that the runner scoring from third left too early on a caught fly ball. **RULING:** The appeal is not valid, since it came after the next pitch (legal or illegal) and the coach cannot make a live-ball appeal. The run will count.

**8.2.2 SITUATION G:** Having missed second base, the runner is standing on third. The pitcher, before any pitch, legally attempts to pick off the runner standing on first. The coach then requests time and verbally states that the runner on third missed second base. **RULING:** The defense forfeits its right to appeal by making an attempted play on the runner on first. The appeal is denied and the runner remains on third base.

**8.2.2 SITUATION H:** Following an inside-the-park home run, the defense appeals that both runners on base and the batter missed third base as they advanced to home. **RULING:** This is a legal appeal. The umpire will rule depending on the umpire's judgment of the play.

**8.2.2 SITUATION I:** With bases loaded and two outs, the batter hits an extra base hit, scoring the runner from third. The runner from second is thrown out at home for the third out as the runner from first advanced to third, but missed second base. With time called and the teams beginning to change positions on the field, the defensive shortstop stays in fair territory. The defensive coach then verbally appeals the missed base. **RULING:** This is a legal appeal. The runner who missed second base would be declared out. While this is a fourth out, it would be granted and used as a third out. Since it would be a force play, no runs would score.

**8.2.2 SITUATION J:** With the winning run scoring in the bottom of the seventh inning, the umpires attempt to leave the field. While one umpire has stopped for a drink of water at the dugout, the visiting team appeals that the runner who scored missed third base. **RULING:** This is a valid appeal since there is at least one umpire still on the field of play.





an intentional or valid appeal; (b) and (c), no runs score and that half of the inning is over because the fielder made a valid appeal.

**8.2.6 SITUATION F:** With R1 at first, B2 hits a double into right center, sending R1 to third. However, R1 misses second base. F6 is standing on second when F6 catches the throw from the outfield. F6 then throws the ball to the pitcher. **RULING:** Although R1 missed second, no call will be made by the umpire because F6 did not make an intentional appeal of the missed base.

**8.2.6 SITUATION G:** With R1 at first, B2 hits a triple to left. However, both R1 and B2 miss second. The ball is then returned to the infield, where F4 stands on second and appeals that B2 missed the base. **RULING:** The umpire will uphold the appeal on B2 and call B2 out. However, the umpire will not make a call on R1 unless properly appealed by the defense.

**8.2.6 SITUATION H:** R1 is stealing on the pitch and a fly ball is hit to right field. R1 misses second base by (a) a few inches or (b) a greater distance because R1 cuts across the infield missing second base as R1 advanced toward third base. F9 catches the fly ball and R1 now retouches second base as R1 retreats to first base. F9's throw is errant and R1 reaches first base ahead of the throw. The defense now appeals that R1 should be out as R1 did not initially touch second base. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is not declared out as R1 touched second base on the return to first, and as a result, corrected the mistake by touching second on R1's last time by the base. In (b), R1 is out on the appeal because a runner who misses a base by such a great distance in order to gain an advantage would still be vulnerable to appeal under the principle of last time by.

**8.2.7 SITUATION A:** The leadoff hitter has a 3-2 count. There is a check-swing situation and the umpire calls ball four. The base umpire upholds the plate umpire's decision and B1 overruns first base. In (a), the defense tags the batter/runner returning to first base. In (b), the defense tags the batter/runner after the batter/runner attempts to go to second base before returning to first base. **RULING:** In (a), the batter/runner is safe. In (b), the batter/runner is out.

**8.2.7 SITUATION B:** The leadoff hitter has a 3-2 count. There is a check-swing situation and the plate umpire calls ball four. The base umpire reverses the call on appeal and calls strike three. B1 overruns first base. In (a), the defense tags the batter/runner returning to first base. In (b), the defense tags the batter/runner after the batter/runner attempts to go to second base before returning to first base. **RULING:** In (a), the batter/runner is safe. In (b), the batter/runner is out.

#### **BASERUNNING AWARDS**

**8.3.1 SITUATION A:** With R3, R2 and R1 on third, second and first bases, respectively, and (a) two outs or (b) one out, R3 attempts to steal home. With a 1-2 count, the pitch hits R3 while the ball is in the strike zone. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), ball becomes dead immediately and batter is out because of third strike. In (a), no run is scored since batter became third out. In (b), all base runners are

awarded one base from where they were at time of pitch and R3 scores. (5-1-1a, 6-1-4, 8-1-1 NOTE 1, 9-1-1a)

**8.3.1 SITUATION B:** R3 is on third and R2 is on second. R3 breaks from third in an attempted suicide squeeze play. As B3 attempts to bunt, F2 touches tip of bat or steps across home plate, catches the ball and tags R3. R2 remains on second. **RULING:** Catcher obstruction. The umpire awards B3 first base and R3 home. Since R2 was not attempting to steal or was forced, R2 remains on second.

**8.3.1 SITUATION C:** R2 is on second when F2 tips the bat of B2 who swings and misses the pitch. **RULING:** The umpire awards B2 first base. Since R2 was not attempting to steal nor forced, R2 remains on second.

**8.3.2 SITUATION A:** R2 and R1 are on second and first, respectively, when B3 beats out an infield hit. R2 advances to and past third toward home. In a rundown, F5 obstructs R2. However, R2 gets back to third safely and finds R1 there. F5 tags R1 with the ball. **RULING:** Umpire shall call "Obstruction!" when the infraction by F5 occurs. At the conclusion of playing action, the umpire declares the ball dead, then awards home to R2 and allows R1 to remain at third. When a runner is obstructed, the obstructed runner is awarded a minimum of one base beyond the runner's position on base when the obstruction occurred.

**8.3.2 SITUATION B:** While (a) B1 is moving toward second base on a hit to right-center field, F6, who does not have possession of the ball, fakes a tag on B1 or (b) B1 is returning to first base and F3, who does not have the ball, fakes a tag on B1. **RULING:** In both cases it is ruled obstruction, and B1 is awarded second base or if, in the umpire's judgment, the runner could have advanced farther had obstruction not occurred, the umpire could award additional bases.

**8.3.2 SITUATION C:** F2 is in the path between third base and home plate while waiting to receive a thrown ball. R3 advances from third and runs into the catcher, after which R3 is tagged out. **RULING:** Obstruction. F2 cannot be in the base path without possession of the ball, nor can F2 be in the base path waiting for a ball to arrive without giving the runner some access to home plate.

**8.3.2 SITUATION D:** With one out, R2 on second and R1 on first, B4 hits ground ball directly to F1 who throws to F5 for force on R2 at third. F5 then throws to F3 in time to put out B4. F6 holds R2, preventing R2 from advancing to third. **RULING:** The umpire will call obstruction when it occurs, and then call time after runners have advanced as far as possible, which in this situation would probably be second for R1. R2 will then be awarded third. Because of the obstruction of F6, the out at first stands. B4's out stands. B4 was not affected by the obstruction. B5 will come to bat with two outs and R2 is on third and R1 is on second base.

**8.3.2 SITUATION E:** R1, who is on first base, attempts to steal second base. (a) F2 does not make throw or (b) F2 throws the ball into center field. In both cases, F6 fakes a tag on R1. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is awarded second base on the obstruction call. In (b), the umpire shall call obstruction. The umpire will make the ball dead at the end of the play and use judgment to award bases that the runner



would have obtained had the obstruction not occurred. The umpire shall issue a warning to the defensive coach for F6 faking a tag.

**8.3.2 SITUATION F:** With R1 on first base, B2 illegally hits a pitch that goes toward F6 and F4 obstructs R1 advancing to second base. **RULING:** The ball became dead at the time of B2's violation. B2 is out and R1 must return to first base.

**8.3.2 SITUATION G:** F1 attempts to pick off R1 at first base. As F3 is about to receive the throw, drops a knee and (a) blocks the entire base prior to possessing the ball or (b) blocks part of the base prior to possessing the ball or (c) blocks the entire base while being in possession of the ball. **RULING:** Obstruction in (a); legal in (b) and (c).

**8.3.2 SITUATION H:** With no outs, R2 is obstructed rounding third. R1 had advanced beyond second. B3 then interferes with F3. **RULING:** The umpire shall deal with obstruction and then interference, since this is the order in which the infractions occurred. If R2 was obstructed after rounding third, R2 would be awarded home. If R2 was obstructed before reaching third, the umpire may award R2 home if, in the umpire's judgment, R2 could have scored had R2 not been obstructed. The umpire then shall enforce the interference penalty, which would place R1 at second base and declare B3 out. (8-4-2g)

**8.3.2 SITUATION I:** R3 is attempting to score from third and F8 throws the ball to F2. F2 is four or five feet down the line between home and third, but is not actually able to catch the ball in order to make the tag. R3, rather than running into F2, slides behind F2 into foul territory and then touches home plate with a hand. After R3 slides, F2 catches the ball and attempts to tag R3 but misses. The coach of the offensive team coaching at third base claims that obstruction should have been called even though there was no contact. **RULING:** Obstruction. Contact does not have to occur for obstruction to be ruled. F2 cannot be in the baseline without the ball and a probable play is not going to occur, nor can F2 be in the baseline without giving the runner access to home plate.

**8.3.2 SITUATION J:** F1 feints a throw to first base. Someone in the defensive team's dugout throws a ball against the fence alongside first base, making R1 think an overthrow took place. **RULING:** The umpire shall call obstruction and award R1 second base. The umpire shall also eject the offender from the game and issue a warning to the coach. [2-22-1, 8-3-2, 3-3-1g(4)]

**8.3.2 SITUATION K:** F6 fields a ground ball and throws to F3 in attempt to retire B1 at first. The ball is thrown wide. As F3 lunges towards the ball, F3 collides with B1, knocking B1 to the ground prior to possessing the ball (a) while B1 is short of first base or (b) after B1 has contacted first base. **RULING:** (a) Obstruction; (b) legal.

**8.3.2 SITUATION L:** R1 is advancing on the pitch and F6 drops to a knee while taking the throw, partially blocking the inside edge of the base. R1 slides to the inside edge of the base, contacts F6's knee, and is then tagged out. The head coach of Team A argues this should be called obstruction. **RULING:** This is not obstruction as F6 did provide access to part of second base, even though it was not the part of the base that R1 wanted or believed was most advantageous.

**8.3.3 SITUATION A:** The batter hits toward F6. The throw from F6 lodges in batter-runner's shirt prior to batter-runner touching first base. **RULING:** Ball is dead immediately. Batter-runner is awarded first base. All other runners move up if forced to advance because of the award to batter-runner.

**8.3.3 SITUATION B:** The batter hits a single to right. Batter-runner is caught in a rundown between first and second. During the rundown, the ball becomes lodged in batter-runner's shirt while (a) headed toward first or (b) headed toward second. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately in both cases, (a) batter-runner is placed on first; in (b) batter-runner is awarded second. In either case, all other runners move up, if forced to advance because of the award to batter-runner.

**8.3.3 SITUATION C:** R2 is on second and R1 is on first when B3 hits ground ball to F6. F6 fields the ball, steps on second for a force on R1 advancing from first, and then throws wildly to F3. F3 tosses the fielding glove into the air, intentionally hitting the ball. **RULING:** R1 is out. Both R2 and B3 are awarded two bases from their positions on base when the detached mitt or glove of F3 touched the thrown ball. In this situation or any other situation where a detached glove or mitt touches a ball, prior to the ball becoming dead because of going into a dead-ball area, the rule that applies to detached player equipment prevails. If the detached glove or mitt touches the ball after the ball has become dead because of going into a dead-ball area, the ruling governing detached player equipment has no bearing.

**8.3.3 SITUATION D:** There is an overthrow at first. Are bases always awarded and from which base is an award started? **RULING:** Bases are awarded only in case something happens to cause the ball to become dead, such as the ball going into the stands or the dugout. If ball does become dead, the number of bases awarded is indicated in 8-3-3 and the place for starting is indicated in 8-3-4. If a pitch or any pitcher's throw from pitching position becomes dead, it results in the award of only one base. If the pitcher fields a batted ball and the pitcher's overthrow (first play following a pitch) becomes dead, the pitcher is considered the same as any other infielder and the overthrow results in the awarding of two bases measured from the time of the pitch. (8-3-3c, d; 8-3-5)

**8.3.3 SITUATION E:** With runners on first and third bases, the pitcher assumes a position on the pitcher's plate in the set position with the ball in both hands in front of the body. R3 makes a break towards the plate. F1 steps clearly backward off the pitcher's plate. F1 then runs several steps towards home plate and throws the ball to the catcher while R3 continues to advance. The throw bounces away from F2 and into the stands. How far should R1, who is on first, be allowed to advance? **RULING:** When the pitcher legally stepped clearly backward off the pitcher's plate, F1 became an infielder and the throw into the stands resulted in all base runners being awarded two bases from where they were at the time the throw left the fielder's hand. R1 would be awarded third base in this situation.



**8.3.3 SITUATION F:** B1 hits fair line drive over the head of F5, who jumps high attempting to field the ball. As F5 jumps upward, F5's glove accidentally dislodges from F5's hand and touches the ball. **RULING:** If the umpire decides the detached glove was not thrown or tossed intentionally, there is no penalty. If the umpire should decide the act was deliberate, the umpire shall advance B1 to third.

**8.3.3 SITUATION G:** R1 is on first when B2 hits fair ball (a) down the right-field line that rolls into foul territory or (b) to the left-center field gap. In both cases, a spectator picks up the ball in live-ball territory and tosses it to the fielder. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), ball is dead immediately at the moment of interference and the umpire shall award R1 and B2 the bases they would have reached, in the umpire's opinion, had there been no spectator interference.

**8.3.3 SITUATION H:** B1 hits a long fly ball to left field. F7 goes back to the fence, leaps, but is not able to touch the fly ball. The ball then rebounds off the fence, strikes the fielder's glove and ricochets over the fence in fair territory. Is this a home run or ground-rule double? **RULING:** This would be considered a ground-rule double. To be a home run, the ball must clear the fence in flight. Action secondary to the hit (ball ricocheting off the fence and then off the fielder's glove) caused the ball to go into dead-ball area. Therefore, the hit shall be ruled a ground-rule double.

**8.3.3 SITUATION I:** R3 is on third and R1 is on first with one out. B4 hits a fly ball that is caught in right-center field. Both runners tag to advance. R3 legally tags and scores after the catch. R1 stays on first as the batter-runner rounds first and makes a break toward second. F8 throws wildly to F4 who deflects the ball into dead-ball territory. **RULING:** Legal. B4 was out with the catch. Each runner would be awarded two bases from the time the ball left the hand of F8. Therefore, R3 scores and R1 is on third.

**8.3.3 SITUATION J:** B1 singles to right field, (a) the ball rolls to a stop and F9, attempting to pick it up, kicks the ball into dead-ball territory or (b) the bouncing ball strikes F9 on the leg and deflects into dead-ball territory. **RULING:** In (a), F9 applied the impetus that caused the ball to go into dead-ball territory, which is the same as if F9 had thrown it there. The award to any runner is two bases from the base occupied at the time of the kick (throw). In (b), the force on the batted ball caused the ball to go into dead-ball territory, so the award to any runner is two bases from the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

**8.3.3 SITUATION K:** F1 throws a pitch that strikes F2 on a shinguard and rolls away. The ball (a) has stopped moving and F2, attempting to pick it up, kicks it into dead-ball territory, or (b) is rolling and deflects off F2's glove into dead-ball territory, or (c) F2 intentionally kicks the ball into dead-ball territory. **RULING:** In (a), F2 applied the force that caused the ball to go into dead-ball territory, so the kick (throw) results in all runners being awarded two bases from the base occupied at the time of the kick (throw). The pitch is considered to be over. In (b), the force on the pitch caused the ball to go into dead-ball territory, so the award to all runners is one base from the base occupied at the time of the pitch. In (c), if the umpire judg-

es the pitch would have gone into dead-ball territory without the kick, one base is awarded from the time of the pitch. If the kick is judged to have caused the ball to go into dead-ball territory, two bases are awarded from the time of the throw/kick.

**8.3.3 SITUATION L:** With two outs and R2 on second, B4 strikes out, but the pitch gets by F2 and is rolling toward the backstop. F2 chases the ball down and stops it with the catcher's mask. **RULING:** This is a delayed dead-ball situation. R2 is awarded two bases from the time of the infraction at the end of playing action.

**8.3.3 SITUATION M:** F3 reaches into the stands to make a catch on a foul fly ball. A spectator touches the ball or glove of F3 and prevents the catch. **RULING:** Interference is not called. Fielders are not covered by the spectator interference rule when the fielder reaches into a dead-ball area.

**8.3.3 SITUATION N:** F9 reaches into the designated media area and a photographer prevents F9 from catching the ball. **RULING:** Since the media area is a dead-ball area and the photographer is considered a spectator, under this rule no interference has occurred.

**8.3.3 SITUATION O:** With R3 at third and R1 at first with one out, B4 hits a ground ball to F4. While attempting to tag R2 advancing to second, F4 applies intentional excessive force to R2's head. On the play R3 is (a) advancing to the plate, or (b) R3 holds at third. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), F4 is guilty of malicious contact. The play becomes dead immediately, and F4 is ejected. Since F4 tagged R1 out simultaneously with the malicious contact, the out stands; B4 is awarded first. In (a) R3 will be awarded home, scoring the run. In (b) R1 will stay at third since R1 was not advancing on the play.

**8.3.3 SITUATION P:** With R1 at first, B2 hits a sharp line drive down the line into the right-field corner. As R1 rounds second base, F6 reaches out and clotheslines R1, bringing R1 to the ground. **RULING:** F6 is guilty not only of obstruction, but of malicious contact. The play becomes dead immediately, and F6 is ejected. R1 will be awarded at least third base and B2 at least first base. If in the umpire's judgment both R1 and B2 could have attained additional bases had the malicious contact not occurred, those additional bases will be awarded.

**8.3.5 SITUATION A:** With runners on bases, the ball becomes dead in a dugout resulting from a (a) throw by F9 on a base hit, (b) throw by F1 while in contact with the plate, (c) throw by F1 not preceded by a pitch while not in contact with the plate, (d) a pitch that caroms off shinguard of F2 or (e) F5 falling into the dugout following the catch of a batted fly ball. What are the awards and for what bases? **RULING:** Award two bases in (a) and (c) and one base in (b), (d) and (e). Awards are from bases occupied at the time of throw in (a), (b) and (c), and at the time of the pitch in (d) and (e).

**8.3.5 SITUATION B:** On hit-and-run single, R1 has reached and passed second before the ball batted by B2 bounces over or through the fence in right field. **RULING:** The award of two bases is from first for R1 and from home plate for B2.



**8.3.5 SITUATION C:** With two outs and R1 on first, the third strike is dropped and rolls along first base line enabling B4 to reach first and R1 second while F2 is trying to scoop up the ball. F2 then overthrows third attempting to put out R1 and ball goes into the stands. **RULING:** Since all runners have advanced one base before F2's overthrow, awards are measured from the bases occupied at the time of the throw. Both R1 and B4 are awarded two bases from the base each occupied when the ball left the hand of F2 on the overthrow.

**8.3.5 SITUATION D:** With R1 on first base and one out, B3 hits a loop to right field. R1 goes halfway to second and B3 rounds first base. F9 traps the ball. However, believing the ball was caught, F9 throws to first with intentions of doubling off R1. F9's throw is wild and goes into dead-ball territory. What bases are awarded? **RULING:** In this instance, there were two runners between first and second bases when the ball left F9's hand. The runners will be placed on second and third, because no runner can be awarded more than two bases in this situation. This means, technically, B3 is awarded only one base.

**8.3.5 SITUATION E:** R3, R2 and R1 are on third, second and first bases, respectively. There are two outs and a count of three balls, two strikes on B6. As F1 starts pumping, runners begin to advance. F1 pumps three times and umpire signals dead ball. The violation occurs after R2 and R1 each have advanced one base. F1 delivers following the violation and B6 swings and misses a third strike. **RULING:** Balk. Each runner is awarded one base from where each runner was at the time of the pitch when F1 started the pumping motion. Count remains three balls, two strikes on B6.

**8.3.5 SITUATION F:** With R2 on second and R1 on first base, B3 hits a fly ball in shallow right-field area between F3, F4 and F9. All three players converge on the ball as it falls safely but is fielded on the bounce by F4. R2 is beyond third, R1 beyond second and B3 is beyond first when F4 throws to home base (or third base). Ball bounces into stand. **RULING:** Though F4's throw was the first play by an infielder following a pitch, award each runner (including batter-runner) two bases from the base F4 occupied when the ball left the hand of F4, since all runners already have advanced one base. If B3 had not reached first base, award all runners two bases from their location at the time of the pitch.

**8.3.5 SITUATION G:** B1 hits a hard line drive to F5, who knocks the ball down. F5 recovers and overthrows first base and the ball goes into dead-ball territory. At the time of the throw, B1 had not yet touched first. **RULING:** B1 is awarded second.

**8.3.5 SITUATION H:** R1 is at first when B2 hits to F6, who feints a throw to second and then throws the ball into the dugout. At the time of the throw, R1 has touched second but B2 has not touched first. **RULING:** Because the feint by F6 is not considered a play, R1 is awarded third base and B2 is awarded second base. The award is based on the positions of R1 and B2 at the time of the pitch.

**8.3.5 SITUATION I:** R1 is at first when B2 hits to F6, who throws to second for one out. F4's relay to first goes into dead-ball territory. At the time of the throw, B2 has (a) not touched first or (b) touched first. **RULING:** Because F4's throw was

the second play by an infielder, the award is from the time of the throw. Therefore, in (a), B2 is awarded second base. In (b), B2 is awarded third base.

**8.3.5 SITUATION J:** R2 is at second when B2 hits to F6, who tries to tag R2 but misses. F6 then overthrows first into dead-ball area. R2 remains at second, but B2 has touched first at the time of the throw. **RULING:** Because it was the second play by an infielder, R2 is awarded home, and B2 is awarded third.

**8.3.5 SITUATION K:** R1 is at first when B2 hits to F6, who runs toward second for the force out. Realizing R1 will beat F6 to the base, F6 throws to first and the ball goes into dead-ball territory. At the time of the throw, R1 had touched second, but B2 had not touched first. **RULING:** F6's attempt to put out R1 at second is considered a play. The overthrow by F6 is considered a second play. Because it was the second play by an infielder, R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded second.

**8.3.5 SITUATION L:** B1 hits a slow roller to F5 who makes no play. The batter-runner feints an attempt to go to second and F5's subsequent throw goes into dead-ball territory. **RULING:** B1 is awarded third. Though F5's throw was the first play by an infielder, all runners (in this case, only the batter-runner) have already advanced a base. Therefore, the awards are measured from the time of the throw.

**8.3.6 SITUATION:** R1 is on first base and attempts to steal second base. On the catcher's throw, contact with the plate umpire hinders F2's attempt to retire R1. **RULING:** If R1 is not retired at the end of the catcher's initial throw, the ball is dead and R1 shall return to first base.

#### **RUNNER IS OUT**

**8.4.1 SITUATION A:** After bunting the ball, B1's bat, which is still in B1's hand, unintentionally strikes the ball a second time in fair territory while (a) B1 is still in the batter's box or (b) B1 is outside the batter's box. **RULING:** In (a), it is a foul ball. In (b), the ball is dead and the batter is out.

**8.4.1 SITUATION B:** B1 squares to bunt and hits the pitch. The batted ball bounces off the plate and hits B1's (a) leg or, (b) bat a second time while B1 is holding the bat in the batter's box (no foot is entirely outside of the batter's box). **RULING:** In (a), it is a foul ball. In (b), the ball is foul unless, in the umpire's judgment, the ball was contacted intentionally, in which case the ball would be dead and B1 declared out.

**8.4.1 SITUATION C:** With R3 on third base, B2 hits a fair ground ball to F3 who fields ball beyond first base. F3 throws to F2 attempting to retire R3. The throw hits B2 who is running on the foul line. **RULING:** B2 has not interfered, since R3 was running in the prescribed base path, the same as if R3 were advancing toward any other base. Since no play is made on B2 at first base, 8-4-1g does not apply. Had B2 intentionally made contact with the throw, the ball would be dead. B2 would be out and the umpire could call R3 out for B2's interference. Otherwise, R3 returns to third base on the interference call.

**8.4.1 SITUATION D:** With R3 on third and R2 on second base, B3 hits a sharp ground ball toward F6 who is pushed by R2. **RULING:** Interference causes the ball to become dead and R2 is out. If, in the umpire's opinion, F6 could have tagged



R2 with the ball and then thrown out R3 at home, the umpire shall declare R3 out also. If it is apparent F6 was about to tag R2 and also would retire B3 at first for a double play, then umpire would declare both R2 and B3 out. If the umpire rules that even if F6 fielded ball cleanly F6 could not have retired any runner, then only R2 is out. When interference occurs, runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference, unless they had scored prior to the time of interference or were put out. There was no force play in effect. (8-4-1h, 8-4-2g)

**8.4.1 SITUATION E:** With bases loaded, B4 hits a one-hopper to F5, who throws to the plate. The throw is off line and hits B4's bat that had been tossed away from the plate by the umpire. Is this interference? **RULING:** No. The bat in this situation is considered part of the playing field. Therefore, the ball remains live.

**8.4.1 SITUATION F:** With R1 on first and no outs, B2 bunts the ball in the air and it is intentionally dropped by F5. **RULING:** The ball is declared dead immediately and B2 is declared out. R1 remains at first.

**8.4.1 SITUATION G:** With the bases loaded and one out, B5 bunts a ball in the air. F3 uses the back of the glove to gently knock the ball to the ground where F3 picks it up and throws to F2 who touches the plate and then throws out B5 at first. **RULING:** The ball is dead. B5 is out and the runners return. Manipulating the ball to the ground is prohibited. Allowing the ball to drop to the ground untouched is not considered an intentionally dropped ball.

**8.4.1 SITUATION H:** B1 swings and misses a pitch for strike three. As F2 is attempting to catch the pitch, B1 hits F2 with the bat on the follow-through, hindering F2's attempt to catch the ball. **RULING:** B1 is out for interference.

**8.4.1 SITUATION I:** B1 swings and misses a pitch for strike three. The ball ricochets from F2's mitt and rolls several feet down the first-base line in fair territory. As F2 goes for the ball, B1 accidentally kicks or steps on the ball. **RULING:** If, in the judgment of the umpire, B1 did not intentionally interfere, then the ball remains alive and the play stands.

**8.4.1 SITUATION J:** B1 bunts the ball down the first-base line, the catcher comes out from behind the plate and (a) the batter/runner intentionally drops/throws the bat and contacts the batted ball prior to any fielder having an opportunity to field the ball; (b) without contacting the ball intentionally, the batter/runner drops/throws the bat or other batter/player equipment which impedes a fielder's opportunity to field the ball. **RULING:** The ball becomes dead immediately in both (a) and (b), the batter/runner is ruled out and all runners return to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. The batter may not use a bat or any other personal equipment to hinder the defense.

**8.4.2 SITUATION A:** On a play at the plate, F2, who is kneeling, is about to receive the throw. R3 decides to hurdle F2 or jump over F2 feet-first. **RULING:** The runner is out. A runner is entitled to slide legally or legally attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball waiting to make the tag. Going over the top of the fielder who is not lying on the ground by hurdling, jumping over or diving over the fielder

is dangerous and, therefore, illegal. A runner may jump or hurdle a fielder, who is lying on the ground, but diving over a fielder always is illegal.

**8.4.2 SITUATION B:** With R3 on third and R1 on first and a count of one-and-one, B3 hits a foul fly ball near the third-base line with one out. R3 interferes with F5 in F5's attempt to catch the ball. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately. R3 is declared out because of R3's interference with F5. B4 remains at bat with a count of one-and-two.

**8.4.2 SITUATION C:** (a) B1 reaches first base safely but thinks the ball reached first base before B1 arrives and abandons the effort to return to first base and heads for the team bench, or (b) R2, running to third base, believes R2 is out because of a possible force play at third base and leaves the field for the team bench when the coach tells R2 to return. **RULING:** The umpire will rule an out in both (a) and (b), because in each play the runner abandoned the effort to reach the entitled base. Upon reaching base a runner abandons the effort when the runner leaves the baseline. (8-4-2p)

**8.4.2 SITUATION D:** All bases are occupied with no outs when B4 hits a ground ball to F4 and R1 collides with F4 as F4 is fielding the ball. **RULING:** The ball became dead when interference occurred. R1 is declared out. If the umpire rules that F4 could have executed a double play, then the umpire shall declare two outs (the runner who interfered, and the other runner or batter-runner involved). If the umpire rules that only one runner could have been put out, then only R1 is out. No runs may score and all other runners shall return to bases occupied at the time of interference.

**8.4.2 SITUATION E:** With all bases occupied and no outs, B4 bunts, which results in a fly ball in the infield (not an infield fly). As R3 advances toward home, R3 contacts F5, causing F5 to drop the fly ball. How should the umpire rule? **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately. R3 is out for interference and B4 is out, since the interference prevented a double play involving R1 and B4.

**8.4.2 SITUATION F:** In the opinion of the umpire, R1, when leading off first base, moves up to the front of the baseline, thus effectively screening F3 from the ball on F1's attempted pickoff. **RULING:** R1 shall be called out for interference. **COMMENT:** If this is not ruled to be interference, the runner gains an advantage not intended by the rule. This maneuver taught by some coaches shall be penalized.

**8.4.2 SITUATION G:** R3, R2 and R1 are on third, second and first bases, respectively, when B4 hits an infield fly ball. The umpire calls B4 out. R1, thinking the ball will not be caught, advances past R2 just beyond second. The fly ball hits R2 while R2 is off second base. **RULING:** Ball becomes dead when it hits R2. The play results in three outs. B4 is out by the infield-fly rule. R1 is out for passing an unobstructed preceding runner, and R2 is out for being hit by a batted fair ball. (8-4-1j)

**8.4.2 SITUATION H:** With R2 on second, R1 on first and one out, B4 hits a ground ball or an infield fly. F4, standing behind second base, is in position to field the ball. The ball strikes R2 who is (a) near second or (b) standing on second. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the ball is dead immediately. If the hit is an infield fly, B4 shall be declared out (8-4-1j). In (a), R2 is out on either type of hit. In (b), R2 would be out on the ground ball, but not on an infield fly. A runner need not vacate



a base to permit a fielder to make a catch, but shall give the fielder a reasonable opportunity to make the play. (5-1-1f, 7-4-1f)

**8.4.2 SITUATION I:** R1 is advancing to second when the ball batted by B2 (a) is dropped by F4 and is deflected toward R1 or (b) passes several feet to the left of F4 who is playing in front of the baseline. In either case, the ball then touches R1. **RULING:** In (a), the touching is ignored because the ball touched a defensive player first. In (b), touching is ignored unless R1 purposely allows the ball to touch R1's person or, in the opinion of the umpire, another player who was in an infielder's position when the pitch was made had a play on the ball.

**8.4.2 SITUATION J:** With R2 on second, B2 hits toward second. The batted ball hits R2 while R2 is standing on second or while R2 is on the way to third. F4 and F6 (a) are playing deep behind the baseline or (b) F6 is playing in front of the baseline. **RULING:** In (a), the ball is dead immediately. R2 is out and B2 is awarded first base. In (b), the touching is ignored unless it is ruled intentional, and the ball remains live because no other infielder had a chance to make a play on the batted ball. (5-1-1f)

**8.4.2 SITUATION K:** With R3 on third, R1 on first and no one out, R1 attempts to steal second base. The pitch to the batter is strike three. As F2 attempts to throw out R1, the batter interferes. The ball goes into the outfield and R3 scores. **RULING:** The batter is out because of strike three. R3 returns to third base because that is the base R3 occupied at the time of the interference. If the umpires judge R1 would have been out on the steal had the interference not occurred, R1 will be declared out. If the umpires judge R1 would not have been out had the interference not occurred, R1 will be returned to first base.

**8.4.2 SITUATION L:** With two outs, R2 on second base and R1 on first base, B5 singles. B5 passes R1 between first and second base (a) just before R2 touches the plate or (b) just after R2 touches the plate. **RULING:** In (a), the run does not count, while in (b), it does count. A runner is called out at the moment the runner passes a preceding runner, but the ball remains live. Acts such as attempts of a runner to profit by running too far from the baseline to avoid a tag, or outside the three-foot lane while advancing to first, or running the bases in reverse, or other-wise making a travesty of the game may not be appealed. The umpire calls the runner out without waiting for the defensive player to call attention to the act.

**8.4.2 SITUATION M:** The bases are loaded with one out. B5 hits a home run over the fence. However, B5 passes R1 after rounding first. R1 misses second base while advancing to home. **RULING:** B5 is out at the point B5 passes R1. Upon proper defensive appeal, R1 is called out at the end of playing action by the umpire. Two runs score. B5, being declared out for passing R1, removed the force situation on R1 at second base.

**8.4.2 SITUATION N:** R3 is on third with one out when B3 hits safely. R3, while watching the ball, misses home plate. F2 calls for the ball, steps on home to retire R3 and throws to third to get B3 sliding in. **RULING:** Legal. Runner may be declared out for missing base during playing action upon proper appeal.

**8.4.2 SITUATION O:** R1 is on first base. B2 hits a one-hopper to F5 who throws to F4 at second base for the force out of R1. R1 slides illegally into second base. **RULING:** R1 is out, as well as B2, because of R1's interference (illegal slide on force play). The ball is dead immediately and runners return to their bases occupied at the time of the pitch and no runs can score.

**8.4.2 SITUATION P:** R3 is on third and R1 is on first with no outs. B3 hits a ground ball to F4 who throws to F6 to force R1. R1 slides illegally, contacts F6 and interference is called by the umpire. **RULING:** R1 is out. B3 is out, and R3 is returned to third.

**8.4.2 SITUATION Q:** With the bases loaded, B4 hits a ground ball to F3 who is left-handed. The ball is just inside the foul line. F3 throws to F2, but hits B4 who is on the way to first base. B4 is in fair territory, but has not reached the 45-foot running lane. **RULING:** There is no violation, unless the batter-runner intentionally interfered with F3's throw. (8-4-2a)

**8.4.2 SITUATION R:** With R3 on third base, R1 on first and two outs, B5 hits a fair slow roller toward first base. B5 interferes with F3, who is trying to field the ball. However, R3 scores before the interference. Does the run score since R3 touched home plate before the interference? **RULING:** The run does not score if the runner advances during action in which the third out is made by the batter-runner before touching first base. (9-1-1a)

**8.4.2 SITUATION S:** F4 is in the baseline without the ball (a) on both knees or (b) bending over. R1 hurdles, jumps, leaps or dives over F4. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), obstruction is ignored. If the runner hurdles, jumps or dives over the fielder, the runner shall be declared out. These illegal acts supersede obstruction.

**8.4.2 SITUATION T:** With two outs and R2 on second base, B4 hits a pop fly to F6. While moving underneath the ball, F6 enters R2's basepath. As R2 starts to go around F6, the wind blows the ball beyond F6. F6 backs up suddenly into the runner and, as a result, drops the ball. **RULING:** R2 is guilty of interference. F6 is entitled to an unhindered opportunity to field the ball.

**8.4.2 SITUATION U:** R1 is advancing toward second base on a ground ball by B2 and is obstructed by F4. R1, in an attempt to avoid F4, dives over the top of F4. **RULING:** R1 is declared out immediately, and unless R1 makes contact or alters the play of F4, the ball remains live. The act of obstruction is superseded by the act of diving over a fielder.

**8.4.2 SITUATION V:** With the bases loaded, B4 hits a ball that is trapped by F8. R2 at second thinks the ball is caught and begins to return to second base. R1 attempts to advance to second. F8's throw reaches F4 at second before R2 and R1 arrive at the base. The umpire signals an out. However, both runners think they are out and begin leaving the field. **RULING:** R1 is out because of being forced. However, once the force was removed, R2 would have to be tagged out if R2 left the base. When R2 began leaving the field, R2 should be considered as having abandoned the effort to return or advance, and shall be declared out. (8-4-2j)



**8.4.2 SITUATION W:** The bases are loaded with (a), less than two outs, or (b), two outs. B5 hits a ground ball to F4, who throws to F2 for the force out at home. The throw pulls F2 off home plate several steps toward the first-base side. R3, seeing F2 ready to make a play on B5 at first base, touches home plate and maliciously crashes into F2. **RULING:** (a) Since this is a force-play situation, R3 and B5 are declared out and no one scores. R3 will be ejected from the game. In (b), R3 will be declared out and ejected for the contact, and no run will score.

**8.4.2 SITUATION X:** Team A has runners at second and third bases. R3 has taken a lead in foul territory. B3 hits a foul fly between third base and home. F5 goes to field the ball in foul territory. F5 makes contact with R3 who is attempting to return to third base. **RULING:** (a) R3 would be declared out. If there were two outs, this ends the inning; (b) If less than two outs, R3 is declared out and a strike is added to the batter's count, unless the batter already has two strikes, in which case the pitch is counted as a foul ball.

**8.4.2 SITUATION Y:** With the bases loaded and no outs, B4 hits a ground ball to F4. F4 throws the ball to F6, who is covering at second base and setting up to receive the ball and throw to first base to complete a double play. R1, advancing from first to second, does so standing up in a straight line to second base. R1 is close enough to second base that R1 is within sliding distance to the base had R1 chosen to slide. F6 steps on second and throws to first, hitting R1 as R1 comes into second base. **RULING:** This is a violation of the force-play slide rule. While R1 is not required to slide, if R1 chooses not to slide, R1 must veer away from the base if the fielder is there attempting a play. R1 is declared out as well as B4. R2 and R3 are returned to their respective bases.

**8.4.2 SITUATION Z:** With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a hard ground ball to F6. F6 fields the ball, steps on second base, and throws to first base in an attempt to double up B2. R1 is running standing up in a straight line to second base and is hit by F6's throw. R1 is not even halfway to second base and did not intentionally interfere with the throw. **RULING:** This is not a violation of the force-play slide rule. R1 cannot be expected to slide at that point in the base path. The play stands.

**8.4.2 COMMENT:** The umpire has authority to declare two runners out when a runner or retired runner illegally interferes and prevents a double play. In such circumstances, the runner who interferes is out and the other runner involved is also out. Also, when the batter-runner interferes, the umpire may declare two outs. The batter-runner is declared out and so is the runner who has advanced the nearest to home plate.

## Rule 9 Scoring – Record Keeping

### HOW A TEAM SCORES

**9.1.1 SITUATION A:** R2 is on second and R1 on first with one out. B4 hits a long fly that appears to be uncatchable, but is caught by F8. R2 advances home but misses third base. R1 fails to retouch first base and advances to third base. **RULING:** Upon proper appeal, the umpire will rule both R2 and R1 out for failing to touch third base and retouching first base, respectively. The defensive team is allowed to select the out that is to its advantage. Defense selects R2's out and cancels the run. (8-2 PENALTY)

**9.1.1 SITUATION B:** With one out, R3 is on third and R2 is on second base when B4 hits a long fly ball that is caught by F8. R3 remains in contact with third base but R2 has nearly advanced to third. The throw to F4 arrives at second base ahead of R2's return. **RULING:** R2 is out for the third out. If R3 scored before R2 was retired, the run counts. The inning ended with a play in which the third out was not a force out. Hence, it was a timing play.

**9.1.1 SITUATION C:** With two outs and R1 on first, B4 hits next pitch for an inside-the-park home run. In circling the bases, B4 misses second. **RULING:** When all action stops, upon appeal, the umpire will rule B4 out for failing to touch second base. The run scored by R1 will count. Had the infraction been the missing of first base and B4 ruled out, the run by R1 would be canceled. (8-2-1)

**9.1.1 SITUATION D:** With two outs, R3 on third base and R1 on first base, B5 receives a fourth ball. An overthrow at third permits R3 to reach home. In advancing (a) R1 fails to touch second or (b) B5 goes to second base but fails to touch first base. **RULING:** Upon appeal, the umpire will rule R1 out for failing to touch second base in (a) and B5 out for failing to touch first base in (b). The run by R3 will not count in either case. (8-2 PENALTY)

**9.1.1 SITUATION E:** With R3, R2 and R1 on third, second and first, respectively, B5 hits a fly ball to F8 for the second out. All base runners except R1 tag up and try to advance one base. F8's throw to F5 retires R2 for the third out, but after R3 has scored. R1 did not tag up and was detected leaving first base early, and at the conclusion of all action, upon appeal, the umpire declares R1 out (fourth out). Does the run by R3 count? **RULING:** The only time a fourth (or fifth) out would take precedence is if it negates a score(s). In the above case the fourth out would not negate R3's run, because R1's out was not a force out.

**9.1.1 SITUATION F:** R3 is on third with two outs and two strikes on B4. As F1 winds up, R3 starts to steal home. B4 swings at the ball but misses. Catcher drops ball. While F2 is looking for the ball, R3 crosses home plate, after which the catcher recovers the ball and throws B4 out at first. Does the run score? **RULING:** No. The batter-runner made the third out without reaching first base safely.

**9.1.1 SITUATION G:** With R3 on third base, R2 on second base and R1 on first base and one out, B5 hits safely to right field. R3 scores, R2 misses third base and scores and R1 is thrown out at third base. At the end of playing action, time is called, the defense makes a proper appeal and the umpire declares R2 out. How many runs score? **RULING:** No runs score since the putout of R2 at third base was a force out and also the third out of the inning. (9-1-1d)

**9.1.1 SITUATION H:** With the bases loaded and one out, B5 hits a line drive to the right field fence. R3 and R2 score. R1 is thrown out at the plate. B5 goes to third but misses first. **RULING:** Upon appeal, B5's out for missing first was the third out. No runs scored. **COMMENT:** No runs can score if the third out is a force out or if the batter does not reach first. (8-2-6k PENALTY)

**9.1.1 SITUATION I:** With R2 on second, B2 hits a fly ball to F8. R2 fails to tag second after the catch and goes to third. After a proper appeal, the umpire declares R2 out for leaving early. Which defensive player receives the putout for R2? **RULING:** Credit the putout to the nearest designated baseman, who in this case will be F4. (9-5-2c)

**9.1.1 SITUATION J:** With no outs and the bases loaded, B1 grounds into a 6-4-3 double play as R3 and R2 score. R2 misses third base and is declared out for the third out upon proper appeal. **RULING:** R2's out is not a force out for the third out, therefore, R3 scores.

**9.1.1 SITUATION K:** With the bases loaded and one out, B5 hits a home run out of the park. While advancing to second base, B5 passes R1 (force is removed) and B5 is declared out. R1 fails to touch second base, but touches third base on the way home. **RULING:** For missing a base or leaving a base too soon, the umpire will declare the runner out upon proper appeal. R3 and R2 score, because R1's out was not a force out for the third out. (8-2 PENALTY)

#### PLAYER'S BATTING RECORD

**9.3.2 SITUATION A:** With R3 on third, R2 on second and R1 on first, B4's fly ball to center field is caught by F8, who then throws to second base. (a) F8's throw is in time to retire R1 attempting to advance, (b) R1 arrives ahead of the throw, or (c) R1 remains at first base. How are all advances recorded? **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), R3 scores by virtue of a sacrifice fly and R2 advances on a fielder's choice. In (b), R1 advances on a fielder's choice, even though the throw was late. (2-8-4)

**9.3.2 SITUATION B:** B1 hits to left field and reaches second. However, B1 is called out for not touching first base. How should this be entered in the scorebook? **RULING:** The putout should be credited to F3. B1 is not credited with a hit.

**9.3.2 SITUATION C:** While advancing to second, R1 is hit by a batted ball that prevents an obvious double play on R1 and the batter-runner. **RULING:** Both the runner and the batter-runner are declared out. The batter is not credited with a base hit. (8-4-1h)

#### PLAYER'S FIELDING RECORD

**9.5.4 SITUATION:** With R2 on second and R1 on first, B3 bunts to F3. F3 fields the batted ball, then throws to F4 who returns the throw to F3 for a double play. How shall the scorekeeper record this action? **RULING:** R1 and B3 are retired (3-4-3) as R2 advances by a fielder's choice.

**9.5.5 SITUATION A:** F2 touches the bat of B1 as B1 swings at the ball. How is this entered in the records? **RULING:** F2 is charged with an error. B1 is awarded first base and is not charged with a time at bat. (9-3-1a)

**9.5.5 SITUATION B:** B1 hits a pop-up behind second base that could easily be caught by either F4 or F6. The ball is not caught. **RULING:** Since the ball could have been caught, it is a team error and is not a hit.

**9.5.5 SITUATION C:** R1 on first base attempts to steal second base. F2 makes throw to second base that should have been caught, but neither F6 nor F4 was at the base to receive the throw. **RULING:** This is a stolen base and a team error if R1 advances at least to third base on the play.

## Rule 10 Umpiring

#### UMPIRE JURISDICTION

**10.1.2 SITUATION A:** Upon arriving on the playing field, the umpire(s) observe F1 warming up with F2 outside the confines of the field. The umpire informs F2 that the catcher must wear a mask with a throat protector and a head protector to continue. F2 puts on the mask and head protector on immediately and continues warming up F1. **RULING:** Legal. Umpire jurisdiction begins when the umpire arrives within the confines of the field.

**10.1.2 SITUATION B:** As an umpire is walking to the field, a player from one of the teams swears at the umpire. **RULING:** Unless the umpire is within the confines of the field, the umpire cannot impose any penalties. **COMMENT:** The umpire should inform the player's coach immediately, and if circumstances warrant, submit a written account to the state association.

**10.1.2 SITUATION C:** While changing clothes in the parking lot, several members of the coaching staff approach the umpires in an aggressive manner using profanity and threatening bodily injury: (a) the umpires get into a physical altercation with the coaches; (b) the umpires eject the head coach; (c) the umpires call the local law enforcement department to file a complaint; (d) the umpires hurry and get dressed and leave the parking area and submit a written report to the local state association. **RULING:** In, (a) and (b), incorrect response and behavior. In (c), correct response if the situation necessitates the need to contact the local law enforcement. It should be done in conjunction with (d), which is a correct procedure.



**10.1.3 SITUATION:** B1, attempting to check the swing at a pitch, carries the barrel of the bat past B1's body. **RULING:** The umpire shall determine whether or not the batter's movement carried the barrel of the bat past the batter's body in an attempt to strike the ball.

#### USE OF VIDEO BY UMPIRES

**10.1.4 SITUATION:** The coach of Team A informs the umpire that five runs scored in an inning by Team A, rather than the four credited, and that this fact can be verified on a parent's or team's videotape of the game. **RULING:** The umpire may not allow the use of video to assist in rendering any decision.

#### USE OF TOBACCO BY UMPIRES

**10.1.8 SITUATION A:** On the way to the parking lot after the game, the umpire is seen using tobacco or a tobacco-like product by a coach or someone from the home team's management. **RULING:** An umpire who uses tobacco or tobacco-like products in the vicinity of the playing field is in violation of the rule. The state association should be notified of the infraction.

**10.1.8 SITUATION B:** Before the game, an umpire is observed by one of the coaches using tobacco or a tobacco-like product near the bleachers. **RULING:** The coach should report the infraction to the state association. Umpires are prohibited from using tobacco or tobacco-like products in the vicinity of the playing field.

#### UMPIRES' UNIFORM

**10.1.9 SITUATION A:** Umpires arrive at the field wearing light gray slacks. Are these slacks legal? **RULING:** Yes. Gray slacks are mandatory.

**10.1.9 SITUATION B:** Umpires arrive at the field wearing (a) navy pullover shirts, or (b) red pullover shirts, or (c) one umpire is wearing a black shirt while the other umpire is wearing a gray shirt. **RULING:** (a) Legal (b) Umpires may wear an alternate shirt if approved by the state association; (c) Illegal. Both umpires shall be wearing identical, approved uniforms.

#### UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF

**10.2.2 SITUATION A:** With the home team behind by one run in the bottom of the seventh and two outs, B4 singles. R2 scores, but then maliciously runs over the catcher. The umpire ejects R2 and nullifies the run. As both teams begin to go to their respective dugouts, R2's coach informs an umpire that the run should score, since R2 touched the plate before the malicious contact. The umpire summons the other umpires and asks the teams to wait. The umpire disagrees, at which time the coach lodges a protest with the umpire-in-chief. **RULING:** The coach's protest is on record since the coach lodged the protest with an umpire before the umpires left the field. If the umpire-in-chief realizes an error has been made, the game would resume, as long as an umpire has remained on the field.

**10.2.2 SITUATION B:** With the score tied in the bottom of the seventh and R3 on third and R1 on first, R1 is obstructed trying to steal second. The umpire awards R1 third base, which forces R3 home to win the game. Both teams leave the field and are entering their respective dugouts as the umpires leave. The coach of the defensive team, after talking to an assistant coach, realizes the obstruction award was misapplied. The defensive team's coach finds the umpire-in-chief behind the backstop. Is the coach allowed to lodge a protest? **RULING:** No. A protest would have to have been lodged with an umpire before the umpires left the field. Once the umpires have left the field, even if nearby, it is too late.

**10.2.3 SITUATION A:** After several innings have been played, it starts to rain and play is suspended by the umpire. If rain continues for 30 minutes, must the game be called? **RULING:** The umpire may call the game when the umpire is convinced that conditions of the field will be such as to make continued play impossible. It is customary for the umpire to wait 30 minutes before making such an announcement. If, at the end of 30 minutes, there is still doubt as to whether or not the game may be resumed, such an announcement should be withheld until the umpire is quite certain that no further play will be possible within a reasonable amount of time.

**10.2.3 SITUATION B:** The coach of Team A hits balls to the infield or the outfield while F1 is warming up at the start of an inning. **RULING:** There shall be no balls hit to any fielders following pregame infield/outfield practice.

**10.2.3 SITUATION C:** F1's cap frequently falls off F1's head and in the umpire's judgment, it is either distracting to the batter or delaying the game. **RULING:** The umpire shall instruct the defensive team's coach that F1's cap must be secured. If this situation is not corrected, F1 will be removed as pitcher.

**10.2.3 SITUATION D:** In (a), F4 takes the field wearing a cast on the left wrist or (b) F1 appears wearing a cast on the nonpitching arm. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b). A player may participate in the game wearing a cast, provided the cast is padded with a recommended ½ closed-cell, slow-recovery rubber or other material of the same minimum thickness and having similar physical properties and free of attachments that could cut, scrape or puncture. The umpire has the final decision as to whether or not a cast is safe and should be allowed. A pitcher may compete with a cast on the nonpitching arm, provided the cast is padded with a recommended ½ closed-cell, slow-recovery rubber or other material of the same minimum thickness and having similar physical properties and not white or gray.

**10.2.3 SITUATION E:** With R1 on first and a three-ball, two-strike count on B2, R1 attempts to steal second on the next pitch, which is ball four. The base umpire, R1 and F4 do not realize it was ball four and R1 is called out on the play. R1 then quickly heads for the bench and is tagged out during the confusion. **RULING:** The umpire shall put R1 back on second base because it was the umpire's decision that caused R1 to leave the bag.



**10.2.3 SITUATION F:** With R3 on third and no outs, B2 hits a high fly in the infield above F4's head. The base umpire erroneously calls "Infield fly. The batter is out." F4 subsequently drops the ball. R3 scores from third and B2 ends up on second base. Does the play stand or is B2 out but the run allowed to score? **RULING:** The play would stand. Both teams have the responsibility to know when conditions exist for an infield fly. The batter-runner should attempt to reach base safely and then inform the umpire that the umpire's call was in error. (7-4-1f)

**10.2.3 SITUATION G:** With R2 on second and R1 on first and no outs, B3 hits an infield fly, but the umpire fails to call "infield fly." Is the infield fly in effect or not? **RULING:** Even though the infield fly rule was not announced by the umpire, it is still in effect. Both teams have the responsibility to know when conditions exist for an infield fly.

**10.2.3 SITUATION H:** With a count of three balls and two strikes on B2 and R1 on first base, the batter takes what appears to be a half swing. The plate umpire calls ball four and R1, upon hearing ball four, then trots to second base. F2 throws the ball to F4 who tags R1 before R1 reaches base. F2 asks the plate umpire to check with the base umpire to see if B2 did, in fact, attempt to hit the pitch. The base umpire indicates that the batter did swing at the ball. **RULING:** The plate umpire will declare the batter out and return R1 to first base. The umpire-in-chief can rectify any situation in which an umpire's decision that was reversed has placed a base runner in jeopardy.

**10.2.3 SITUATION I:** With a count of three balls and two strikes on B1 and no runners on base, the pitch is made and the batter takes what appears to be a half swing. The plate umpire calls ball four as the ball gets away from F2. B1 trots to first base and F2 throws the ball to F3, who tags B1 prior to B1 reaching first base. F2 asks the plate umpire to check with the base umpire to see if it was a strike. The base umpire indicates that B1 did swing at the ball. **RULING:** If, in the judgment of the umpire-in-chief, B1 would have reached first base before the throw if it had not been called ball four, the plate umpire can award B1 first base. The umpire-in-chief can rectify any situation in which an umpire's decision has placed a batter-runner in jeopardy. Advances and outs made by runners following a reversed call stand, if the call that was changed clearly did not place the runners in jeopardy.

**10.2.3 SITUATION J:** During an extra-inning game, numerous team warnings were issued for various rules violations. B1, upon hitting the ball, carelessly throws the bat. The umpire proceeds to eject B1 at the end of playing action. The ejected player's coach claims a team warning should have been issued. The umpire said that one had already been issued. The coach asks to see the umpire's record of team warnings. The umpire did not record team warnings. **RULING:** The umpire is in violation of the rule but the ejection stands. The coach may wish to inform the state association or appropriate officials' association of the umpire's failure to record warnings.

**10.2.3 SITUATION K:** What happens if a scoring error concerning the number of runs a team scores or outs a team has is detected (a) before the game has ended, or (b) after the game? **RULING:** In (a), the scoring error is corrected immediately. In (b), if by changing the scoring error the outcome will be affected, the corrected score shall be brought to an umpire's attention before the umpires leave the playing field. Otherwise, the score that both teams thought was correct stands. **COMMENT:** The scorebook of the home team shall be the official scorebook, unless the umpire-in-chief rules otherwise. Individuals who keep their team's scorebook should pay particular attention to the score that is posted on the scoreboard, or that is announced over the PA system. If there is any confusion about the number of runs scored, the official scorekeeper should be consulted immediately. Umpires are not required to sign the scorebook to make it official.

**10.2.3 SITUATION L:** With R1 on first and one out, B3 hits a ground ball to F6. F6 flips the ball to F4 who steps on the base to force R1 out. As F4 throws the ball to F3, the lights go out. **RULING:** R1 is out at second base. The umpire uses best judgment in ruling on the play at first base.

**10.2.3 SITUATION M:** With R3 on third base and R1 on first base, B3 hits a ground ball to F4. F4 moves forward to field the ball and R1 collides with F4. The umpire mistakenly calls obstruction and R3 scores. The umpire then realizes that interference should have been called. **RULING:** By reversing the decision, the umpire shall call R1 out and return R3 to third base.

**10.2.3 SITUATION N:** With two outs and runners on first and second bases, B5 hits a ground ball to F3 who backhands the ball and shovels a throw to F1. The base umpire calls B5 out, but B5 asks the base umpire to check with the plate umpire because B5 thought F1's foot came off of first base. During the discussion, R2 from second scores. The plate umpire indicates that F1's foot did in fact come off of first base. The base umpire then calls the batter-runner safe. The coach of the defensive team tells the umpire that because the call was reversed, a run scored. Therefore, R2 should have to return to third base. **RULING:** The umpire shall return R2 to third, R1 to second, and B5 to first base in accordance with Rule 10-2-3l. **COMMENT:** If proper umpire mechanics were used, this situation would not have occurred.

**10.2.3 SITUATION O:** Several spectators are shouting unsporting comments directed to the other team and the umpires. In (a), game management is able to diffuse and quiet the spectators; while in (b), game management cannot gain control of the spectators and the umpires determine that conditions are unfit for the game to continue. **RULING:** In (a), the game is allowed to continue. In (b), the game is suspended. The game cannot be forfeited to one team as the umpires have no rule authority to forfeit a game due to the action of a spectator. The state association will determine next actions.



## COURTESY RUNNER RULES (BY STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION)

**CR 1 SITUATION:** Team A's courtesy runner runs for F1 and later in that same half-inning runs for F2. **RULING:** The courtesy runner can run for one or the other, but not both. This is an illegal substitution and shall result in the courtesy runner being declared out and restricted to the bench/dugout.

**CR 2 SITUATION:** Jones runs for F2 in the first inning, but Smith comes out to run for F2 in the third inning. **RULING:** This is legal if Jones and Smith are both eligible courtesy runners and have reported to the umpire-in-chief as they enter as courtesy runners.

**CR 3 SITUATION:** The coach of Team A sends out a courtesy runner for F2 in the third inning with one out. After the second out, the coach sends F2 back out to run. **RULING:** Illegal. Once the courtesy runner replaces F2, F2 cannot re-enter for the courtesy runner in that half-inning unless the offensive team bats around. However, in case of injury with no other courtesy runners available F2 may re-enter.

**CR 4 SITUATION:** The coach of Team B sends out a courtesy runner for F1 in the fifth inning with no outs. In the same half-inning, after the offensive team bats around, F1 returns as a batter. **RULING:** Legal. While F1 may not return in the half-inning as a runner on the bases, F1 may return as a batter.

**CR 5 SITUATION:** F2 doubles with no outs. Two outs later the coach sends out a courtesy runner for F2. **RULING:** A courtesy runner does not have to be entered when the catcher first reaches base. A courtesy runner may be entered at any time.

**CR 6 SITUATION:** McCormick is a courtesy runner for F2 in the first inning, then is a courtesy runner for F1 in the sixth inning. **RULING:** Illegal. The same player cannot be a courtesy runner for both positions. The illegal substitute is declared out and restricted to the bench/dugout.

**CR 7 SITUATION:** Herrmann is a courtesy runner for F2 in the top half of the sixth inning. Herrmann then enters to pinch-hit for F4 later in that half-inning. **RULING:** Illegal. A courtesy runner is not eligible to enter the game as a substitute during the same half-inning having served as a courtesy runner. Therefore, Herrmann is declared out and restricted to the bench/dugout.

**CR 8 SITUATION:** Harty pinch-runs for F7 in the second inning, and then leaves the game. Harty is inserted as a courtesy runner for F2 in the eighth inning. **RULING:** Illegal. Harty is out and restricted to the bench/dugout.

**CR 9 SITUATION:** The coach of Team A sends out a courtesy runner for F1 and fails to report the change to the umpire-in-chief. **RULING:** Upon entering the game, the courtesy runner became an official substitute. There is no penalty. F1 has been replaced and may only return if F1 has re-entry eligibility. Since Team A's coach did not inform the umpire that the substitute was a courtesy runner for F1, the umpire shall treat the change as a normal substitution. Therefore, F1 is out of the game.

**CR 10 SITUATION:** F1 singles and is replaced at first by a courtesy runner. On the next pitch, the courtesy runner steals second base and sprains an ankle, but is safe on the slide. Does F1 have to replace the courtesy runner? **RULING:** No. Any legal substitute may become the courtesy runner. In this case, if no legal substitute is available, F1 shall return to run.

**CR 11 SITUATION:** F2 singles and is replaced by a courtesy runner. B2 walks. Before the next pitch, the courtesy runner is replaced by another courtesy runner. **RULING:** Legal. A courtesy runner may be replaced by another legal courtesy runner at anytime.

**CR 12 SITUATION:** Thompson enters the game as the courtesy runner for F2 in the bottom half of the first inning. In the bottom half of the fourth inning F2 walks. Must Thompson or another player be the courtesy runner for F2? **RULING:** No. Each team has the option of using a courtesy runner each time the pitcher or catcher reaches base.

**CR 13 SITUATION:** In the top of the sixth inning with two outs, B3, who is the catcher, singles. The coach sends out a courtesy runner for F2 (a) before the first pitch to B4 or (b) with a count on B4 of three balls and two strikes. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b).

**CR 14 SITUATION:** Cook is a courtesy runner for the pitcher. Cook then pinch hits for the uninjured shortstop in the same half-inning. **RULING:** Cook is an illegal substitute and is declared out. Cook is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. If Cook had previously been restricted to the dugout, Cook is now out and ejected.

**CR 15 SITUATION:** Munoz was a courtesy runner for the catcher and enters the game to courtesy run for the uninjured pitcher. **RULING:** Munoz is out and restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. The pitcher or another eligible substitute may run.

**CR 16 SITUATION:** Adams courtesy runs for F1 (Jones) in the 1st inning. Baker courtesy runs for F2 (Smith) in the 3rd inning. In the 4th inning, Jones and Smith swap defensive positions. Which person can Adams courtesy run for? **RULING:** A courtesy runner may run for either the pitcher or catcher but not both. Adams, having been a courtesy runner for Jones while a pitcher, may only be a courtesy runner for a pitcher. Once a player is a courtesy runner for a position, that player can only continue to courtesy run for a player in that particular position. Adams may courtesy run for Smith since Smith is now the pitcher in the game.

**CR 17 SITUATION:** Adams is the catcher for Team A and is to leadoff in the bottom of the fifth inning. The coach has Smith to pinch-hit for Adams (first time in the game Adams has had a substitute for Adams) and Smith leads off with a single. The coach re-enters Adams into the game and then requests to have a courtesy runner for Adams. The coach of Team B protests that is not legal. **RULING:** It is legal. Since Smith is not the catcher of record in the last half inning (top of the fifth), a courtesy runner may not run for Smith. But if the coach decides to re-enter Adams, the coach may do so and have a courtesy runner run for Adams.

**CR 18 SITUATION:** The home team coach is using Jones as the pitcher/DH. In the second inning, Jones comes to bat and hits a clean double. With Jones on second base, the coach goes to the plate umpire and requests that a courtesy runner run for Jones. **RULING:** A courtesy runner for Jones is not allowed. When on defense, Jones is a pitcher; when at bat, Jones is batting as a designated hitter, not as a pitcher. A courtesy runner is not allowed for a DH.

**CR 19 SITUATION:** Jones is listed as the pitcher/DH. Having pitched in the first two innings, Jones comes to bat in the third inning and hits a double. With Jones on second base, the coach wants to end the role of DH for Jones and informs the umpire. The coach is ending the use of a DH for the game, making Jones now only to be the pitcher. The coach now wants to have a courtesy runner run for Jones. **RULING:** This is legal. The coach may end the role of the DH, leaving the previous P/DH as only a defensive player. As Jones was the pitcher of record, having pitched in the last half-inning, Jones is eligible for a legal courtesy runner.

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