



2011 NFHS

# SOFTBALL CASE BOOK

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# FOREWORD

**This Softball Case Book** is based on the 2010 NFHS Softball Rules 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. The purpose of play situations and rulings is to clarify the intent of the rules, since the rules book does not include rules for every play or situation that could occur.

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

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

**Part Two** covers all rule chapters. Situations that are new or revised are preceded by an asterisk.

## CASE BOOK FORMAT

For convenience, all players of the team in the field (not at bat) are given a number in accordance with Diagram 1 in the rules book. Any fielder is referred to as F with her proper number, i.e., F2 is the catcher and F9 is the right fielder.

A RUNNER is referred to as R. If there is more than one runner, the one farthest in advance is referred to as R1. The one next farthest in advance is R2, and R3 is the third runner to be on 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. If the ball is not caught, it is not a foul tip.

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## GROUND RULES

The field should be clearly marked. Markings should include flags on foul poles along the foul lines past first and third and vertical foul-line markings on any wall that limits the outfield.

Softball parks, as well as crowd and weather conditions, differ. Hence, it is sometimes necessary to have special ground rules. The plate umpire must confer with the coaches prior to the game and then announce any ground rules on which the two coaches agree. Ground rules may not supersede a rule in the NFHS Softball Rules Book. If agreement cannot be reached, the plate umpire must establish needed ground rules.

Here is a list of ground rules that are often adopted in cases where the field does not meet the specifications as provided by Rule 1-1.

**1. WHEN A FAIR OR FOUL FLY** comes down near a stand or fence, 7-4-11 applies. If there is a screen behind the catcher or other permanent obstruction in front of the stand, a batted ball that goes behind these becomes dead. It is recommended that no such obstruction be less than 25 feet from the diamond.

**2. WILD PITCHES, OVERTHROWS AND BATTED BALLS** that go over or through a fence or into a dugout are governed by Rule 8-4. If the field has unusual obstructions, ground rules should, as nearly as possible, be similar to this rule.

**3. FOR SPECIAL FIELD CONDITIONS**, such as a drain pipe that makes a spot where it is impossible or very difficult for a fielder to retrieve the ball, the ball should become dead if it goes to that spot and each runner's advance should be limited to two bases.

**4. FOR AN UNFENCED FIELD**, a chalk or imaginary out-of-bounds line should be established to define live-ball area. If cars may be parked along the out-of-play lines, umpires should consider these the same as bleachers and the ball becomes dead if it bounces into the line of cars. They should anticipate such a situation and announce the ground rule in advance.

# PART 1 *Comments on the Rules*

**PENALTY ESTABLISHED FOR LINEUP CARD INACCURACIES (3-1-3 PENALTY):** A new penalty was established for a head coach who submits a lineup card that must subsequently be corrected with the proper name/number of a player or if substitutes are added after the lineup card is submitted and verified. The new penalty will be a team warning. If the head coach has to again make a change to the lineup card after the initial team warning, he/she will then be restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game. Opposing coaches and scorekeepers use a player's jersey number to identify them as the proper batter and for substitution purposes. Previously, when the number was incorrect or substitutes were not listed, it caused a great deal of confusion without penalty. The new rule establishes a penalty if a coach fails to submit an accurate lineup card regarding name and number; similar to other team sports where a team's roster and a specific playing order are paramount. This new penalty does not affect the illegal substitution or batting out of order rules.

**3.1.3 SITUATION:** The visiting team's head coach submits and verifies a lineup card with No. 4, L. Brown listed eighth in the batting order and playing first base. However, L. Brown is actually wearing uniform No. 21. After reaching base in the top of the third inning, the home coach appeals to the umpire that L. Brown is batting out of order. **RULING:** L. Brown is the correct batter but is in violation of the rule that requires a player's name and shirt number be correct on the lineup card. A team warning is issued to the visiting head coach, the error is corrected on the lineup card and play is resumed. Any subsequent name or number correction (including adding a substitute) to the lineup card will result in the visiting head coach being restricted to the team dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.

**CONCUSSION PROCEDURE REVISED (3-3-9; 10-2-3k):** Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion must be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. The previous rule directed umpires to remove an athlete from play if "unconscious or apparently unconscious." The previous rule also allowed for return to play based on written authorization by a medical doctor. The new rule requires that any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from play and shall not return until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. Umpires, coaches and administrators should be looking for signs of concussion in all athletes and should immediately remove any suspected concussed athlete from play and make every effort to ensure a concussed athlete does not continue to participate.

**3.3.9 SITUATION:** F7 and F8 both make a diving attempt to catch a fly ball hit to left-center field and collide; both appear injured. However, F7 exhibits signs consistent with a concussion and is immediately removed from the game by the umpires. Later in the game, the head coach reports to the plate umpire that F7 will reenter the contest. **RULING:** The rules permit F7 to return to the game once she has been cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. The responsibility for obtaining that clearance rests with the coach/school, and need not be verified by the umpires (unless state procedures require verification). If the coach attempts to reenter F7 in the game, the umpires shall assume the coach/school followed the appropriate return-to-play procedures and F7 is eligible to participate. (10-2-3k)

**SCORED/RETIRED RUNNER INTERFERENCE RULE REVISED (8-6-18):** The word “intentionally” was removed from the rule relating to interference by a runner who had been declared out or who had scored. Intent should not be the determining factor in ruling whether interference has occurred by a runner who has scored/been retired. The rule is now consistent with the definition of interference.

**8.6.18 SITUATION:** With R1 on first base and one out, B3 is at the plate with a 3-2 count. The pitch is swung at and missed. F2 drops the ball and B3 runs to first base even though first base is occupied. F2 throws the ball to first in an attempt to pick off R1, who is diving back to first base. The ball hits B3 in the back and ricochets into the dugout. **RULING:** With first base occupied and less than two outs, B3 is out on strike three. Therefore, she has interfered with F2’s throw to first base. The ball is dead and R1 (the runner closest to home) is ruled out for the third out.

## PART 2

# Rule **1**

## *Field and Equipment*

### THE FIELD

**1.1.3 SITUATION:** As the umpires arrive at the field for a female fast pitch game, the umpires notice that the left-field fence is (a) 175 feet or (b) 240 feet. **RULING:** Distances for outfield fences are only recommendations, not mandatory. Therefore, the distances in (a) and (b) are legal. **COMMENT:** When a game is started on a non-regulation 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 non-regulation facility cannot be protested. (1-1-3a1)

### **MEDIA AREA**

**1.1.7 SITUATION A:** During the game, a photographer positions herself in foul territory beyond first base to take pictures. The umpire tells her she must return to dead-ball territory. The photographer says that she would prefer that the umpire designate an area in live-ball territory for her 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. An area shall not be established once the game begins. The responsibility for a media dead-ball area rests with the home team or game management. **COMMENT:** If, in the judgment of the umpire, the designated media dead-ball area is not safely located or could be involved in play too much, the umpire has the authority to prohibit the use of the media dead-ball area.

**1.1.7 SITUATION B:** A designated media area has been established beyond first base next to the out-of-play fence. An overthrow goes into the occupied area, (a) passes through, untouched, in flight; (b) passes through, untouched, rolling on the ground; (c) and comes to rest; or (d) touches a photographer or piece of camera equipment, before rolling through the area. **RULING:** In (a), the ball remains live. In (b), (c) and (d), the ball becomes dead immediately. (5-1-1o; Dead-Ball Table #36)

### **INCORRECT PITCHING DISTANCE**

**1.1.9 SITUATION:** In the top of the first inning, Team A scores several runs because the pitcher had difficulty throwing strikes. At the end of the half-inning, as Team B's pitcher is taking her warm-up throws, she complains that the pitcher's plate was not set at the correct distance. When measured, it is discovered that she is right. **RULING:** Anytime a required distance is discovered as incorrect (pitcher's plate, batter's boxes or bases), it shall be corrected immediately, even though one team may have been placed at a disadvantage.

### **DOUBLE FIRST BASE**

**1.2.1 SITUATION:** The coach of the visiting team tells the umpire during the pregame conference that the team does not want to play with the double first base that the home team has installed. **RULING:** As long as a double first base has been adopted by the state association, it may be used. The visiting team must comply. (1-2-1 Note)

### **SOFTBALLS**

**1.3.1 SITUATION A:** The home team provides the umpire with three optic yel-

low softballs for the game. **RULING:** Legal. The balls shall be white or optic yellow. (1-3-7)

**1.3.1 SITUATION B:** During the pregame conference with the head coaches and captains, the home team presents white game balls to the plate umpire. The visiting team is from a neighboring state where the optic yellow ball is used. The visitors request that the optic yellow balls be used for this game. The home team coach states that, although she and her team would prefer to use the optic yellow ball, their state has not adopted the use of the optic yellow ball. Since both teams' coaches prefer to use the optic yellow ball, can the game be played with the optic yellow ball with the visiting team providing the balls? **RULING:** The state association no longer need adopt the option to use the optic yellow ball. The decision regarding which ball shall be used may be made on a game-by-game basis. However, state associations may dictate which ball will be used for the state tournament series.

**1.3.5 SITUATION A:** Realizing that the optic yellow softballs are an option, the home team's coach provides the umpire with an optic yellow and a white softball for the game. **RULING:** The color of game balls shall not be mixed.

**1.3.5 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) Prior to the game, the umpires are provided the game balls. Upon inspection of the balls, the umpires notice that two of the balls show a COR on the cover of .44. The other ball is labeled as having a COR of .47. Do all the balls need to have the same COR? **RULING:** Yes. The specifications of COR and color (including stitching) must be identical for all balls used in each game. The COR shall not exceed .47.

**1.3.8 SITUATION:** Balls given to the plate umpire prior to the game (a) do not have the NFHS Authenticating Mark, or (b) are not marked with the dynamic stiffness measurement. **RULING:** In (a), all balls shall have the Authenticating Mark labeled on the cover. In (b), softballs are not required to have the dynamic stiffness measurement labeled on the cover. Manufacturers are required to comply with the dynamic stiffness specification at the time of manufacture; therefore, marking the ball is currently not necessary.

## GLOVES/MITTS

**1.4.1 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) Members of Team A take their positions in the field and all are wearing gloves with (a) 2 inch by 3 inch American flags; or (b) red, white and blue fingers. **RULING:** Legal in (a). Illegal gloves in (b). Gloves/mitts may be a maximum of two colors. The illegal gloves are removed from the game and the umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**1.4.1 SITUATION B:** The pitcher for Team A is using a tan and brown glove. The lacing for the fingers of the glove has been repaired by using a white shoestring. Optic yellow balls are being used in the game. **RULING:** Legal. Glove lacing may

be any color other than that of the ball and is not considered one of the two colors permitted.

**1.4.2 SITUATION:** With R1 on third and one out and a 1-1 count on B3, B3 hits a foul fly to F9. F9 makes the catch and R1 tags up and scores. Following the play, the team at bat appeals F9's glove being illegal. **RULING:** Upon inspection, the umpire discovers that F9's glove is larger than the rule specification permits. The umpire shall declare the glove illegal and ask the coach of the team at bat to take the result of the play or the penalty. If the coach elects to take the penalty, R1 would return to third and B3 would return to bat with a 1-1 count. The illegal glove is removed from the game and the umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (1-4-4; 3-5-1; 3-6-1; 8-8-15)

## BATS

**\*1.5.1 SITUATION A:** During the umpires' inspection of equipment prior to the game, it is observed that several bats are (a) in warming devices; (b) designed with holes in the taper. **RULING:** In (a), the bats found in the warming devices are illegal and removed from the game. In (b), the taper must be a smooth, solid surface; therefore, the bats are illegal and may not be used in the game. (1-5-1c; 1-5-2c)

**1.5.1 SITUATION B:** In the fourth inning after B3 hits a home run, the plate umpire notices while moving the bat from home plate that the barrel of the bat feels extremely warm. The umpire then observes several other bats in the dugout being stored in warming devices. **RULING:** B3 is ruled out and the head coach is issued a warning. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench. All bats found in warming devices are illegal and removed from the game. (1-5-1c; 3-6-1; 7-4-2)

**1.5.1 SITUATION C:** B1 appears at bat with a bat that is (a) aluminum, (b) magnesium, (c) graphite-composite, (d) fiberglass or (e) titanium. **RULING:** Legal in all situations, provided the bat meets the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard. Legal bats must also meet the specifications in 1-5. (1-5-1d)

**1.5.1 SITUATION D:** B1 steps into the batter's box with a bat that does not meet the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard, and the pitcher, in position with a live ball, is standing on the pitcher's plate. **RULING:** The batter is out. The illegal bat is removed from the game and the umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (1-5-1d; 3-5-1; 3-6-1; 7-4-2)

**1.5.2 SITUATION A:** Prior to the game, while inspecting each team's bats, the umpire discovers a bat that has the handle flush with the knob in Team A's dugout. **RULING:** The umpire shall inform the coach of Team A that the bat is ille-

gal and shall not permit its use. All bats shall have a knob which is securely fastened on the handle end of the bat to prevent the bat from slipping out of the hands of the batter when she swings. (1-5-2a)

**1.5.2 SITUATION B:** During the inspection of equipment conducted by the umpires prior to the game, Team A has a bat displaying the 2004 ASA certification mark. The bat is also listed on the ASA list of approved bats. The bat has a rubber device on the knob of the bat designed to reduce the sting on the batter's hands. **RULING:** Provided the device does not make the knob flush to the handle, it is legal. (1-5-2a)

**1.5.2 SITUATION C:** B1 steps into the batter's box with the bat handle wrapped with (a) plastic tape or (b) athletic tape. **RULING:** Illegal in (a). Bat handles may not be wrapped with a material or substance that causes the handle to be slippery. The batter is out and the illegal bat is removed from the game (or made to be legal) and the umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. Legal in (b). (1-5-2b; 3-5-1; 3-6-1; 7-4-2)

**1.5.2 SITUATION D:** The umpire notices that B1's bat has a "tacky" substance extending beyond the 15-inch limit (a) before she steps into the batter's box or (b) after hitting 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. In both (a) and (b), the illegal bat is removed from the game (or made to be legal) and the umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (1-5-2b; 3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**1.5.3 SITUATION A:** Team A is using a donut on a legal bat as a warm-up device for on-deck batters. The umpire notices the donut fly off the barrel of the bat. **RULING:** The inside layer of the donut may have chipped away, making the device unsafe and, therefore, illegal. Many devices that attach to bats are legal when new, but may become illegal due to wear or damage. The device shall be declared illegal in its present state and removed from the game. The umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next player using illegal or improper equipment will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**1.5.3 SITUATION B:** The on-deck batter begins warming up with a weighted warm-up bat and two softball bats. **RULING:** The umpire shall inform the on-deck batter that she is limited to two bats and that she must return one of the three bats to the bench or dugout.

**1.5.3 SITUATION C:** The on-deck batter enters the on-deck circle with a weighted bat and a softball bat, both utilizing weighted rings (donuts). **RULING:** This is legal. Although the rules do not prohibit items or devices from being attached to bats, if too many items are attached, or the bats, in the umpire's judgment, are

beyond what is considered normal and reasonable for warm-up purposes and could be potentially dangerous, the umpire shall rule accordingly.

### **BATTING HELMETS**

**1.6.1 SITUATION A:** B1 (a) is standing in the batter's box when the umpire notices that the protective helmet does not have a NOCSAE permanent stamp, or (b) hits safely and reaches first base and the umpire notices that the warning label is missing on the helmet. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the umpire shall require the player to secure a proper helmet. The umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach. The next offender not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**1.6.1 SITUATION B:** A legal batting helmet is not being worn by (a) the on-deck batter in the on-deck circle; (b) a player in the coach's box; or (c) a non-adult bat/ball shagger. **RULING:** Illegal in (a), (b) and (c). The umpire shall instruct the appropriate individual to secure a legal batting helmet immediately. The umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach. The next offender not properly equipped will result in the offender and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**1.6.2 SITUATION A:** With one out and R1 on first, B3 hits a ground ball to F8. While advancing to first base, the umpire witnesses B3 deliberately remove her helmet. **RULING:** A team warning shall be issued to the head coach of the involved player. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1; 5-1-2e)

**1.6.2 SITUATION B:** An offensive player, (a) after hitting a home run over the fence, removes her helmet upon touching second base, (b) scores and then removes her helmet on the way to the dugout while a teammate advances to third, or (c) is called out sliding into second and as she leaves the field and play continues removes her helmet. **RULING:** In (a), there is no infraction. In (b) and (c), the umpire informs the player that she is not to remove her helmet during a live ball or until she enters dead-ball territory. A team warning shall be issued to the head coach of the involved player. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1; 5-1-2e)

**1.6.2 SITUATION C:** B4 receives a walk. On her way to first base she removes her helmet to give it to the on-deck batter. **RULING:** The ball is live and at the end of playing action, B4's head coach shall receive a team warning. B4 is not declared out. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1; 5-1-2e)

**1.6.3 SITUATION A:** In (a) R1, upon reaching first base, adjusts her helmet by

lifting it, but not above the temples, and replaces it; or (b) B3 doubles and removes her helmet, tossing it above her head in celebration. **RULING:** In (a), there is no violation because the helmet was not considered removed. In (b), the head coach shall be warned. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**1.6.3 SITUATION B:** 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 batting helmets from the team's equipment. The helmets are noticeably incorrect in size, but the coach claims some protection is better than none, and claims the intent of the rule is being met. **RULING:** The coach is incorrect. All helmets should fit reasonably well. A helmet that does not fit properly may not protect the wearer properly. Unless the coach can secure helmets that fit, the helmets shall not be worn and the bat/ball shaggers are prohibited from being on the field.

**1.6.7 SITUATION:** During the pregame inspection of equipment, the umpires notice that two batting helmets have tinted eye shields attached to the helmet's face protection. **RULING:** The umpires shall not permit players to wear these batting helmets with the tinted eye shields attached. Eye shields must permit 100 percent allowable light transmission and not be tinted.

### CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT

**1.7.3 SITUATION A:** The coach instructs a relief pitcher to begin warming up. Before they begin warming up, the umpire notices that the assigned catcher does not have an approved helmet and mask combination with a throat protector. **RULING:** Unless the coach can procure the proper equipment, the catcher may not warm up the pitcher. The two players may play catch.

**1.7.3 SITUATION B:** While the game is in progress, the umpire notices that a non-adult is warming up the pitcher, but is not wearing an approved helmet and mask combination and throat protector (a) within the confines of the field, or (b) outside the confines of the field. **RULING:** In (a), the umpire shall warn the pitcher's head coach of the infraction and prohibit the pitcher from warming up with that individual until the non-adult secures the proper equipment. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. In (b), rules prohibit team personnel from being outside the confines of the playing area or designated warm-up areas during a contest. The umpire shall warn the head coach of this infraction. The next offender is restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. The umpire's jurisdiction is restricted to the confines of the field and designated warm-up areas. (3-5-1; 3-6-1; 3-6-6)

### TEAM EQUIPMENT

**1.8.3 SITUATION:** A team hangs its bats and helmets on a portable rack that

attaches to the fence, but in live-ball area. **RULING:** The umpire shall require such equipment to be located in dead-ball territory.

### **DEFENSIVE FACE/HEAD PROTECTION**

**1.8.4 SITUATION A:** Defensive players F5 and F3 are wearing face/head protectors. With R1 on second, B2 hits a line drive to the outfield. During the live ball, F5 and F3 remove the face/head protectors and discard them (a) causing R1 to evade the protector on the ground near third base and alter her direction; B1 stumbles on a discarded protector and continues on toward second base, or (b) not affecting the base running or advancement of R1 and B1. **RULING:** In (a), this is obstruction; the umpire shall signal a delayed dead ball and award the bases the runners would have reached without the act of obstruction. In (b), if the runners are not affected by the discarded equipment, there is no infraction. The umpire should inform the defensive players that they are subject to obstruction if they continue to discard their face protection during a live ball and encourage them not to do so. (8-4-3-b)

**1.8.4 SITUATION B:** Defensive players F5 and F3 are occasionally wearing protective face guards in certain situations during a game when runners are on base. The defensive players obtain the face guards from their dugout during an inning without causing delay. **RULING:** Such requests for protective equipment during an inning are permitted if, in the umpires' judgment, there are no undue delays. Players, not coaches, should deliver or hand such equipment to other players. If coaches become involved with this process and do anything other than transfer equipment, they may be subject to a defensive conference being charged. (3-7-1)

## **Rule 2**

### ***Definitions***

#### **APPEAL**

**2.1 SITUATION:** With R1 on third and one out, B3 hits safely. R1, while watching the ball, misses home plate. F2 calls for the ball, steps on home for the appeal to retire R1 and throws to third to get B3 sliding. **RULING:** Legal. A runner may be put out by the defense for missing a base during a live-ball appeal.

#### **BUNT ATTEMPT**

**2.8.2 SITUATION:** F1 pitches the ball; B1 squares to bunt and (a) leaves the bat in the strike zone without making any movement towards the ball; (b) makes a forward movement with the bat towards the ball; or (c) withdraws the bat prior to the ball entering the plate area. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), a strike is called on the batter. Holding the bat in the strike zone or making any movement of the bat

toward the ball is considered a bunt attempt. In (c), a ball is awarded to the batter; the bat was withdrawn from the plate area. (2-2-1; 2-56-1)

## CATCH

**2.9.2 SITUATION A:** B1 hits a fly to F8. F8 gets the ball in her hands but drops it (a) when she falls to the ground and rolls over, or (b) when she collides with a fielder or a wall, or (c) when she starts to throw to the infield. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), it is not a catch. In (c), it is a legal catch if the umpire rules that the ball was dropped as F8 attempts to transfer the ball to her throwing hand.

**2.9.2 SITUATION B:** B1 hits to F5. The throw to F3 is wide so that it is necessary for F3 to stretch for the catch. The ball arrives in time but as F3 attempts to regain balance she loses possession of the ball. Is the runner out? **RULING:** The time element has some influence, but in case of doubt, the umpire will rule the runner safe. Attempts to regain balance after receiving the ball are usually 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, there is a judgment factor. If the ball is clearly in 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 usually declare it a catch followed by a fumble.

**2.9.4 SITUATION:** B1 hits a fly ball toward the left field fence. F7 places a foot on the temporary fence while making the catch. **RULING:** Legal. As long as the fence is not completely horizontal, a legal catch can be made.

**2.9.5 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 touched a fielder before touching an umpire. When a batted fair ball in flight hits an umpire, it is ruled the same as the ball hitting the ground where the umpire is standing. (2-9-5e)

**2.9.5 SITUATION B:** With R1 on second base, B2 hits a line drive toward F5. The batted ball deflects off of F5's glove, hits R1 going from second to third base, and then is caught by F6 before it ever touches the ground. **RULING:** B2 is not out. The ball remains live because it touched a fielder before touching R1. **COMMENT:** When a batted ball in flight hits a runner, it is ruled the same as the ball hitting the ground where the runner is standing. (2-9-5e)

**2.9.5 SITUATION C:** F3 secures a thrown ball while it is in contact with the ground and her hand is on top of the ball. F3 turns her hand over so the ball is facing upward (a) before; or (b) after the batter-runner touches first base. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b) the batter-runner is out. F3 demonstrated control of the thrown ball by turning it upward. **COMMENT:** Umpires must determine if the fielder had control of the ball before the runner touched the base. This is a similar situation to the umpire asking to "see the ball" after a tag has been made. (2-9-5f)

**2.9.6 SITUATION:** B1 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to first. F3 juggles the ball so that it rolls up her arm. She clamps the ball to the body by an elbow or forearm just as B1 touches first. **RULING:** B1 is safe. It is not a catch until the ball is securely in a hand or glove.

### CONFERENCES

**2.14.1 SITUATION:** After walking two consecutive batters, (a) F1's coach or (b) F5 goes over to talk with F1. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b). However, in (a), it is a charged conference. (3-7-1)

**2.14.2 SITUATION A:** During the pregame conference (a) F1 is throwing pitches in foul territory between first base and home plate, (b) F1 is throwing warm-up pitches in the outfield, (c) B1 is in the outfield hitting balls toward the infield, or (d) F1 and F2 are playing catch in the outfield. **RULING:** Improper procedure in all situations. There shall be no balls hit or thrown in live-ball territory during the pregame conference.

**2.14.2 SITUATION B:** During the pregame conference with the head coach and team captains, the remainder of the home team is gathered in the outfield performing warm-up stretches. Is this permissible? **RULING:** Yes, provided no balls are being thrown in live-ball territory, this activity would be permissible.

### FAIR BALL

**2.20.1 SITUATION:** B1 hits a fly ball to the infield that falls untouched (a) behind second base, or (b) behind the pitching circle, but just in front of second base. After hitting the ground, the ball continues to spin and rolls between home and first base and comes to rest on foul ground. **RULING:** In (a), fair ball. In (b), foul ball. (2-20-1f; 2-25-1a)

### DEAD-BALL TERRITORY

**2.22.4 SITUATION:** On a field with no fences down either side of the field, the umpire detects before the game starts that no dead-ball territory around either team bench has been marked. **RULING:** The umpire will designate an area. If possible, these areas should be chalked.

### FOUL BALL, TIP

**2.25 COMMENT:** Determining when a ball becomes dead on a foul is sometimes tricky. With R1 on second and no one out, consider the following: (1) An attempted bunt on a 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, the pitcher is not credited with a strikeout and R1 may attempt to advance after the catch. (2) The first strike on B2 is a foul fly that comes down near the wall with F2 attempting a catch. A spectator reaches into the field of play and deflects it and (a) prevents the catch, or (b) F2 makes the catch. In (a) and (b), the ball shall be dead at the

moment of spectator interference. B2 is declared out and R1 will be awarded the bases the runner would have reached in the judgment of the umpire had there been no spectator interference (8-2-12). (3) B2 hits a high foul fly to right field which is not caught. R1, who was on second, has passed third before the ball becomes dead. The runner must return to second. (4) A pitch touches the bat of B2. In (a), it goes directly to the catcher's glove then caroms against her protector and rebounds into her hand or glove; or (b) it goes directly to catcher's protector or mask and rebounds into her hand or glove. In (a), it is a foul tip and a catch. The ball remains live. In (b), the ball becomes dead when it touches the body of F2. (5) A pitch touches the bat of B2 and loops over the catcher's head (never higher than the batter's head). F2 lunges backward and makes a diving catch. B2 is out and the ball remains live.

**2.25 SITUATION:** (F. P.) With R1 on first, B2 hits a foul which goes directly to the catcher's mitt or hand and (a) is caught, or (b) is dropped. In either case, R1 advances to second. **RULING:** In (a), it is a foul tip and is treated the same as any other strike; hence, R1 has stolen second. In (b), it is a foul ball and R1 must return to first.

**2.25.1 SITUATION A:** Without touching any person, a batted ball hits the pitcher's plate, or a fly ball touches fair ground between home and third and bounces to foul ground without having passed first or third. **RULING:** The ball is foul in either case.

**2.25.1 SITUATION B:** A pitch touches the bat, and without touching the catcher's hand or mitt, moves directly to the catcher's equipment, body or the umpire. It then rebounds into the catcher's hands. **RULING:** This is not a foul tip. Such a ball becomes dead when it strikes the catcher's equipment, catcher or umpire. (2-25-1g)

**2.25.1 SITUATION C:** B1 fouls the ball off. The ball goes directly (a) to the shin guard of F2, or (b) to the mitt of F2, and then ricochets forward toward incoming F5. F5 catches the ball in flight ten inches above the ground. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the ball is foul. In (a), the ball is dead when it comes in contact with F2's equipment. In (b), the ball is dead when it comes in contact with F5. (2-25-1g)

**2.25.1 SITUATION D:** B1 hits a fly ball down the left-field line. F7 goes near the foul line and is in fair territory when reaching over the foul line to attempt a catch. **RULING:** Even though F7 is in fair territory when the ball is touched, 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.

**2.25.1 SITUATION E:** (F. P.) With R2 on third, B3 had two strikes when attempting to bunt and it is a foul. F2 (a) does not catch the foul or (b) catches it. **RULING:** In either case B2 is out. In (b), the ball does not become dead and R1 must retouch third unless it is a foul tip. (2-8-1)

**2.25.1 SITUATION F:** R1 is on first base with no outs. R1 breaks for second as

B2 bunts the ball over foul territory to the left of home plate. The ball is below the batter's head when F2 moves to her left and catches the ball. **RULING:** Legal catch; B2 is out. R1 must return to first base or risk being put out. (2-9; 2-20-1a; 2-25-2)

**2.25.2 SITUATION:** B1 fouls the ball off. The ball goes directly from the bat to the catcher's glove/mitt where it is caught. **RULING:** This is a foul tip and a strike. The ball remains live; runners may advance or be put out the same as after any strike. To be a foul tip, the ball must be caught by the catcher.

### INFIELD FLY RULE

**2.30 SITUATION A:** With R1 on second, and R2 on first, (a) B3 bunts (F.P.) or (b) swings and hits a pop up which falls between home and third and cannot be caught by any fielder. **RULING:** In (a), a bunt is never an infield fly. In (b), this is not an infield fly.

**2.30 SITUATION B:** R1 and R2 are on second and first bases, respectively, with no outs. B3 hits a high pop foul between home and first base with F3 losing sight of the ball because of the sun. The ball lands on foul ground without being touched and rolls into fair territory halfway between home and first base. F1 picks up the ball and throws to F4 covering first, who touches R2 with the ball while the latter is off base. **RULING:** Fair ball. Even though the infield fly was not called, it is still in effect. B3, therefore, is out. R2 is also out. (8-2-9)

### INTERFERENCE

**2.32 SITUATION A:** B2 hits a grounder to F6. Just as F6 starts to throw to first base, R1 on the way to third base, yells at F6, which startles F6, causing the ball to be thrown over F3's head into dead-ball territory. **RULING:** R1 is called out immediately for interference. The ball is declared dead. If this interference, in the judgment of the umpire, is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play and it occurs before R1 is put out, the immediate succeeding runner, B2, shall also be called out. (8-6-10d)

**2.32 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) B1 chops the ball and causes it to bounce just in front of home plate. F2 fields the ball but does not throw to first base because B1 was running outside the three-foot running lane, and F2 thought that she would hit the runner. **RULING:** No infraction has occurred and the ball remains live. Interference cannot be called unless F2 actually makes a throw to first base.

### OBSTRUCTION

**2.36 SITUATION A:** F6 fakes a tag as R1 approaches second base. R1 decides to continue on to third base where she is thrown out. **RULING:** F6 is guilty of obstruction. Faking a tag is obstruction. If in the judgment of the umpire R1 would have reached third base had she not been obstructed, she would be ruled

safe. Otherwise she is out. (2-21)

**2.36 SITUATION B:** B1 rounds first base on a base hit. F3 is in her way, but B1 does not elect to try for second, because the ball was already at second base. Is this obstruction? **RULING:** Yes. The umpire should call obstruction, but would not advance the runner if, in the umpire's judgment, the runner would not have reached second base had the obstruction not occurred.

**2.36 SITUATION C:** F2, (a) with the ball, or (b) without the ball, is blocking home plate. R1 slides into F2 and is tagged out. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is out. In (b), the umpire would call obstruction and signal a delayed dead ball. The runner would be awarded the base, in the umpire's judgment, she would have received had there been no obstruction.

### OVERSLIDING, OVERRUNNING

**2.40 SITUATION A:** B1 hits and overruns first base. In coming to a stop she turns toward second but makes no attempt to advance or feint an advance but returns to touch first. **RULING:** The player may return without liability of being put out.

**2.40 SITUATION B:** B1 hits to the fence and advances to first, second and third but (a) overslides third and is tagged out, or (b) is not put out at third but fails to touch second and is declared out on an appeal play. **RULING:** In (a), B1 is credited with a three-base hit. In (b), B1 is credited with a base hit. (9-3-3)

**2.40 SITUATION C:** (F.P.) R1 is stealing second when B2 receives a fourth ball. R1 overslides second or after reaching base, steps off toward third. In either case, R1 is tagged. **RULING:** R1 is out since the ball does not become dead on a fourth ball.

### INITIAL PLAY

**2.47.3 SITUATION A:** With R1 on second base, B2 hits a ground ball to F6. The ball deflects off of F6's arm and lands (a) one step in front or to the side of her; (b) one step behind her; (c) more than one step behind her; or (d) more than one step in front of her. In all situations, as F6 attempts to make a play on the ball, R1 makes contact with F6, preventing her from getting to the ball. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the ball is dead and R1 is out for interfering with the initial play on a batted ball. In (c) and (d), since F6 is not within a "step and a reach" of the ball, F6 is guilty of obstruction for impeding R1. (2-36; 2-47-2; 8-4-3b; 8-6-10a)

**2.47.3 SITUATION B:** With R1 on second, B2's batted ball is deflected by (a) F1; or (b) F5. In both cases the ball goes directly to F6 who makes an attempt to field the ball and make a play. R1 makes contact with F6 preventing her from making the play. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is out for interfering with F6 since the ball was deflected by the pitcher. F6 is still considered to be making the initial play on the batted ball. In (b), since the ball has been touched by a fielder other than the

pitcher, R1 has not interfered with F6. If F6 is not in possession of the ball, she has committed obstruction for impeding R1. (2-36; 2-47-2; 8-4-3b; 8-6-10a)

## RUN

**2.49 SITUATION A:** B2 hits a pop fly to the infield. R1, who is on third base, is running with the pitch and touches home plate. R1 then realizes that the ball has been hit into the infield and starts back to third base. The pitcher does not catch the ball but traps the ball on the first bounce and tags R1 returning to third base.

**RULING:** The run counts. Once a runner scores she cannot be put out for any reason other than leaving too soon or missing a base.

**\*2.49 SITUATION B:** The bases are loaded with R1 on third, R2 on second and R3 on first and one out. B5 hits a fly ball into short right field that appears to drop in for a base hit, despite three fielders converging to try to make the catch. R1 crosses home plate and all the other runners hold close to their bases. For some reason, R1 decides to go back to third. None of the umpires signaled an out. The ball actually hit the ground without being caught. The defense throws the ball to the catcher who touches home plate. **RULING:** R1's advancement to home was legal. R1's run scores; bases remain loaded with one out. If the umpires deem that R1's act of retreating after touching home interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play on another runner, the runner closest to home would be declared out, but R1's run would still count. (8-6-18)

## STRIKE ZONE

**2.56.3 SITUATION:** Is it 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? **RULING:** No. It is a strike when any part of the ball on a legal pitch enters the strike zone in flight. The umpire shall determine a batter's strike zone when the batter assumes a natural batting stance. (2-56-4)

## SUBSTITUTIONS

**2.57.2 SITUATION A:** S1, an eligible substitute, replaces F4 and does not report to the plate umpire until after the next pitch, legal or illegal. **RULING:** S1 has entered the game as an unreported substitute. A team warning is issued, with the next offender and the head coach restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game. (3-3-3, 3-6-7)

**2.57.2 SITUATION B:** S1 is discovered in the game three innings after not reporting to the umpire. **RULING:** S1 has entered the game as an unreported substitute. A team warning is issued, with the next offender and the head coach restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game. (3-6-7)

**TIME**

**2.60 SITUATION:** With two outs and a 1-1 count on B4, R1 is thrown out attempting to steal second for the third out. **RULING:** B4 is the first batter next inning and will start with a new count.

**TIMING PLAY**

**2.61 SITUATION:** With two outs, R1 is on third and R2 is on first when B5 hits to short center. R1 goes home. R2 delays her advance to second but touches second base. R2 is then put out on an overslide, the out being made after R1 touches home base. **RULING:** The run scores. The force ended as soon as R2 touched second.

**WALK**

**2.63.1 SITUATION:** (F.P.) B1 receives ball four and a teammate or a coach of Team A immediately requests time. **RULING:** The umpire shall ignore the request until B1 reaches base and order B1 to go to first base. A player or coach of Team A may now be granted time by the umpire. All other base-runners, if forced to advance, also must advance one base before "time" is granted.

**2.63.2 SITUATION:** (S.P.) B1 is awarded an intentional base on balls. Immediately after the batter-runner has started to first base, the pitcher walks toward the catcher for a conference. B1 rounds first base and reaches second base before the pitcher's throw arrives. **RULING:** The batter-runner must return to first base as the ball always becomes dead after every pitch, or after an intentional base on balls is awarded.

**Rule 3*****Players, Substitutes  
and Coaches*****PLAYER POSITIONS/LINEUPS**

**3.1.5 SITUATION:** (F.P.) R1 is on third and R2 on second, with one out. The defensive coach instructs the pitcher to intentionally walk B4 and sends F3 in behind the plate to back up F2. **RULING:** This is not legal. All defensive players except the catcher must be in fair territory. The ball is dead immediately and an illegal pitch is called. A ball is called on the batter and each runner advances one base. (6-2-9)

**UNIFORMS**

**3.2.1 SITUATION:** In (a), a player asks to wear a jacket over her uniform while running the bases; (b) the player-coach is wearing a jacket while in the coach's

box; or (c) eight members of a team are wearing red shorts and the ninth player is wearing a red skirt for religious reasons. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b). In (c), the state association may on an individual basis permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons.

### UNIFORM NUMBERS

**3.2.2 SITUATION A:** Team A arrives at the field wearing numbers on the back of their jerseys that are less than 6 inches high. **RULING:** The umpire shall inform the coach of Team A that the team is not in compliance with the rules, but allow the game to continue. The umpire shall notify the state association of the infraction.

**3.2.2 SITUATION B:** Players on Team A have 6-inch numbers on the front of their shirts with the school name and no numbers on the back. **RULING:** The umpire shall inform the coach that the team is not in compliance with the rules and allow the game to continue. The umpire shall notify the state association of the infraction.

### MANUFACTURER'S LOGOS/MEMORIAL PATCHES

**3.2.3 SITUATION A:** Some members of a team have jerseys with a manufacturer's logo that is  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  square inches, while other members of the team are wearing jerseys with a manufacturer's logo that is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  square inches. **RULING:** The manufacturer's logo of  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  square inches and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  square inches on jerseys is legal. No dimension shall exceed  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

**3.2.3 SITUATION B:** A player is wearing a headband that has a manufacturer's logo on it. Is this legal? **RULING:** All headwear, including headbands, may have a manufacturer's logo on them, provided the logo does not exceed  $2\frac{1}{4}$  square inches and no dimension is larger than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

**3.2.3 SITUATION C:** The umpire observes a player wearing a headband with a logo that appears to be larger than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  square inches. **RULING:** Because the headband must be stretched to be worn, the logo will appear to increase in size. Any measurement of the logo should be done while the headband is not being worn.

**3.2.4 SITUATION:** A team's uniforms have (a) a memorial patch or (b) commercial advertising on them. **RULING:** The uniforms in (a) and (b) are legal. However, state associations may have rules that prohibit advertising or patches on uniforms.

### HEADWEAR

**3.2.5 SITUATION A:** F5 is discovered by the umpire wearing a red-and-white bandana around her neck while (a) on the field; or (b) in the batting cage. F5's coach claims that the player may wear the bandana, because it is in school colors. **RULING:** Bandanas are prohibited from being worn by team personnel while

in the confines of the field, which includes the field of play and designated warm-up areas. In (a) and (b), the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**3.2.5 SITUATION B:** Several players on a team are wearing caps, while others are wearing visors and headbands. **RULING:** Provided all forms of headwear are the same color, there is no violation.

**3.2.5 SITUATION C:** The headbands being worn by a team are red and blue to match the team's uniform. The manufacturer's logo is yellow. **RULING:** Illegal. Headbands shall be a single solid color. A manufacturer's logo is legal and may be any color. The illegal headbands shall be removed and the umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

### EXPOSED UNDERGARMENTS

**3.2.7 SITUATION A:** As Team A takes the field, the umpire notices all of its players wearing white long-sleeve undershirts, including the pitcher. **RULING:** Legal. The pitcher may wear an undershirt with white or gray sleeves. **COMMENT:** A team uniform that consists of a white or gray long-sleeve shirt is permissible.

**3.2.7 SITUATION B:** Players of Team A are wearing solid red, lower-body undergarments. S1 for Team A is wearing a gray, lower-body undergarment. Team A's coach claims the gray, lower-body undergarment may be worn because their uniforms are gray. **RULING:** Gray may not be worn because all players must wear the same solid color lower-body undergarments. The illegal lower-body undergarments shall be removed (or made legal). The umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

### WORN PROPERLY

**3.2.10 SITUATION A:** A team (a) rolls up its sliding shorts to make cuffs, instead of wearing them at normal lengths or (b), rolls up uniform sleeves instead of wearing them at normal length. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), provided the player's number is clearly visible, there is no violation.

### JEWELRY

**3.2.12 SITUATION A:** B3 is at bat when the umpire is notified by F2 that B3 has tape around her neck and is suspected of wearing jewelry. **RULING:** Jewelry is prohibited. However, if B3 is wearing a medical-alert necklace, it is legal. Religious medals are also permitted, but must be taped and worn under the uniform.

**3.2.12 SITUATION B:** During the game, B1 is discovered wearing a class ring with tape over it so that it is no longer visible. **RULING:** Illegal. Jewelry, even though taped, may not be worn. The umpire will instruct B1 that she must remove the ring or she will not be permitted to play. The umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**3.2.12 SITUATION C:** During the game, B1 is discovered wearing a necklace while warming up in the on-deck circle. **RULING:** The necklace shall be removed. The umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1; 3-6-1)

**3.2.12 SITUATION D:** In the second inning, a player on Team A is discovered wearing jewelry, which results in her team receiving a team warning. Later in the game, the coach of Team B notices that the player, now sitting on the bench, is wearing a necklace and informs the umpire. **RULING:** The jewelry rule applies only to the players in the game, not on the bench. Therefore, the player wearing a necklace on the bench is not subject to penalty.

**3.2.12 SITUATION E:** At the pre-game meeting, the umpires notice that the captain of Team A has (a) a two-inch bobby pin in her hair, or (b) a four-inch barrette. **RULING:** Unadorned hair devices no longer than two inches may be worn to control a player's hair. In (a), the item is legal. In (b), the item is illegal and must be removed before the player may participate. (3-2-12 Note)

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

**3.2.12 SITUATION E:** R2 has tape on her wrist that is bulky. Upon investigation by the umpire, a medical-alert bracelet is discovered. **RULING:** Legal. The player and coach should be instructed that the taping may leave the medical-alert bracelet visible.

**3.2.13 SITUATION A:** The umpire notices R1 wearing (a) a hard cast on her forearm; (b) a knee brace with exposed metal hinges; (c) a metal splint on her finger; or (d) an artificial leg. **RULING:** In (a) and (c), each item must be properly padded and not considered dangerous by the umpire. In (b), the exposed hinges must be covered. In (d), the state association will decide whether or not the prosthesis is safe. If it is judged to be hazardous, that player may not compete. **COMMENT:** Braces, casts and splints need to be inspected on a game-by-game basis. The plate umpire of the game has the authority to rule on the legality of all equipment and his or her decision shall be final and not based upon a previous ruling of another umpire.

**3.2.13 SITUATION B:** In (a), F4 takes the field wearing a cast on her wrist; or (b) F1 appears wearing a cast on her non-pitching arm. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b). A player may participate in the game wearing a cast, provided the cast is free

of attachments that could cut, scrape or puncture and is properly padded. The umpire has the final decision as to whether or not a cast is safe and should be permitted. A pitcher may compete with a cast on the non-pitching arm provided the cast is covered with padding and it is not distracting to the batter.

**3.2.13 SITUATION C:** During the pregame meeting, Team B coach requests that the umpires check the brace worn by A12. The brace has exposed metal hinges. **RULING:** The umpires determine that the exposed hinges may be worn but must be covered.

**3.2.14 SITUATION:** A defensive player with a broken nose or jaw must wear a protective mask similar to the type worn by a hockey goalie. Is the mask legal, even though the rule states that all casts, braces and splints must be padded? **RULING:** A commercially manufactured mask of this nature is legal. (1-8-4)

## SUBSTITUTING

**\*3.3.1 SITUATION:** In the third inning, S1 reports to the plate umpire, but (a) her name is not on the lineup card even though she was on the bench at the start of the game; (b) S1 arrived after the game had started and, therefore, was not on the lineup card; or (c) S1's name is listed properly, but her number is listed incorrectly. **RULING:** In all cases, S1 is eligible to enter the game as a substitute. In (a) and (b), S1's information may be added to the lineup card, and in (c) the number is corrected. However, in all cases, her head coach receives a team warning. Any further change/addition to the lineup card in name or number results in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.

**3.3.2 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 when making a substitution. Upon entering, S1 is charged with one ball and two strikes. If S1 strikes out, the strikeout is 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)

**3.3.2 SITUATION B:** Coach of Team A tells the plate umpire that L. Jones will hit for B. Smith and that J. Johnson will replace D. Lee in left field the next time on defense. **RULING:** The plate umpire shall accept the substitution of L. Jones hitting for B. Smith. However, no substitution shall be reported to the plate umpire until such time as the substitution actually is made. Therefore, the plate umpire will tell the coach of Team A to wait until his/her team is going on defense before reporting any defensive substitution. (2-57, 3-3-3)

**3.3.2 SITUATION C:** F1 is removed from the game and replaced by S1. After S1 has faced two batters, F1 re-enters the game in the same position. **RULING:** Legal. However, F1 is not permitted any warm-up pitches. (6-2-5 Note 1; 6-4-10 Note)

**3.3.2 SITUATION D:** (a) Before the pregame conference ends, or (b) after the pregame conference ends, Team A's coach decides not to start F1. **RULING:**

Lineups become official after they have been exchanged, verified and then accepted by the plate umpire during the pregame conference. In (a), lineup changes may be made without penalty only if the plate umpire has not accepted the lineup cards. In (b), F1 may re-enter the game at any position. (3-1-3, 4-1-2)

**3.3.2 SITUATION E:** With one ball and one strike on B2, F1 is sent to center field. F8 or any other fielder becomes the pitcher. After B2 is put out or has reached first base, F1 again exchanges places with F8 and becomes the pitcher. **RULING:** This is legal one time per inning. (2-57; 3-3-2 Note)

**3.3.2 SITUATION F:** F1 pitches to the first five batters in the lineup and then is replaced by F3, who pitches to the remaining batters. The coach of the team wants to follow this practice throughout the game. Is this legal? **RULING:** Yes. A pitcher may be removed as a pitcher and returned as a pitcher only once per inning, provided the return as pitcher does not violate either the pitching, substitution or charged conference rules. (3-3-2 Note)

### **SUBSTITUTES RE-ENTERING**

**3.3.5 SITUATION A:** Before the game, but after lineups have been given to the plate umpire, the home coach withdraws F1 from the contest for disciplinary reasons. S1 is the home pitcher for the first three innings. The home coach then informs the plate umpire that F1 will come into the game to pitch in the top of the fourth inning. **RULING:** Legal. F1 is entitled one re-entry as any other player and she may re-enter to pitch. (3-1-3; 3-3-1)

**3.3.5 SITUATION B:** While taking her warm-up throws prior to facing the first batter of the game, F1 pulls a muscle in her lower back and is unable to pitch. **RULING:** F1 may re-enter the game as pitcher, provided she does not violate the substitution or charged conference rule. (3-1-3; 3-3-2)

**3.3.5 SITUATION C:** L. Jones is a starting player in center field and batting second in the batting order. In the second inning, B. Smith replaces L. Jones. Subsequently, the coach desires to re-enter L. Jones as catcher and have her bat in the eighth position. **RULING:** This is not legal. L. Jones may re-enter and bat only in the second position in the batting order. L. Jones and B. Smith are both required to occupy the second position in the batting order; however, they may play various defensive positions. Neither L. Jones nor B. Smith may occupy any other position in the batting order, nor may they replace any other players. All players may re-enter once. (2-57-1)

**3.3.5 SITUATION D:** In the second inning, S1 pinch-hits for B6 (batting in sixth place). After entering the batter's box, S1 is replaced by B6. Later in the game, S1 intends to enter again to pinch-hit for B6. **RULING:** Legal. S1 was in the game during the second inning and, therefore, may re-enter once.

**3.3.5 SITUATION E:** F1 is replaced by S1. B1 walks. Following the base on balls, S1 is replaced by S2. **RULING:** Legal. (2-57; 3-3-2)

**DESIGNATED PLAYER (DP)/FLEX**

**3.3.6 SITUATION A:** In the fifth inning, L. Jones enters the game as the DP and is placed at the end of the batting order. **RULING:** Illegal. The DP must be announced prior to the start of the game with her name entered on the starting lineup.

**3.3.6 SITUATION B:** DP-L. Jones hits a triple and sprains her ankle sliding into third base. The coach has substitute-A. Green enter the game to be a pinch-runner for DP-L. Jones. How does this affect the playing status of DP-L. Jones and the FLEX player, B. Smith, for whom L. Jones is batting? **RULING:** When a pinch-runner or pinch-hitter replaces the DP, that player becomes the new DP. DP-L. Jones can re-enter later or the FLEX-B. Smith could bat in substitute-A. Green's position later and it would be legal.

**3.3.6 SITUATION C:** In the first inning, the DP-L. Jones, listed in the fourth spot of the batting order, hits a double. Substitute-C. Cooper replaces DP-L. Jones on second base. In the fourth inning, substitute-A. Green bats for C. Cooper and has a 1-1 count. The coach elects to replace A. Green with the FLEX-B. Smith. **RULING:** FLEX-B. Smith is an unreported substitute. The umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender shall be restricted to the dugout. When FLEX-B. Smith bats, this removes DP-L. Jones from the game and requires re-entry to return to the game.

**3.3.6 SITUATION D:** FLEX-B. Smith begins the game playing defense at second base. In the fourth inning, without reporting, she bats in place of L. Jones, the starting DP. **RULING:** FLEX-B. Smith is an unreported substitute. The umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender shall be restricted to the dugout. When FLEX-B. Smith bats, this removes DP-L. Jones from the game and requires re-entry to return to the game.

**3.3.6 SITUATION E:** Team A is using 10 players in its lineup, with the DP-L. Jones batting third. FLEX-B. Smith is playing right field and is a very fast runner. In the first, third and sixth innings, DP-L. Jones gets on base and, in each case, the FLEX-B. Smith is put in to run. Is this legal? **RULING:** It is legal for the defensive position player (FLEX) to do this since she never left the game. However, it would be illegal for the starting DP-L. Jones to return to bat in the sixth inning. This is a violation of the re-entry rule.

**3.3.6 SITUATION F:** The FLEX-B. Smith enters the game to bat for F1, listed ninth and has a 1-1 count at discovery. **RULING:** Illegal substitution. Since the FLEX-B. Smith is at bat, she is declared out and disqualified. She must be replaced by a legal substitute. The FLEX-B. Smith can only bat in the DP position. (3-4-1a)

**3.3.6 SITUATION G:** The DP-L. Jones bats fourth in the lineup. In the third inning, the DP-L. Jones plays defense for F5 who bats sixth in the order. In the fifth inning, the FLEX-B. Smith, who is listed 10th, bats for F5. **RULING:** Illegal

batter. The defensive position player (FLEX) can only bat in the DP batting position. The FLEX-B. Smith is called out if at bat or on base, disqualified and replaced with a legal substitute. (3-4-1a; 3-3-6g)

**3.3.6 SITUATION H:** DP-L. Jones is listed fourth in the batting order and is the runner on third base. R2 is on second and R3 is at first base. The FLEX-B. Smith enters the game replacing R3 as the runner at first base. **RULING:** Illegal runner. The defensive position player (FLEX) can only run for the listed DP position. The FLEX-B. Smith is called out if at bat or on base, disqualified and replaced with a legal substitute. (3-4-1a; 3-3-6g)

**3.3.6 SITUATION I:** DP-L. Jones is on first base and is replaced by substitute-A. Green. Later in the game, starting DP-L. Jones re-enters as a batter and reaches first base safely. Substitute-C. Cooper then replaces DP-L. Jones as a runner. During extra innings, starting DP-L. Jones is at the plate with a 1-2 count when the situation is brought to the plate umpire's attention. **RULING:** Illegal re-entry, DP-L. Jones is called out if at bat or on base, disqualified and replaced by a legal substitute. (3-3-5; 3-4-1a)

**3.3.6 SITUATION J:** Team A has only 10 players and is utilizing the DP option. The FLEX-B. Smith is pitching and is listed as the 10th player. DP-L. Jones is batting in the fifth spot in the batting order. In the fourth inning, the shortstop (No. 8 in the batting order) is injured and forced to leave the game. **RULING:** DP-L. Jones may play shortstop or any defensive position at the same time as the FLEX-B. Smith. The team is able to maintain nine players on defense, but may only bat eight (an out being recorded when the eighth spot comes to bat). (3-3-8, 4-3-1f)

### **INJURED/BLEEDING PLAYER**

**\*3.3.9 SITUATION:** In the second inning of the first game of a day-long tournament, F8 runs into the fence chasing a fly ball and exhibits signs of a concussion. After being helped off the field, (a) the coach tells the umpire that he/she will take responsibility for F8 returning to action or (b), F8's father says his daughter may return to play. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the school/coach is responsible for attending to F8, who must be removed from the game immediately and may not return to play in the current or any subsequent game until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. (10-2-3k)

**3.3.10 SITUATION A:** R1 slides into second base and scrapes her knee, causing it to bleed. **RULING:** The umpire shall stop play and summon the player's coach and/or athletic trainer to attend to the injured player. If appropriate treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, based on umpire judgment, she may resume playing without having to leave the game.

**3.3.10 SITUATION B:** As the ball is being thrown around the infield, a wild throw skips off F3's glove and hits the base umpire in the nose, causing a severe nosebleed. As a result, an excessive amount of blood is on the umpire's uniform.

**RULING:** Even though the rules address only players and coaches, common sense would dictate that the umpire would also take the same appropriate precautions as players and coaches before resuming play.

### ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTES

**3.4.1 SITUATION A:** S1, who was ejected or who has no re-entry eligibility, is discovered in the game. **RULING:** S1 is restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game and if she is at bat or on base, an out shall be called. (2-57-3; 3-4-2)

**3.4.1 SITUATION B:** S1 replaces F4 but S1 has no re-entry eligibility. The violation is discovered one out later. **RULING:** The illegal substitute is restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game. F4 may only return if she has re-entry eligibility. (2-57-3)

**3.4.1 SITUATION C:** B2, after being ejected in the second inning for unsporting conduct, re-enters the game in the fifth inning. **RULING:** B2 is removed from the game and the coach is charged with unsporting conduct and ejected because the coach knew B2 had no re-entry eligibility. (2-57-3; 3-6-13c)

**3.4.2 SITUATION A:** Illegal substitute S2, who is batting for B2, is discovered (a) while at bat or (b) upon reaching base, but before the next pitch. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), S2 is declared out and restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game. B2 loses her turn to bat. B3 is the next batter. (2-57-3)

**3.4.2 SITUATION B:** Illegal substitute S1, batting for B2, walks. The defensive team informs the umpire that S1 is an illegal substitute (a) before the next pitch or (b) after a pitch has been thrown. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), S1 is declared out and restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game. B3, who is the proper batter, remains at bat. (2-57-3)

**3.4.2 SITUATION C:** S1, who is an illegal substitute, scores, but B4 is thrown out for the third out attempting to advance to second base. 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. The run by S1 is nullified and the out made by B4 stands. S1 is restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game and B5 shall lead off the next inning. (2-57-3)

### PREGAME CONFERENCE

**\*3.5.1 SITUATION:** During the pregame conference, an adult assistant coach verifies to the plate umpire that the lineup card is correct, that all players are properly equipped and are in compliance with NFHS rules, and that they understand the guidelines and will display proper sporting behavior. **RULING:** Improper procedure. The head coach must attend the pregame conference and verify proper compliance.

**COACH'S BOX**

**3.5.2 SITUATION A:** The home coach has been restricted to the dugout for a rules violation. May he or she occupy the third base coach's box? **RULING:** No; team personnel restricted to the dugout may not occupy a coach's box.

**3.5.2 SITUATION B:** The head coach from the visiting team uses a wheelchair as a mobility device and wishes to coach in the third-base coach's box while his/her team is at bat. **RULING:** As discretely as possible under the circumstances, the umpire should ask the coach if he/she has contacted the state association to determine what accommodations have been authorized for the coach's special needs. If the state association had been contacted, the coach will have documentation indicating specific participation guidelines. If the state association had not been contacted by the coach, the umpire should permit the coach to occupy the coach's box at the appropriate times, but the umpire should contact the state association as soon as possible after the contest to inform them of the situation. **COMMENT:** Prior to participation by a special needs student-athlete, coach or official, the state association should be contacted to determine reasonable accommodations.

**PROPER COACHING ATTIRE**

**3.5.3 SITUATION A:** The coach in the third-base coach's box is wearing a fleece warm-up suit. **RULING:** Provided the fleece warm-up suit is in school colors, khaki, black, white or gray, there is no violation.

**3.5.3 SITUATION B:** Coach of Team A appears in the coach's box wearing a team uniform shirt and gray shorts. **RULING:** Legal.

**3.5.3 SITUATION C:** Coach of Team A requests time and goes into fair territory to talk with the pitcher. The coach is wearing white jeans and a T-shirt with the school name on it. **RULING:** The coach is not dressed in compliance with the rules. The coach may not appear in live-ball area unless properly attired. Jeans of any type are prohibited.

**3.5.3 SITUATION D:** Team A's school colors are brown and orange. The head coach comes to the pregame meeting dressed in brown jeans and an orange and white collared shirt. **RULING:** The umpire informs the head coach that he/she is restricted to the dugout because jeans are not proper coaching attire. The coach may perform coaching duties in the field of play if the attire is changed to be in compliance with the rules.

**COACH ASSISTING RUNNERS**

**3.5.4 SITUATION A:** R1 is on third base with no one out. B2 hits a fly ball to left field. While the ball is in flight, the third-base coach pushes R1 back toward third base. F7 makes the catch. **RULING:** R1 is out for being aided and B2 is out on the catch. The ball is live and in play. (2-32; 8-6-5)

**3.5.4 SITUATION B:** R1 is on third with no one out. B2 hits a towering fly ball to right field. While the ball is in flight, the third-base coach pushes R1 back toward third base. The ball clears the fence for a home run. **RULING:** The ball becomes dead when it goes over the fence. R1 is out for being aided. B2 is permitted to score on the home run unless R1 was the third out, then no run could score. (2-32; 8-6-5; 9-1-1 Exception f)

**3.5.4 SITUATION C:** With no one out and R1 and R2 on third and first, respectively, B3 hits a hard grounder to F6. While F6 throws to F4 for the force and F4 completes the double play to F3, the third-base coach assists R1 who has fallen. **RULING:** R2 and B3 are out on the double play. R1 is out for coach's interference; this is the third out of the inning. (2-32; 8-6-5)

### ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT

**3.6.1 SITUATION:** After the game has started, it is discovered that a Team A player is using/wearing (a) jewelry; (b) an illegal bat; or (c) a cracked helmet. **RULING:** The illegal equipment shall be removed from the game and the umpire issues a warning to the head coach. The next offender not properly equipped or not using equipment properly will result in the offender (if one is involved) and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. (3-5-1)

### BALLS HIT TO DEFENSE AFTER GAME HAS STARTED

**3.6.4 SITUATION:** 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. The umpire shall issue a warning to the coach of Team A with any subsequent offender being restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.

### TEAM MEMBERS OUTSIDE DESIGNATED AREA(S)

**3.6.6 SITUATION A:** Team A has one of its players or team personnel in the bleachers behind home plate or in the bleachers along the third-base line. **RULING:** All members, attendants and bench personnel shall remain in the dugout (bench) or designated warm-up area if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in a coach's box, or a player on defense. The umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach involved and the next offender on that team shall be restricted to the dugout/bench area. Failure to comply shall result in the game being forfeited.

**3.6.6 SITUATION B:** During a game, the visiting team's bench personnel are (a) sitting on the front edge of the dugout with their feet in live-ball territory or (b) standing or sitting outside the dugout or marked bench area. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the umpire shall issue a warning to the coach with any subsequent offender being restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.

**3.6.6 SITUATION C:** While F1 is taking her warm-up pitches, a player approach-

es the umpire, who is standing near home plate, to report a substitute. **RULING:** This is legal. Once the substitute has been reported, the player shall return to the bench or on-deck circle.

**3.6.6 SITUATION D:** The umpire notices in the stand behind home plate a: (a) coach, player or other bench personnel; (b) fan; or (c) college scout using a radar gun. **RULING:** In (a), this is illegal. In (b) and (c) this is legal, even if information obtained from the radar gun is being shared with either coach.

**3.6.6 SITUATION E:** The home coach while his/her team is on defense turns a bucket upside down and sits on it just outside the dugout to get a better view of playing action. **RULING:** Illegal. Coaches must remain inside the designated dugout area. The coach shall receive a team warning. Any subsequent offender shall be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.

**3.6.6 SITUATION F:** While F1 is taking her warm-up pitches, B1 moves near the batter's box and takes practice swings to prepare for her upcoming time at bat. **RULING:** B1 is prohibited from being any closer to home plate than her team's on-deck circle. Therefore, the umpire shall instruct her to return to the on-deck circle. (2-5-3)

### UNREPORTED SUBSTITUTE

**3.6.7 SITUATION A:** R1 is at third base. S1 bats for B2 without reporting to the umpire and gets a hit driving in R1. In the next inning the offended coach informs the umpire that S1, who entered the game in the last inning, was an unreported substitute. After confirming the offended coach's observation, the umpire informs the offending coach that S1 is an unreported substitute and issues the offending team a "team warning." Does all action stand? **RULING:** Yes, the first time an unreported substitute is detected in the game, the offending team is issued a "team warning," and all action on the play stands. The unreported substitute is now officially in the game. (2-57-2)

**3.6.7 SITUATION B:** The team at bat has already received a first warning for an unreported substitute. S1 is batting for B1 and (a) has a 3-2 count or (b) has reached first base when the defensive coach brings to the attention of the home plate umpire that she is an unreported substitute. **RULING:** Because this is the second offense by the same team, S1 and the head coach are immediately restricted to the dugout/bench area. The player whom she replaced, B1, may re-enter provided she has an entry remaining or any other legal substitute may (a) complete the turn at bat, or (b) occupy first base. (2-57-2)

**3.6.7 SITUATION C:** In the third inning, it is brought to the attention of the umpire that the FLEX player is now hitting for the DP and has a count of 2-1 but did not report to the umpire. **RULING:** The umpire rules an unreported substitute and makes the change on the lineup card. The DP is now out of the game, and the team is issued a warning for the unreported substitute. If a subsequent unre-

ported substitute occurs for that team, the substitute and the head coach would be restricted to the dugout/bench area. (2-57-2; 3-3-2; 3-3-3d; 3-3-6d)

### EQUIPMENT IN COACH'S BOX

**3.6.10 SITUATION A:** During the game it is brought to the attention of the plate umpire that the third-base coach of Team B has a cell phone or pager in her possession while in the coach's box. When the plate umpire inquires with the third-base coach, the coach responds that she is a doctor and has the device for medical response reasons only. Is this legal? **RULING:** Yes, since the communication device is not used for coaching purposes, it is legal. (3-6-11)

**3.6.10 SITUATION B:** The umpire notices that the coach, while in the coach's box, is using (a) a palm pilot for recording statistics; (b) a cell phone with a head set talking to the dugout; or (c) a scorebook and pencil. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (c). Materials/devices used for scoring purposes are permissible. Illegal in (b). All communication devices used for coaching purposes are prohibited. The umpire shall issue a warning to the coach; a subsequent offense would result in the offender and the head coach being restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. (3-6-11)

### USE OF TOBACCO

**3.6.12 SITUATION A:** As B1 steps into the batter's box, the umpire notices that she is using smokeless tobacco. **RULING:** The umpire shall eject B1.

**3.6.12 SITUATION B:** Team A's coach is discovered smoking outside the confines of the field before the game. **RULING:** There is no violation. However, coaches should refrain from smoking when in the vicinity of the field because they are role models.

### UNSPORTING ACTS

**3.6.13 SITUATION A:** As Team A takes infield prior to the game, several members of Team B yell insulting remarks to various players of Team A and make fun of their uniforms. **RULING:** The umpire should warn the coach of Team B immediately that if any of the players make further remarks or try to antagonize or intimidate Team A in any way, they shall be ejected.

**3.6.13 SITUATION B:** With R1 on first, B2 receives ball three and begins advancing to first base as if ball four had been called. R1 advances to second as if B2 has received a walk. F2 quickly asks the umpire if the pitch was ball four, but in the confusion R1 advances to second base safely. **RULING:** The defensive team should always be alert to the count and attempt plays accordingly. If the umpire believes the team at bat purposely had its batter run to first on ball three, the umpire could eject the batter for exhibiting behavior not in the spirit of fair play. Otherwise, the umpire may warn the coach of the team at bat and eject the next player to exhibit behavior that is not in accordance with the spirit of fair play. R1's

advance to second is legal.

**3.6.13 SITUATION C:** With R1 on first and the defensive team's coach standing in her team's bench area nearest first base, F2 attempts to pick off R1 after the pitch. Simultaneous with R1 diving back into the base, the defensive team's coach tosses a ball down the line to give the appearance that F2's throw was wild. All the while, F3 has the ball. Against the instructions of the first-base coach, R1 starts for second, only to be tagged out by F3. **RULING:** The defensive team's coach is guilty of obstruction and committing a flagrant unsporting act. The umpire shall call "obstruction" and signal delayed-dead ball at the time of the obstruction. Once R1 is tagged out after being obstructed, a dead ball is ruled and she is awarded the base(s) she would have made had there been no obstruction. She may not be called out between the two bases where she was obstructed. At the end of playing action, the coach shall be ejected and R1 remains at first base. (2-5-3; 8-3-2 Note)

**3.6.13 SITUATION D:** Several of Team A's players make fun of a player from Team B. **RULING:** If, in the umpire's judgment, the remarks are of a minor nature, then the umpire should issue a team warning to the coach of Team A. However, if the umpire judges the act to be a major offense, then the players shall be ejected immediately.

### PLAYER THROWS A BAT

**3.6.16 SITUATION A:** B1 throws her bat (a) in disgust after striking out, or (b) to the on-deck batter. **RULING:** In (a), B1 is ejected from the game. In (b), there is no penalty.

**3.6.16 SITUATION B:** After hitting a line drive toward F5, B1 throws her bat and it strikes the catcher or umpire. The act was judged to be (a) intentional, or (b) unintentional. **RULING:** 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 team for a carelessly thrown bat, and if the act is repeated, any subsequent offenders on that team will be restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game. (3-6-3)

### MALICIOUS CONTACT

**3.6.18 SITUATION A:** F5, who has the ball, is in position at third base to make a tag on advancing R1. R1 (a) maliciously crashes into F5 and dislodges the ball, or (b) runs into F5 without attempting to avoid the tag and dislodges the ball, or (c) attempts to slide and dislodges the ball, or (d) attempts to avoid F5 but remains in the baseline and dislodges the ball. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the ball is dead and R1 is out for not legally attempting to avoid a fielder in the immediate act of making a play on her. Additionally, in (a) R1 is ejected for malicious contact. In (c) and (d), R1 is safe. (8-4-2b,c, Penalty)

**3.6.18 SITUATION B:** Upon rounding second, R1 maliciously runs into F6 who

is (a) in the baseline, or (b) not in the baseline. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the ball is dead. R1 is out and is also ejected because of the unsporting act. (5-1-1e; 8-4-2d)

**3.6.18 SITUATION C:** R1 is on first base when B2 hits a sharp ground ball to F4. As R1 attempts to advance to second base, F4 maliciously contacts and uses unnecessary force in attempting to tag R1. The ball (a) is; or (b) is not in F4's possession. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is out. In (b), F4 has committed obstruction; R1 is awarded the base, in the umpire's judgment, she would have reached had there been no obstruction. In both (a) and (b), F4 is ejected at the end of playing action. (3-6-18 Penalty; 8-4-3b)

### FIGHTING

**3.6.19 SITUATION A:** F4 and R1 become involved in a fight near first base. F3 vacates her position immediately to avoid becoming involved in the fight. Should F3 be ejected? **RULING:** No. Even though F3 left her position, she was moving away from the action.

**3.6.19 SITUATION B:** When a fight breaks out, the team's student scorekeeper rushes onto the field to try and break up the fight. **RULING:** The scorekeeper shall be ejected. Only coaches may attempt to restore order.

### EJECTION

**3.6.20 SITUATION A:** An ejected coach goes to the bus. May the coach use walkie-talkies to communicate with the team's assistant coach? **RULING:** No. Such an act could result in the game being forfeited. (3-6-11)

**3.6.20 SITUATION B:** An ejected coach leaves, but returns to stand behind the outfield fence. **RULING:** The coach shall leave the premises, which means out of sight and sound. Therefore, the umpire shall instruct the coach to leave. If the coach refuses, the game shall be forfeited and the proper authorities should notify their state association.

### CHARGED CONFERENCES

**3.7.1 SITUATION A:** The coach of the team on defense goes out to talk to her pitcher in the eighth inning (a) after having used the 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, and any unused defensive charged conferences in the first seven innings are no longer available.

**3.7.1 SITUATION B:** The coach of the defensive team has used her three charged conferences. In the seventh inning, the coach (a) stops play to confer with her infielders about a bunt situation or (b) checks with F1 who has just been

hit by a batted ball. **RULING:** In (a), the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game. In (b), this is not a charged conference. The umpire should accompany the coach to check on the injured player and make sure coaching does not take place.

**3.7.1 SITUATION C:** In the third inning the coach of the defensive team, which has yet to have a charged conference, goes onto the field to talk to her pitcher. She (a) changes pitchers, (b) does not change pitchers. The next inning she receives time to visit with her catcher. How many charged conferences has the team accumulated? **RULING:** The meeting with the catcher is one charged conference. In (a), there is no charged conference, so the team still has two charged conferences left. In (b), the team has accumulated two charged conferences; one for the visit with the catcher and one for the visit with the pitcher who was not removed. Therefore, the team would have one charged conference remaining.

**3.7.1 SITUATION D:** Team A has had two charged conferences. The coach of Team A is granted time to visit with her pitcher. At the same time her assistant coach goes out to talk to the first baseman. The opposing team's coach claims two conferences should be assessed and the pitcher be removed, since it would be that team's fourth conference. **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, her team is subject to an additional charged conference being called, which would then require the pitcher to be removed as pitcher for the rest of the game.

**3.7.1 SITUATION E:** In the top of the fifth inning, (a) the defensive team's head coach asks for "Time" to check on her center fielder who appears to be ill, and (b) at the same time 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 to be apparently ill, then no conference would be charged. 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 she is not off the field, she shall be charged a conference for delay. NOTE: If the umpire feels that a player is faking an injury, her team shall be assessed a charged conference.

**3.7.1 SITUATION F:** 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 as pitcher later in the game, or is this considered a charged conference? **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the pitcher being replaced may return to pitch. 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 permitted by rule, resulting in the pitcher not being able to return to pitch. (3-3-2)

**3.7.1 SITUATION G:** From the bench, the defensive team's coach instructs F2 to call "Time" and calm F1 down. The opposing team's coach claims this should be a defensive charged conference. **RULING:** Giving instructions to a player does not automatically constitute a charged conference.

**3.7.2 SITUATION:** The coach of the offensive team requests time to confer with three base runners, the batter and the on-deck batter simultaneously. **RULING:** Legal. Time may be granted for this purpose, provided the conference is the first one of the inning.

## Rule **4** *Starting and Ending Game*

### STARTING A GAME

**4.1.3 SITUATION A:** After the game has started, spectators begin occupying an area near a dead-ball line and interfere with usual overthrow conditions. **RULING:** The plate umpire should call both captains or coaches together and state ground rules which may be necessary to cover special conditions.

**4.1.3 SITUATION B:** The right-field fence is 180 feet. The opposing coaches agree to a ground rule that provides for a double instead of a home run if the batter hits the ball over the fence. **RULING:** The umpire(s) shall not permit ground rules to supersede a rules book rule. Therefore, a batted ball that clears the fence in fair territory shall be a home run.

### ENDING A GAME

**4.2.2 SITUATION:** 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 had adopted a game-ending procedure covering these situations in (a) and (b). Had 4½ innings been completed with the home team leading, the game would be regulation. (4-2-4)

**4.2.3 SITUATION A:** Teams play in a city park and must be through playing at a certain time. Prior to the game, both coaches and the plate umpire agree to play a 1½-hour time limit. **RULING:** Legal if this is one of the game-ending procedures adopted by the state association.

**4.2.3 SITUATION B:** Team A is leading Team B 40-0 in the bottom of the second inning. The two teams have played almost two hours. The coach of Team B has to return the school bus by a specified time. Both coaches, along with the plate umpire, mutually agree to terminate play. **RULING:** Legal. By mutual agree-

ment of both coaches and the plate umpire, a game may be terminated at any time, especially if one team is substantially ahead of the other, unless prohibited by the state association's adopted procedures.

**4.2.3 SITUATION C:** If a state association has adopted a game-ending procedure in which the game is suspended, 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 suspended. (4-2-5)

**4.2.3 SITUATION D:** If a state association has adopted a game-ending procedure in which the game is suspended, 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 the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game. (4-2-5)

**4.2.3 SITUATION E:** 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:** There is the possibility that an individual could purposely attempt 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. (4-2-4, 5)

**4.2.6 SITUATION:** During the pregame conference, both coaches inform the umpires that they mutually agree to use the tie-breaker procedure if the regulation game ends in a tie. **RULING:** Unless the state association has adopted the tie-breaker procedure, this option is not available, even if coaches mutually agree.

## FORFEITED GAME

**4.3.1 SITUATION:** The visiting team arrives 25 minutes late for a 4:30 game and that team (a) called and informed the home team of arriving late or (b) did not. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the state association should have established policies and/or guidelines to cover circumstances concerning delays. (4-3-1a)

# Rule **5**

## *Dead Ball and Suspension of Play*

### DEAD BALL

**5.1.1 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) R1 is on first when B2 receives a fourth ball. F2 (a) drops the ball or (b) ball four is caught and, while B2 is walking to first, it is thrown to F1 who drops it. In either case, R1 advances to third and B2 advances

to second. Is the ball dead after ball four? **RULING:** No. These are legal advances. (2-63-1; 8-1-1c)

**5.1.1 SITUATION B:** With two strikes on B3, B3 swings at and misses a pitch. The ball strikes her arm or person. **RULING:** This is a dead-ball strike and B3 is out. (7-2-1g, 8-1-2b Penalty 2)

**5.1.1 SITUATION C:** The ball goes directly from the bat and rebounds from the protector (a) of F2 after having touched F2's glove; or (b) of F2 without first having touched F2's glove; or (c) of the umpire after having first touched F2's glove, or (d) of the umpire without having first touched F2's glove. In each case, the ball rebounds into the glove of F2 and is held. **RULING:** In (a), it is a foul tip and a strike. In (b), (c) and (d), it is a foul with the ball becoming dead when it touched F2 in (b), or the umpire in (c) or (d). (2-25-1, 2)

**5.1.1 SITUATION D:** B1 hits a ground ball to left field. F7 throws the ball to the infield where it hits the umpire or base runner. Is the ball dead? **RULING:** No. The ball remains live if the ball hits the umpire or a base runner unless the base runner intentionally caused contact with the ball. (3-5-5; 8-6-10d)

**5.1.1 SITUATION E:** With R1 on third and R2 on first, B3 hits a ball that strikes an umpire who is (a) on fair territory behind F3 but in front of F4 or (b) behind F5 but in front of F6. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the ball remains live since it has passed a fielder. (5-1-1f)

**5.1.1 SITUATION F:** A ball thrown wildly to third base continues toward Team A's dugout and is intentionally touched by someone associated with Team A. **RULING:** The ball becomes dead immediately and the overthrow or interference penalty applies. (5-1-1g 2)

**5.1.1 SITUATION G:** A ball thrown wildly to third base touches a photographer who is standing (a) inside or (b) outside the designated media area. **RULING:** In (a), the ball is dead immediately. In (b), the ball remains live. The photographer shall be instructed to remain in the designated media area. (1-1-7; 2-2-3; 5-1-1o)

**5.1.1 SITUATION H:** (F.P.) With two outs and R1, R2 and R3 on base, B6 has a count of three balls and two strikes. On the next pitch, B6 swings and misses the ball, which gets past F2 and lodges in the umpire's mask. Before the ball can be extracted, all three base runners advance to home base. **RULING:** The ball is dead as soon as it lodges in the umpire's mask. B6 and all base runners are awarded one base each. Had there been less than two outs with first base occupied, B6 would have been out and each base runner would be awarded one base. (5-1-1g 5; 8-4-3l)

**5.1.1 SITUATION I:** With less than two outs, R1 is on first base when (a) B3 hits a line drive to F4 or (b) B3 hits a fair pop fly to F3. In both (a) and (b), the infielder intentionally drops the ball. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), B3 is out. R1 returns to first base. The ball becomes dead immediately when it was intentionally dropped. (5-1-1l; 8-2-10)

**5.1.1 SITUATION J:** On a foul fly ball near dead-ball territory, F7 (a) makes the catch with one foot on the line separating dead-ball territory and the other foot in dead-ball territory, (b) makes the catch with one foot completely in dead-ball territory and then steps with both feet into dead-ball territory, or (c) makes the catch with both feet completely in dead-ball territory. **RULING:** No catch in all situations. The ball is dead. (5-1-1i; 8-4-3i)

**5.1.1 SITUATION K:** While attempting to make a catch, F3 (a) leaves live-ball territory with one foot and then steps back into live-ball territory to make the catch, or (b) dives from live-ball territory and, before coming to rest landing completely in dead-ball territory, makes the catch. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the catch is permitted. In (b), the ball becomes dead as soon as either one of F3's feet touches completely in dead-ball territory, or any other part of her body touches dead-ball territory. Runners are awarded one base. (5-1-1i Note; 8-4-3i)

**\*5.1.1 SITUATION L:** The field includes an elevated cement step in front of each dugout. F3 catches a foul fly with her right foot on the ground completely in live-ball territory and her left foot on the elevated cement step with half the foot on the step and the other half over live-ball territory but completely off the ground. **RULING:** F3 is out of play and no-catch is declared. The foot that is on the cement step is out of play since no part of that foot is touching the ground in playable territory. (5-1-1i Note b)

**5.1.1 SITUATION M:** B1 hits a ground ball to F5 who overthrows F3. The ball touches an (a) unoccupied or (b) occupied designated media area. **RULING:** In (a), the ball remains live. In (b), the ball becomes dead immediately. B1 is awarded second base. (1-1-7; 2-22-4; 5-1-1o)

**5.1.1 SITUATION N:** With R1 on second base and R2 on first, F2 attempts to pick off R2. The ball rolls down the right-field fence past the designated media area where the ball is fielded by F9. In attempting to play on R2 at home, F9 throws the ball through the designated media area. **RULING:** A ball in flight that merely passes through the designated media area does not become dead unless it touches an object, person or the ground in an occupied designated media area. (5-1-1o)

### **DELAYED DEAD BALL**

**5.1.2 COMMENT:** What is meant by "delayed dead ball?" The term applies to situations in which an infraction is not to be ignored and, therefore, the umpire, at the end of playing action, declares the ball dead for the purpose of making an award or imposing a penalty. These situations include: Illegal pitch (after time of pitch); batter being obstructed; ball being touched with detached player equipment or an illegal glove; and runner being obstructed. "Delayed dead ball" also applies when the plate umpire interferes with the catcher who attempts to play on a runner.

**5.1.2 SITUATION A:** R1 is on third and R2 is on second. As B3 attempts to hit, F2 touches the tip of B3's bat or steps on home plate to catch the pitch. **RULING:** Catcher's obstruction is called. Umpire signals delayed dead ball. If B3 reaches first and R1 and R2 each advance at least one base, ball remains live and the obstruction is ignored. Had B3 and all runners not advanced at least one base, the umpire shall give the coach or captain of the team at bat the option of the play or penalty. If the penalty is enforced, B1 is awarded first base and R1 and R2 return to third and second base, respectively, unless they had been attempting to advance on the pitch. (5-1-2b; 8-1-1d)

**5.1.2 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) With R1 attempting to steal, the umpire interferes with the catcher's throw. **RULING:** The umpire signals delayed dead ball. If R1 is not put out, the umpire then declares the ball dead and R1 must return to the base occupied before the interference. (5-1-2c; 8-5-6)

**5.1.4 SITUATION:** The umpire decides the ball is not suitable for play and gives the catcher 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 on the pitcher's plate and the umpire calls "Play Ball." The umpire should then give a beckoning hand signal.

### SUSPENSION OF PLAY

**5.2.1 SITUATION:** After F1 has started the delivery, B1 steps out of the batter's box without requesting time. **RULING:** If the pitcher delivers a legal pitch, it shall be called a strike. If the pitcher stops or hesitates in her delivery, the umpire shall call "Time," declare a "no pitch" and start play anew because both the batter and pitcher violated a rule. (3-6-13c, 7-3-1 Effect 1, 2)

**5.2.2 SITUATION A:** With R1 at third, R2 at second and R3 at first, a batted ball by B4 hits R2 before passing the shortstop. R1 runs home and R3 is tagged on her way to second. **RULING:** The ball became dead when it hit R2. B4 is awarded first base and R3 would be awarded second base. R1 must return to third base unless she scored before the interference occurred. (8-1-2a; 8-6-11)

**5.2.2 SITUATION B:** R1, who is on second base, advances to home plate when B2 hits safely to right field. However, R1 misses third base while advancing to home plate. After all playing action, the umpire calls "time" to sweep off home plate. R1, realizing she missed third (a) attempts to return to third base or (b) F2 tags R1 with the ball. **RULING:** In (a) and (b) R1 can be called out if the defense makes a proper appeal. When the ball became dead, R1 could no longer return to touch missed third base after already having touched a succeeding base (home). (8-6-7, 2-1)

**5.2.2 SITUATION C:** R1, in advancing to second, interferes with F4 to prevent a double play. If the umpire declares the batter-runner out as well as R1, is this in conflict with the statement that a player may not be put out during a dead ball? **RULING:** No. The two outs occurred at the time of the interference; i.e., while the

ball was live even though the announcement was made after the ball became dead. (8-6-10d Penalty)

## Rule **6**

### *Pitching*

#### **PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY**

**6.1.1 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) May F1 take her pitching position with her hands already together? **RULING:** No. F1's hands shall be apart when she steps onto the pitcher's plate. Therefore, this is an illegal pitch. (6-1-1a)

**6.1.1 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) While in contact with the pitcher's plate, the pitcher proceeds to take the catcher's signal with the ball in her glove and her other hand at her side. **RULING:** Legal. The pitcher shall take the catcher's signal from the pitcher's plate with the ball in one hand (pitching hand or glove hand) and the hands separated. (6-1-1b)

**6.1.1 SITUATION C:** With R1 on second, R2 on first and one out, F1 fails to bring the hands together for one second, then delivers the pitch to B3 who hits into a double play. **RULING:** (F.P.) Illegal pitch. The hands must come together for not less than one second. The hands do not have to remain motionless after coming together. The coach of the team at bat has the option of the play or the penalty. If the penalty is taken, all runners advance one base and a ball is called on the batter. (S.P.): The illegal pitch is ignored and the play stands. (6-1-1c; 6-4-6 Penalty)

**\*6.1.1 SITUATION D:** (F.P.) F1, after stepping onto the pitching plate with the hands separated and taking her signal, brings the hands together. She immediately begins the wind-up motion. **RULING:** Legal. A one-second pause is not required after bringing the hands together. The rule does state, however, that the hands shall be brought together for at least one second before releasing the ball; the hands may be motionless or moving. (6-1-1c)

**\*6.1.1 SITUATION E:** F1 is (a) behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from F2 and then steps on the pitcher's plate immediately bringing the hands together; (b) on the pitcher's plate, looks to her coach in the dugout for a signal and then simulates taking a signal from F2 before bringing the hands together; or (c) behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from the coach or F2, steps on the pitcher's plate, simulates taking a signal from F2 before bringing the hands together. **RULING:** Illegal pitch in (a); legal in (b) and (c). (6-1-1b)

#### **ABOUT THE PITCH**

**6.1.2 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) After assuming a legal pitching position, F1 takes one hand off the ball and then steps backward off the pitcher's plate. **RULING:** Illegal

pitch. The pitch starts when F1 takes one hand off the ball. Once the hands are separated, the only step F1 may take must be toward the batter. (6-1-2a, b)

**6.1.2 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) In delivering a pitch, if F1 's pivot foot breaks contact with the pitcher's plate but not the ground before the non-pivot ("stride") foot has touched the ground, is F1 in violation of the pitching rule? **RULING:** Because it is physically impossible for F1's pivot foot to remain in contact with the pitcher's plate when delivering a pitch, F1 shall not be penalized. **COMMENT:** In some cases, pitchers are crow hopping which is the act of breaking contact with the ground and replanting the pivot foot. Then F1 separates her hands to start her pitch. In essence, the pivot foot is planted twice, which moves the pitcher closer to the batter, giving the pitcher an unfair advantage. Umpires should not let pitchers cheat the spirit of the rule by permitting leaps, hops or skips, etc. (2-16; 2-33; 6-1-2c)

**6.1.2 SITUATION C:** F1, while winding up, slides her pivot foot forward just off the pitcher's plate to enable her to pivot without catching her cleats as she turns to deliver a pitch. As a result, F1 's foot is not in contact with the pitcher's plate when the ball is released. **RULING:** If F1 slides her pivot foot forward as she pivots, there is no penalty. However, if F1 slides her pivot foot forward without pivoting and loses contact with the pitcher's plate or ground, she is guilty of an illegal pitch. (6-1-2c)

### THE WINDUP

**6.1.4 SITUATION A:** (F. P.) The pitcher comes to a stop for one second and then takes the ball in her pitching hand back past her hip, then makes a complete revolution releasing the ball the second time past the hip. **RULING:** Legal. There is nothing in the rules that states the ball must be released the first time past the hip. (6-1-4d)

**6.1.4 SITUATION B:** F1 steps on to the pitcher's plate, brings her hands together and after pausing one second, removes the ball from her glove with her throwing hand and swings her arm backward to approximately shoulder height. She continues forward in a windmill delivery, releasing the ball the second time it passes the hip. **RULING:** Legal. The starting point is where F1's arm started forward (behind her, shoulder height). Even though the ball passed her hip twice, F1's arm did not exceed 1½ clockwise revolutions. (6-1-4d)

**6.1.4 SITUATION C:** After releasing the ball simultaneously with the forward step, the pitcher continues her arm action (a) up and toward her head and then stops, or (b) up and around, stopping just before reaching her hip a second time. **RULING:** In (a), it is a legal pitch because the action after releasing the ball is considered a follow through. In (b) it is an illegal pitch because the action after the release of the ball is considered to be a continuation of the windup. (6-1-4e)

**INFRACTIONS BY PITCHER (F.P.)**

**6.2.1 SITUATION:** With R1 on second base, the pitcher uses a legal delivery. However, she throws the ball up in the air and catches it. The umpire awards R1 third base and awards the batter a ball because of an illegal pitch. This procedure was used for the purpose of putting the batter on base without pitching to the batter. **RULING:** The umpire is correct and shall warn the pitcher if this procedure is repeated, she will be guilty of unsporting conduct and ejected from the game. (3-6-13)

**6.2.2 SITUATION A:** F1 is wearing yellow or white colored wristlets. **RULING:** Any items on the pitching hand, arm, wrist or thighs which may be distracting to the batter shall be removed. **COMMENT:** The prohibition of what a pitcher may wear on her hand, wrist, or arm that may be distracting to the batter as judged by the umpire, such as wristbands or white batting gloves, pertains only to the pitching hand.

**6.2.2 SITUATION B:** After walking B1, F1 walks out of the 16-foot circle and licks the fingers on the throwing hand. With the ball in the glove, she walks on to the pitcher's plate and begins her delivery. **RULING:** Any time F1 licks the fingers on her pitching hand, she shall wipe them before touching the ball, otherwise an illegal pitch shall be called. The umpire shall declare the ball dead immediately.

**6.2.2 SITUATION C:** (F.P.) R1 is on second base. B2 hits an illegal pitch and reaches first base safely. R1 (a) is thrown out at third base, or (b) is thrown out at home, or (c) is safe at third base. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the coach of the team at bat has the option of the play or the penalty for an illegal pitch.

**6.2.2 SITUATION D:** (F.P.) With R1 on third and R2 on first, B3 hits an illegal pitch to deep left-center field. R1 scores, R2 reaches third and B3 stops at first. **RULING:** Even though B3 reached first base safely and R1 and R2 advanced at least one base, the coach of the team at bat has the option of the play or the penalty since B3 hit an illegal pitch. (6-2-2 Penalty Exception)

**6.2.3 SITUATION:** With R1 on third base, F2 returns the ball to F1 following a pitch. B2 steps out of the box to take a signal from the third-base coach, then returns to her position in the batter's box within 10 seconds of F1 receiving the ball. F1 fails to make the next pitch within 20 seconds of receiving the ball. **RULING:** A ball shall be called on B2 and R1 remains at third base. **COMMENT:** The 20-second count for the pitcher begins when she receives the ball from the catcher to prepare for the next pitch, not when the batter steps into the box. (7-3-1)

**6.2.5 SITUATION A:** While the umpire is reporting a substitute to the official scorer, a pitcher continues to throw in excess of her five warm-up pitches. **RULING:** Legal. The restriction of five warm-up pitches does not apply when the umpire delays the game due to substitutions, conferences, injuries or other administrative duties.

**6.2.5 SITUATION B:** While taking her warm-up pitches prior to the start of the fourth inning, F1 develops a blister on the tip of her index finger and is replaced

as pitcher. F1's replacement takes (a) five warm-up pitches, or (b) seven warm-up pitches. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), F1 could re-enter as pitcher. (2-57; 6-2-5 Note 2)

**6.2.6 SITUATION:** R1 is at second base, R2 at first base and B5 is at bat with a 1-2 count and two outs. During F1's windup, the ball slips from her hand and (a) the ball rolls back toward second base, (b) the ball rolls across the foul line halfway between home and first base or (c) the ball is rolling toward home plate and has an opportunity to be hit by B5. In all cases, B5 swings at the ball. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the ball remains live and runners may advance at their own risk. A "ball" is called on B5. In (c), the batter has an opportunity to hit this pitch. The ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk. If B5 swings and misses the ball, she may attempt to advance to first base on the dropped third strike rule. If she chooses not to swing at the pitch, a "ball" is called. (8-1-1b; 8-4-1)

**6.2.7 SITUATION:** With R1 on third base and R2 on second base, F1 does not want to pitch to B3 because B3 is a good hitter. Instead of pitching to F2, F1 winds up and pitches the ball to F5 who has moved nearly halfway down the third base line. F1 is hoping to have a ball called and after four pitches, B3 could walk. **RULING:** F1 is guilty of an illegal pitch. The ball is dead immediately. A ball is called on B3 and both runners advance one base without liability to be put out. The spirit of the rule has been violated. (3-6-13c, 6-2-1)

### INFRACTIONS BY CATCHER (F.P.)

**6.3.2 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) In an effort to deliberately walk a batter without having to throw a pitch (a) F1 intentionally violates the 20-second rule by not delivering a pitch, or (b) F2 does not return the ball directly to F1, but instead throws the ball to another fielder. **RULING:** The spirit of the rules is being violated in (a) and (b) The umpire shall warn the coach of the defensive team and if the act is repeated, the violator shall be ejected. Whether or not runners are on base, a ball shall be awarded the batter. (3-6-13c, 6-2-3)

**6.3.2 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) F1 delivers a ball outside the strike zone to B1 with no runners on base. F2 throws the ball to F5. **RULING:** The umpire shall award a ball to the batter for the catcher not returning the ball directly to F1 with no runners on base.

**6.3.2 SITUATION C:** (F.P.) The bases are empty and the batter has a count of no balls and one strike. On the next pitch, the batter hits a foul ball which the catcher retrieves and throws to third base. **RULING:** A ball is awarded to the batter and the count becomes one ball and two strikes.

### PITCHING REGULATIONS (S.P.)

**6.4.3 SITUATION:** (S.P.) F1 has both feet on the pitcher's plate. F1 removes one foot by (a) stepping backwards as she delivers the pitch or (b) stepping forward but outside the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate toward B1 when pitching the

ball. B1 does not swing at the pitch. **RULING:** It is an illegal pitch in (a). It is not necessary to step, but if a step is taken, it must be forward and simultaneous with release of the ball. In (b), it is a legal pitch because the non-pivot foot no longer must be within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. (6-4-2)

**6.4.5 SITUATION:** (S.P.) The umpire notices that the pitcher is wearing tape on her thumb. **RULING:** The pitcher is prohibited from wearing tape or other substances on the pitching hand or fingers.

**6.4.12 SITUATION:** (S.P.) R1 is on second base. The batter hits an illegal pitch and reaches first base safely. R1 (a) is thrown out at third base, or (b) is thrown out at home plate; or (c) is safe at third base. **RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the illegal pitch is disregarded and the play stands. (6-4-6 Penalty)

### BALL ROTATION

**\*6.5.1 SITUATION:** Starting the bottom of the first inning, both game balls have been in play. The visiting pitcher (a) picks up the ball in the circle and pitches to the first batter; (b) asks to inspect both balls at the same time while in the circle; or (c) before throwing a warm-up pitch, tosses the ball from the circle to the umpire and requests the other ball. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (c). Illegal in (b). **COMMENT:** After both balls have been used in the top of the first inning, either pitcher may exchange a ball from the circle at the beginning of each inning, but never have both balls at the same time. (6-5-2)

## Rule **7**

## *Batting*

### POSITION AND BATTING ORDER

**7.1.1 SITUATION A:** S1 replaces B3, who is third in the batting order. Is it necessary that S1 bat in third place? **RULING:** Yes.

**7.1.1 SITUATION B:** S1 replaces B1. Before or after S1 enters the batter's box, F1 is replaced. S1 is then replaced. **RULING:** A substitute at bat does not have to complete a turn at bat. (3-3-2, 3-3-5)

**7.1.1 SITUATION C:** (F.P.) With R1 on first, B8 erroneously bats in place of B7. The error is discovered by the opposing team (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 hit safely to advance R1, or (d) after a pitch has been delivered to B9. **RULING:** In (a) B7 takes the place of B8 at the plate with a two-strike, no ball count. If R1 has advanced by stealing or by a wild pitch while the wrong batter was batting, it is a legal advance. In (b) and (c) B7 is out. B8 is removed from base and bats again with no balls or strikes. R1 shall return to the

base occupied at the time of the pitch. In (d) no correction is made and B7 and B8 do not bat again until their regular time. (7-1-2 Penalty)

**7.1.2 SITUATION A:** B5 is scheduled to bat, but B7 enters the batter's box instead. 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 either team, or (d) B7. **RULING:** In all cases, this situation is correctable while the improper batter is at bat. B5 will take the place of B7 at the plate with a count of three balls, two strikes. Before a pitch, the umpire may ask the improper batter if she should be at bat. After a pitch, the umpire shall remain silent. (7-1-1)

**7.1.2 SITUATION B:** 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 her name follows that of B3. Neither B1 nor B2 may legally bat until their time comes again as listed. (7-1-2 Penalty)

**7.1.2 SITUATION C:** 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), 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. (7-1-1; 7-1-2 Penalty)

**7.1.2 SITUATION D:** With R1 on second, it is time for B3 to bat but B4 erroneously bats. B4 hits a double and the irregularity is discovered before a subsequent pitch by (a) coach of team in the field, or (b) F4. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), B3 shall be declared out and B4 shall bat again with no ball and strike count, and R1 returns to second base. (7-1-2 Penalty)

**7.1.2 SITUATION E:** With R1 on second and R2 on first, it is B3's turn to bat but B5 erroneously bats. Before the discovery of the irregularity, the improper batter, B5, hits safely. R1 advances home, R2 advances to second and B5 advances to first. The irregularity is discovered by F6 before a pitch to the next batter. **RULING:** B3 is declared out. R1 returns to second, R2 to first and B5 is removed from first base. The next batter is B4, who will be followed by B5. (7-1-2 Penalty)

**7.1.2 SITUATION F:** B1 bats out of order and reaches first base. F1 then steps onto the pitcher's plate and (a) drops the ball or (b) commits an illegal pitch. The defense then discovers that B1 has batted out of order. **RULING:** In (a), until one hand is taken off the ball or F1 makes any motion that is part of the windup after the hands have been brought together, F1 is not considered to have started a pitch. Therefore, the defense may appeal batting out of order. In (b), the defense would not be permitted to appeal batting out of order because the infraction was not discovered prior to the next pitch (legal or illegal). (6-1-2; 6-2-6; 7-1-2 Penalty)

**7.1.2 SITUATION G:** R1 is on second base when B3 bats out of order. B3 hits a single through the infield and stops at first base when R1 crosses home plate. Before the next pitch, F1 appeals that B3 batted out of order. **RULING:** Legal appeal. B2 is out. B3 is removed from first base and R1 is returned to second base. B3 is the next legal batter in the lineup. (7-1-2 Penalty)

**7.1.2 SITUATION H:** Batter B1 is due up but B2 bats instead. B2 hits a ground ball and is (a) safe at first or (b) thrown out at first. The defensive team properly appeals batting out of order. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the player who should have batted, B1 is declared out by the umpire and B2's turn at bat is nullified. In (a), B2 is removed from first base. In both (a) and (b), B2 is now the proper batter and bats again with one out and no runners on base. (7-1-2 Penalty)

### STRIKES, BALLS AND HITS

**7.2.1 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) B1 takes a stance with her feet wide apart which causes her shoulders to be lower than if she stood with her feet closer together. **RULING:** If it is a natural batting stance, the ball, before touching the ground, must enter the area over home base between the batter's forward armpit and the top of her knees before it will be called a strike. The umpire will regard the strike zone as it would be in the batter's natural stance, if the batter takes an unnatural crouch in order to reduce the size of her strike zone. (2-56-3)

**7.2.1 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) B1 starts to swing at a pitch but attempts to hold back, or it appears as though it is an attempt to bunt the ball. In either case, B1 misses the ball. How does the umpire determine what to call the pitch? **RULING:** A call of this nature is based entirely upon the umpire's judgment. Therefore, the umpire shall, in order to be consistent, have guidelines to follow. Normally there are four areas that constitute whether or not the batter has swung at the ball or checked the swing: (1) rolling the wrist, (2) swinging through the ball and bringing or drawing the bat back, unless drawing it back occurs before the pitch gets to the bat, (3) the bat being out in front of the body, or (4) the batter makes an attempt to hit the pitch. In bunting, any movement of the bat toward the ball when the ball is over or near the plate area, or holding the bat in the strike zone, is a strike. The bat must be withdrawn in order to take a pitch. (2-8-1, 2; 10-1-4 Note)

**\*7.2.1 SITUATION C:** R1 is on third and B2 at the plate with a count of 3-1. B2 moves toward the front of the batter's box as she fakes a drag bunt, withdraws the bat and is struck by a pitch that is in front of the plate. In the judgment of the umpire, the pitch was prevented from entering the strike zone. **RULING:** Dead ball and a strike called on B2. (2-56-1; 7-2-1h)

### BATTING INFRACTIONS

**7.3.1 SITUATION A:** With F1 on the pitcher's plate ready to deliver, B1, in the batter's box, holds up her hand and digs a hole in the box to get better footing. **RULING:** The umpire should refuse B1's request for time unless there is an

appropriate reason for the batter needing extra time, such as to repair the batter's box due to unsafe conditions. (7-3-1 Effect 2)

**7.3.1 SITUATION B:** As F1 starts her pitch, B1 requests time by either stepping out of the box or by putting her hands up. The pitcher (a) hesitates or stops her pitch or (b) legally delivers the ball. **RULING:** In (a) the umpire shall declare a "no pitch" and in (b) the umpire shall call a strike. (7-3-1 Effect 2)

**7.3.2 SITUATION:** (F.P.) With R1 on first, B2 has two strikes. B2 strikes at the next pitch which touches her. R1 steals second. **RULING:** This is a dead-ball strike and B2 is out. R1 must return to first. (5-1-1a; 8-1-2b 2)

### **BATTER INTERFERES WITH CATCHER**

**7.4.4 SITUATION A:** With less than two outs, R1 on second and B2 at the plate, R1 attempts to steal third. In the process, B2 does not swing or does swing and (a) makes no attempt to get out of the way of the catcher throwing to third or (b) is unable to make an attempt to get out of the way of the catcher throwing to third. As a result, F2 is unable to play on the runner. **RULING:** B2 is not guilty of interference in (a) or (b). B2 is entitled to her position in the batter's box and is not subject to interference unless she moves or re-establishes her position after F2 has received the pitch, which then prevents F2 from attempting to play on a runner. Failing to move so the catcher can make a throw is not batter interference.

**7.4.4 SITUATION B:** With one out and R1 on third base, B3 interferes with F2. In (a), R1 makes an attempt to score, or in (b), R1 attempts to return to third base. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), B3 is ruled out and R1 must return to third base.

**7.4.4 SITUATION C:** R1 is on third base and R2 is on first base. B3 is at bat with (a) a 2-1 count, or (b) a 2-2 count. F1 delivers an outside pitch as R2 attempts to steal second. B3 swings and misses the pitch which is caught by F2. After the pitch is caught, B3's momentum carries her across the plate and interferes with F2's throw to second base. **RULING:** Batter interference in (a), B3 is out and R2 must return to first base. R1 remains at third base. In (b), this is interference by a retired runner. R1 is out (runner closest to home) and R2 must return to first base. (5-1-1e, 8-2-6)

**\*7.4.4 SITUATION D:** With R1 on third and R2 on first base, B3 swings and does not make contact with the ball. On her follow-through, the bat comes around and inadvertently knocks the ball out of the catcher's glove. The ball rolls up the line; R1 scores and R2 advances to second base. **RULING:** Batter interference is called since the ball was in the catcher's glove; the act does not have to be intentional. B3 is out, the ball is dead and all runners return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

### **THIRD STRIKE**

**7.4.7 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) With R1 on first, B2, who has two strikes, 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. In (b), B2 is safe at first if she reaches first before being tagged out or thrown out.

**7.4.7 SITUATION B:** (F.P.) With (a) one out or (b) two outs, and R1 on third and R2 on second, B5 swings and misses for strike three, but F2 drops the ball. **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 she is tagged out, provided she has not entered the bench area first.

### **BATTER OUT OF BOX**

**7.4.8 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 waiting for a pitch when no part of either foot is touching the ground outside the boundary lines forming the batter's box. The batter shall be called out for being out of the batter's box when one foot or both feet are on the ground completely outside the boundary lines when the ball is hit. The batter is also called out when any part of a foot is touching home plate when she hits the ball. **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 shall be completely in the batter's box (not touching the ground outside the batter's box).

**7.4.8 SITUATION B:** B1 strides forward when making contact with the pitched ball. Her front foot (a) is in the air when contact is made and it then lands completely outside the line of the batter's box, or (b) is partially on the line of the batter's box and partially on the ground outside the line of the batter's box when contact is made, or (c) is on the ground entirely outside the line of the batter's box when contact is made. **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. The ball is dead immediately.

### **THIRD STRIKE BUNT**

**7.4.9 SITUATION:** (F.P.) With R1 on second, a third strike bunt attempt by B2 is (a) an uncaught foul or (b) a caught foul (not a foul tip). R1 reaches third before the ball becomes dead in (a), or before the catch in (b). **RULING:** In (a), B2 is out and R1 must return to second. In (b), since the foul was caught, B2 is declared out and the ball remains live. R1 may be thrown out at second before she retouches or called out at third if properly appealed. (2-1; 7-4-11; 8-8-16)

### **BAT HITS BALL A SECOND TIME**

**7.4.13 SITUATION:** B1 swings and (a) hits the ball which strikes home plate and bounces up hitting the bat while the batter is in the batter's box; (b) after laying down the bat and running to first, the ball hits the bat in fair territory; or (c) while advancing to first, drops the bat in fair territory and the bat, while still moving, hits the ball. **RULING:** A foul ball in (a). The ball remains live in (b). In (c), the batter is out and the ball is dead.

**THROWN OR BROKEN BAT**

**7.4.14 SITUATION:** In hitting a slow roller to F5, the (a) whole bat slips out of B1's hands and interferes with F5 or (b) her 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 her 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.

## Rule **8** *Batter-Runner and Runner*

**DROPPED THIRD STRIKE**

**8.1.1 SITUATION A:** (F.P.) F2 drops the third strike with two outs. B3 starts toward the dugout but F2 does not throw to first. B3 then makes a quick dash to first. **RULING:** If F2 does not throw to first, there is a chance B3 could reach base safely. However, B3 should be declared out if (1) she entered dead-ball territory; (2) she did not reach the base before the time of the next pitch; or (3) the half-inning ended because all infielders left the diamond. (8-2-4)

**8.1.1 SITUATION B:** With less than two outs and R1 on first base, F2 drops B2's third strike. B2 begins running to first base, F2 attempts to throw B2 out and overthrows F3. **RULING:** As soon as B2 starts to run to first, the umpire shall forcefully announce that B2 is out (because of the third strike and first base being occupied). The ball remains live.

**8.1.1 SITUATION C:** With two outs and two strikes on B3, B3 swings and misses the next pitch which hits in the dirt and bounces into F2's mitt. Is B3 entitled to attempt to advance to first base? **RULING:** Yes. Had F2 caught F1's pitch in flight, B3 would have been out.

**BALL FOUR**

**8.1.1 SITUATION D:** The umpire calls ball four on B1 who does not go immediately or directly to first base. **RULING:** If B1 enters the dugout or does not reach first base before the time of the next pitch, B1 shall be declared out.

**8.1.1 SITUATION E:** With three balls and no strikes on B2 and (a) R1 on second, or (b) no one 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) R1 is awarded third base. (8-4-3c)

**8.1.1 SITUATION F:** With two outs, the bases loaded and a three-and-two count on B6, the next pitch is a wild pitch. R1 begins advancing to home. R2, on second base, is off with the pitch. She rounds third base, but is caught off the base by a throw by F2 for the third out. R1 had not touched home when R2 was tagged

out at third. **RULING:** R1 was awarded home as soon as the fourth ball was declared. Consequently, as soon as R1 touches the plate, her run counts. (8-4-3a Effect)

### CATCHER OBSTRUCTION

**8.1.1 SITUATION G:** R1 is on third. R1 starts home as in a squeeze play. F3, who is playing close for a bunt, cuts off the pitch and tags R1. **RULING:** This is treated the same as catcher obstruction. The ball becomes dead at the end of playing action. The coach or captain of the team at bat has the option of the play or penalty. If the penalty is accepted, R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded first. (2-36)

**8.1.1 SITUATION H:** R1 is on second with one out. F2 obstructs B3 who hits a ground ball to F4. F4 throws B3 out. F3 overthrows to third in an attempt to retire R1 who scores on the overthrow. **RULING:** The coach of the team at bat may elect to take the result of the play scoring R1, or she may accept the catcher's obstruction penalty, placing R1 back on second and B3 on first. (2-36)

**8.1.1 SITUATION I:** R1 is on second base with one out. B3 hits a long fly ball to F8 although being obstructed by F2 on her swing. R1 tags up and scores after the catch. **RULING:** The coach or captain of the team on offense may advise the plate umpire that she elects to decline the obstruction penalty and accept the resulting play. Such election shall be made before the next pitch (legal or illegal). (2-36)

### BATTED BALL HITS RUNNER

**8.1.2 SITUATION A:** With one out, R1 is on second and R2 is on first. An infield fly by B4 touches R2 who is standing on first. **RULING:** B4 is out. R2 is not out unless she intentionally interferes. (2-30; 8-2-9; 8-8-13)

**8.1.2 SITUATION B:** R1 is advancing to second when B2's batted ball (a) is dropped by F3 and is deflected toward R1, or (b) passes several feet to the right of F3 who is playing in front of the baseline. In either case, the ball then touches R1. **RULING:** There is no penalty in (a) unless R1 purposely permits the ball to touch her. In (b), if, in the opinion of the umpire, no other fielder had an opportunity to make an out, the ball remains live.

**8.1.2 SITUATION C:** With R1 on second, B2 hits to F6 who is playing deep. The ball is touched by F6 and dropped so that it rebounds into R1. **RULING:** Since the ball was touched by a fielder first, the ball subsequently touching R1 is ignored.

### PITCHED BALL HITS BATTER

**8.1.2 SITUATION D:** A pitched ball touches the ground in front of home plate and then hits B1. **RULING:** B1 is entitled to first base unless no effort was made to avoid being hit. (8-1-2b)

**THREE-FOOT RUNNING LANE**

**8.2.5 SITUATION A:** With the bases loaded, B4, who bats left-handed, 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 her way to first base. B4 is in fair territory, but has not reached the 30-foot running lane. **RULING:** There is no violation, unless the batter-runner intentionally interfered with F3's throw.

**8.2.5 SITUATION B:** R1 is on third, and the batter receives a base on balls. The batter-runner runs to first completely in fair territory (outside of the three-foot running lane) the last half distance to first. The catcher throws the ball to first and the throw strikes the batter-runner. **RULING:** If the umpire judges that the batter-runner interfered with a legitimate play by the catcher, she should be called out. **COMMENT:** All bases must be run legally, even awarded bases. (8-2-6; 8-3-11; 8-6-10c)

**8.2.5 SITUATION C:** With no outs and no runners on base, B1's third strike is dropped and the ball rolls into foul territory. F3 steps on first base to receive the throw from F2 while B1 runs in fair territory to the base. F2's throw is errant and draws F3 back in fair territory. This causes B1 to slow down. The errant throw then hits B1 in the back. **RULING:** Obstruction on F3. **COMMENT:** The ruling is the same for a double or single first base. (8-2-6; 8-4-3b)

**\*8.2.5 SITUATION D:** The game is tied in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs and the bases loaded. The batter receives ball four. Each base runner begins to advance to the next base, while the batter-runner, in her jubilation, starts heading down to first base in fair territory. F2 throws the ball toward first base and the batter-runner is hit in the back with the thrown ball while completely outside the running lane. **RULING:** There is no legitimate play to be made on the batter-runner, thus, no interference. Once all runners, including the batter-runner, touch the awarded bases, the game is over.

**8.2.6 SITUATION A:** With R1 on third base, B2 hits a fair ground ball to F3 who fields the ball beyond first base. F3 throws to F2 attempting to retire R1. The throw hits B2 who is running on the foul line. **RULING:** B2 has not interfered, since she was running in the prescribed base path, the same as if advancing toward any other base. Since no play is made on B2 at first base, 8-2-5 does not apply.

**BATTER-RUNNER INTERFERENCE**

**8.2.6 SITUATION B:** B1 hits a ball off the tip of the bat causing the ball to spin just outside the foul line. As B1 watches the ball, she suddenly realizes that it could become fair and that she will likely be put out. Therefore, she (a) kicks or (b) hits the ball with her bat to prevent it from becoming fair. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the ball is dead immediately. If in the umpire's judgment the ball could have become fair, B1 shall be declared out.

**8.2.6 SITUATION C:** With R1 on third base, R2 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, R1 scores before the interference. Does the run score since R1 touched home plate before the interference? **RULING:** The run does not score if any runner advanced during action in which the third out was made by the batter-runner before she touched first base. (9-1-1 Exception a)

**\*8.2.6 SITUATION D:** B3 has a count of 3-2 with no runners on base and two outs. On the next pitch B3 swings and misses. The ball bounces off F2's shin guard and lands in front of home plate. As F2 moves out to field the ball, (a) B3 runs into her, knocking her down or (b) B3 unintentionally kicks the ball. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), interference; the umpire calls "dead ball" and rules the batter-runner out.

### **BATTER-RUNNER RETREATING TOWARD HOME**

**8.2.8 SITUATION A:** With R1 on second, B2 bunts the ball down the first-base line. F3 fields the ball and runs toward B2. B2, in an effort to buy time for R1, backtracks toward home. **RULING:** B2 is out. B2 is permitted to stop between first base and home plate. Once B2 retreats, she is out. The ball is dead immediately. R1 must return to second base, the last base she had touched at the time of the infraction.

**8.2.8 SITUATION B:** With R1 on second base and R2 on first, B3 hits a ground ball to F5. R1 starts to third, but retreats to second. Is R1 out for retreating to second? **RULING:** No. R1 may retreat without penalty. To retire R1, R1 must be tagged, or the ball needs to be thrown to third base. (8-6-3)

### **INFIELD FLY**

**8.2.9 SITUATION A:** The umpire calls "infield fly" but the ball curves and becomes a foul ball. **RULING:** The call is reversed. It is not an infield fly but an ordinary foul. The batter is not out unless the foul fly is caught. If caught, each runner shall retouch the base occupied at the time of the pitch. (2-30)

**8.2.9 SITUATION B:** With R1 on second and R2 on first and less than two outs, B3 hits a pop-up that comes down over foul territory. Is this an infield fly if (a) it touches ground out of the reach of all infielders and then takes a long hop into fair territory between home and first or (b) it is within reach of an infielder who does not touch it and the ball bounces to fair territory? **RULING:** It is not an infield fly in (a) if the umpire thinks it is not within reach of any infielder. In (b), it is an infield fly. (2-30)

**8.2.9 SITUATION C:** With the bases loaded and less than two outs, B5 pops up in the infield. The umpire calls, "Infield Fly." F6 intentionally drops the ball, which then bounds away from her. R1 on third takes off for home, just as the umpire declares the ball dead because F6 intentionally dropped the ball. The umpire then returns R1 to third. The coach of the team at bat claims that the ball should not

have been declared dead, since the batter would have been out anyway due to the infield-fly rule. **RULING:** The infield-fly rule takes precedence over the intentionally dropped fly ball. Therefore, the ball remains live and runners may advance at their own risk. In this play, the umpire made a mistake when he/she declared the ball dead, which prevented R1 from scoring. Even if the runner was close to scoring, she shall be returned to the last base occupied at the time the ball was declared dead. (2-30; 8-2-10)

### **INTENTIONALLY DROPPED BALL**

**8.2.10 SITUATION A:** With no outs, R1 is on first. F9 intentionally drops a fair fly ball hit by B2. R1 advances and is (a) tagged out, or (b) reaches second or third base. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is out. In (b), it is a legal advance and B2 is safe on the error by F9. (5-1-11; 8-2-10)

**8.2.10 SITUATION B:** With the bases loaded and one out, B5 bunts a ball in the air. F3 uses the back of her glove to gently knock the ball to the ground where she picks it up and throws to F2, who touches the plate and then throws out B5 at first. **RULING:** Manipulating the ball to the ground is prohibited, because the act violates the spirit of the rule. Permitting the ball to drop to the ground untouched is not considered an intentionally dropped ball, as long as it was not touched. If the ball is intentionally dropped, it is dead immediately, B5 is out and all runners return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

**8.2.10 SITUATION C:** With one out and R1 on first, B3 hits a fly. F4 catches it, but intentionally drops it for an attempted double play. **RULING:** The umpire should immediately declare the ball dead and call B3 out. R1 must return to the base (first) that was occupied at the time of the pitch. (5-1-11)

### **MISSED BASE – APPEAL PLAYS**

**8.3.1 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first, B2 singles. R1 goes to third but fails to touch second. **RULING:** If appealed properly by the defensive team, the umpire shall call R1 out for failing to touch second. (8-6-7; 2-1)

**8.3.1 SITUATION B:** With R1 on first, B2 hits safely to right field. An overthrow at first (a) goes into the stands or (b) hits the enclosing wall and rebounds to F2. In going to third, R1 misses second base and has passed second or is approaching second when the ball leaves the hand of F9 who is throwing to the infield. **RULING:** In (a), R1 will be awarded home if she was past second base, or awarded third base if second base was not reached when the throw left the hand of F9. R1 is responsible for touching all bases regardless of whether or not the bases are awarded. If R1 fails to touch any base on the award, and the defensive team makes the proper appeal, the umpire will call R1 out. In (b), if the defensive team makes the proper appeal for R1 missing second the umpire will declare R1 out. (8-6-7; 8-4-3f; 2-1)

**8.3.1 SITUATION C:** With R1 on second, R2 on first and one out, B4 hits a double. Both runners cross home plate but R1 fails to touch third. R1 (a) gets back to third before the ball arrives at third, or (b) after all play has ended, the defensive team makes a dead ball appeal. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the umpire rules R1 out for failing to touch third base. The run by R2 counts because there are only two outs. In (a), the umpire will not permit R1 to return to third base because a following runner (R2) has scored. (8-3-9; 2-1)

**8.3.1 SITUATION D:** With R1 on first, B2 hits safely to center field. The ball (a) goes over the fence in flight; or (b) bounces over the fence; or (c) is fielded by F8 who overthrows first and the ball goes into the stands. Both runners advance but R1 fails to touch second or B2 fails to touch first. **RULING:** 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 the last base occupied at the time the ball left F8's hand. In (a), (b) and (c), R1 and B2 must go back and touch the base(s) missed before advancing on the award or the defensive team could appeal to the umpire that they missed a base. If appealed properly, the umpire would declare the violator out. (8-3-2; 8-3-11)

**8.3.1 SITUATION E:** With R1 on first, B2 singles to right field, F9 attempts to throw out R1 advancing to third. However, R1 misses second. F9's throw sails into dead-ball territory, (a) as R1 touches third; (b) before R1 touches third. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), R1 would be awarded home. In both cases, the defense must appeal R1 missing second base. In (a), R1 cannot return and retouch second after the ball became dead, because she has touched the next succeeding base. In (b), If R1 does not return to touch second base before touching the awarded base(s) and the defensive team properly appeals, the umpire shall declare R1 out. (5-2-2b; 8-6-7; 2-1)

**8.3.1 SITUATION F:** R1 is on third and there is no one out. R1 attempts to score on a fly ball to F8. F8's throw to F2 is near perfect. R1 sees that the play is going to be close. As F2 stretches for the ball to tag R1, R1 attempts to dive over F2's outstretched arms as the ball bounces in front of the plate and skips into dead-ball territory. As R1 is in the air, F2's glove catches R1's foot and both lose their balance and tumble to the ground. R1 (a) gets up and proceeds to the dugout, or (b) crawls back and touches the plate. **RULING:** In (a), the umpire would call R1 out for missing the plate only if the defensive team properly appeals the play. In (b), R1's run would count. (8-6-9; 2-1)

**8.3.1 SITUATION G:** B1 hits a slow roller to F5 and arrives safely but misses first base. F3 catches the ball while standing on first base after B1 has beaten the throw. **RULING:** If the runner passes first base before the throw arrives, she is considered to have touched the base unless an appeal play is made. F3 must tell the umpire she is appealing B1 missing first base before B1 returns to the base. (8-3-4)

**8.3.1 SITUATION H:** R1 is on second and R2 on first when B3 doubles. R1 advances to home plate but fails to touch third. R2 touches second, third and home after which (a) R1 realizes her mistake and returns to third, or (b) the defense throws the ball to third. **RULING:** In (a), if the defense properly appeals, the umpire shall declare R1 out. No runner may return to a missed base after the following runner has scored. In (b), the defense may, if it chooses, while the ball is live, play on a runner who commits a base running infraction. Therefore, R1 would be out if properly appealed. (8-3-9; 8-6-7 Penalty)

### RETOUCHING A MISSED BASE

**8.3.2 SITUATION A:** 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 her way back to first. **RULING:** R1 is not out. If the ball is dead, because of an uncaught foul, it is not necessary for a returning runner to retouch intervening bases.

**\*8.3.2 SITUATION B:** R1 is on first when B2 hits a fly ball to right field. R1 goes half way and F9 makes a diving catch. F9 then throws to F3, but throws the ball into the stands before R1 can retouch. **RULING:** R1 is permitted to complete her base-running responsibilities before a dead-ball appeal can be made. If R1 makes an attempt to return to and retouch first base, she will also be given the appropriate award for the overthrow. If she does not make an attempt to return to first base, the awarded bases for the overthrow may be administered, but if the defense then makes a proper dead-ball appeal, she will be called out. (8-6-6; 2-1)

### TWO RUNNERS OCCUPYING THE SAME BASE

**8.3.3 SITUATION A:** With F6 trying to tag out R1 between second and third, R2 advances to second. R1 escapes to second. If one or both are on the base when tagged, which one can be put out? **RULING:** If both are on the base, only R2, when tagged, is out. If only one is on the base when tagged, neither is out.

**8.3.3 SITUATION B:** With R1 on third, R2 on second and R3 on first, R3 legally steals second but R2 does not advance. The pitcher receives the ball in the circle from the catcher and makes no play on any runner. May both runners remain at second? **RULING:** No. The umpire, after permitting a reasonable amount of time for a play to be made, shall declare the ball dead and call R3 out.

**8.3.3 SITUATION C:** With R1 on first, B2 hits a ground ball to F3 who (a) steps on first and then tags R1 who has remained on first, or (b) tags R1 while R1 is on first and then steps on first. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is not out since the force was removed when B2 was put out. In (b), both R1 and B2 are out. (2-24)

**8.3.3 SITUATION D:** With R1 on second base and R2 on first, B3 hits a deep fly ball over F8's head. R2 advances to third as R1 gets in a rundown between home and third. R1 gets back to third base safely but is obstructed on her way to

the bag. With both runners standing on third base, the defense then tags R2. **RULING:** When obstruction occurred, the umpire should verbally call out "obstruction" and signal a delayed dead ball. The obstructed runner would be protected. When R1 returned back to the bag safely, obstruction was ignored since this was the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction. Since R1 is the runner entitled to the base, R2 would be ruled out on the tag. (2-36; 8-3-7)

### **AWARDED BASES MUST BE RUN LEGALLY**

**8.3.11 SITUATION A:** R1 is on first when B2 hits a fly ball to F9 who overthrows first in an attempt to double off R1. The throw goes into the dugout. R1 fails to (a) retouch first, or (b) touch second on the way to third. **RULING:** In both (a), and (b), the umpire must wait for the defensive team to make a dead-ball appeal on R1. (8-6-6; 8-6-7; 2-1)

**8.3.11 SITUATION B:** B1 singles to right. F9 throws the ball into the dugout in attempting a throw to F3. The umpire awards B1 third base, if the batter-runner had touched first base but not yet touched second base when the ball left the hand of F9. B1 cuts across the infield to third. **RULING:** The defensive team must appeal that B1 did not touch second on her way to third, if so the umpire will rule B1 out. (8-6-7; 2-1)

**8.3.11 SITUATION C:** With R1 at third base, B2 receives ball four. F2 returns the ball immediately to F1 who is in the 16-foot circle. Before reaching first base, B2 stops and tries to draw a throw from the pitcher. **RULING:** In the spirit of fair play, B2 should immediately advance to first base. The umpire should rule the ball dead, award B2 first base, put R1 back at third and issue a warning to B2 for her behavior. If B2 repeats similar acts, she should be ejected. (3-6-13c; 10-2-3f)

### **TAGGING UP ON FLY BALL**

**8.4.1 SITUATION A:** R1 is on first when B2 hits a line drive that bounds off F4's glove to F8 who catches it. R1 leaves first after F4 touched the ball but before the catch. **RULING:** This is a legal advance by R1. B2 is out. (8-4-1e; 8-8-12)

**8.4.1 SITUATION B:** R1, R2 and R3 are on third, second and first bases, respectively, with no outs when B4 flies out to F9. R2 leaves second before F9 touches the ball and R1 advances to home after the catch. F9 throws to home but R1 scores. F2 throws the ball to F4 who tags out R3 at second. F4 returns the ball to F1 who is standing off the pitcher's plate. F1 asks for time and makes a dead-ball appeal on R2 for leaving second base too soon. **RULING:** The umpire shall declare R2 out for leaving second base before F9 touched the ball. However, R1 would score because she scored before the third out, which was not a force out. (8-4-1e; 8-6-6; 8-8-12; 2-1-12)

**8.4.1 SITUATION C:** With one out and R1 on third, B3 flies to F7 for the second out. R1 scores after the catch, but the umpire observes that R1 left third

before the catch. **RULING:** The umpire must wait for the defensive team to make an appeal before calling R1 out. (8-4-1e; 8-6-6; 2-1)

### **PITCHED BALL LODGES IN CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT**

**8.4.1 SITUATION D:** With no outs, B1's third strike is missed by F2 and the ball lodges between her body and the chest protector. While F2 hunts for the ball, B1 continues to second. **RULING:** The ball remains live and B1 is entitled to advance since the third strike was not caught. (7-4-7; 8-4-1g)

### **DEFENSIVE OBSTRUCTION**

**8.4.3 SITUATION A:** With one out, R1 on second and R2 on first, B4 hits a ground ball directly to F1 who throws to F5 for the force on R1 at third. F6 grabs R1 to prevent her from advancing to third. **RULING:** The umpire will signal obstruction when it occurs, and then call time at the end of playing action or when the obstructed runner is put out before reaching the base she would have, in the umpire's judgment, had there been no obstruction. The umpire will award R1 and any other runners the base or bases they would have reached had there been no obstruction. F6 shall also be ejected for unsporting behavior. (2-36; 3-6-13c; 5-1-3; 8-4-3b)

**8.4.3 SITUATION B:** With R1 on first base, B2 hits a pitch with one foot completely outside the batter's box. F6 fields the ball. 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. (7-4-8 Penalty)

**8.4.3 SITUATION C:** With R1 on second and R2 on first, F5 who neither has the ball nor is attempting to field a batted ball, obstructs R1 when R1 is (a) attempting to advance on a hit, or (b) returning to third after being trapped between third and home. **RULING:** In (a), and (b), the umpire would call a delayed dead ball when the obstruction occurred. At the end of playing action the umpire would award all runners effected by the obstruction the base or bases they would have reached had there been no obstruction. (2-36; 5-1-3; 8-4-3b)

**8.4.3 SITUATION D:** F2, without the ball is blocking home plate. R1 pushes F2, but not flagrantly, out of the base path and touches home plate. **RULING:** The umpire would call obstruction and signal a delayed dead ball. Since the runner reached home safely there would be no award given. (2-36)

**8.4.3 SITUATION E:** A throw from F9 draws F2 into the base path of R1. In (a), the ball arrives just before R1 and F2 has it in her possession. Contact then occurs between F2 and R1, F2 drops the ball and R1 scores. In (b), contact occurs just prior to F2 catching the ball. In both cases, the contact is not malicious. **RULING:** In (a), there is no obstruction or interference. This is viewed simply as a collision. The run scores. In (b), F2 has committed obstruction; R1 will be awarded the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction.

**8.4.3 SITUATION F:** F2, with the ball in her possession, (a) blocks the plate and

prevents the sliding runner from reaching the base and tags her; or (b) blocks the plate and the runner slides into the tag causing the ball to roll out of F2's glove and onto the ground. F2 then regains control of the ball and applies the tag before the runner touches the plate. **RULING:** F2 may legally block home plate while in possession of the ball. In (a), the runner is out. In (b), once the ball is dislodged, F2 is no longer in possession of the ball and may not impede the progress of the runner. If, in the umpire's judgment, F2 impeded the progress of the runner after the ball was dislodged, obstruction should be called and the runner awarded home.

**8.4.3 SITUATION G:** B1 collides with F3 when rounding first base after hitting a single (a) with no chance to advance, or (b) while attempting to advance on a hit. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the umpire would call a delayed dead ball when the obstruction occurred. In (a), the umpire will leave the runner at first since she had no chance to advance to second base. In (b), the umpire will award second base if in the umpire's judgment the runner would have reached second base had there been no obstruction. (2-36; 5-1-3)

**8.4.3 SITUATION H:** With R1 on second, B2 hits a fly ball that appears will fall in for a hit. However, F8 makes a spectacular catch. R1 is off with the hit, and (a) is obstructed while attempting to advance to third. She then realizes that the catch is made and attempts to return to second base and is tagged out; or (b) is near third when she realizes that the catch is made. As she attempts to return to second base, she is obstructed by F6 and is tagged out. **RULING:** In (a), R1 is out. She is not protected since the obstruction occurred while she was attempting to advance after leaving a base before a fly ball was first touched. In (b), F6 has committed obstruction. R1 will be awarded the base, in the umpire's judgment, she would have reached had there been no obstruction. (2-36; 5-1-3; 8-4-3b Penalty a Exception 2)

**8.4.3 SITUATION I:** On a hit and run with R1 on first base, B2 hits a ground ball between first and second. F4 dives for the ball. R1 sees that she cannot avoid F4 in time and elects to hurdle her. F4, in getting up, makes contact with R1. **RULING:** At the time R1 made a commitment to hurdle, F4 was lying on the ground. Therefore, R1 is legal, even if contact is made. If, by getting up, F4 contacts R1, F4 could be called for obstruction if she does not have the ball. (8-6-13)

### **VERBAL OBSTRUCTION**

**8.4.3 SITUATION J:** 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 she is tagged out. **RULING:** This is verbal obstruction and the umpire should call "obstruction" and signal a delayed dead ball. The umpire will call time when R1 is tagged out and award her the base(s) she would have reached in the umpire's judgment had there been no obstruction. (2-36; 5-1-3)

**FAKE TAG**

**8.4.3 SITUATION K:** R1, who is on first base, attempts to steal second base. F2 (a) does not make a throw or (b) throws the ball into center field, and in either case, F6 fakes a tag on R1. **RULING:** The umpire will signal delayed dead ball for the obstruction by F6. In both (a) and (b), the umpire will award the base or bases R1 would have reached had there been no obstruction and issue a team warning for faking a tag. (2-21; 3-6-2; 5-1-3; 8-4-3b)

**DETACHED EQUIPMENT**

**8.4.3 SITUATION L:** R1 is on second and R2 is on first when B3 hits a ground ball to F6. F6 fields the ball, steps on second for the force on R2 and then throws wildly to F3. F3 tosses her glove into the air hitting the ball. The ball bounces into the dugout. **RULING:** R2 is out. Both R1 and B3 are awarded two bases from their positions when F3's detached mitt or glove touched the thrown ball. In this situation, or any other situation where the detached glove or mitt touches a ball, prior to the ball becoming dead because of going into a dead-ball area, the rule governing 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. (8-4-3e)

**8.4.3 SITUATION M:** R1 is on second base. A fielder then throws her glove which hits (a) a batted ball over fair ground, preventing the ball from going over the center field fence in flight; or (b) a fair batted ball preventing it from bouncing over the fence. **RULING:** The award is from the base occupied at the time of the pitch. The number of bases awarded is four in (a) and three in (b). (8-4-3e Penalty)

**BALL ENTERS DEAD-BALL TERRITORY**

**8.4.3 SITUATION N:** With R1 on first, B2 hits safely to F5 or to outfielder F8. The throw is over or through F3. **RULING:** If the overthrow does not become dead, there are no awards. If the overthrow becomes dead, two bases are awarded each runner (including the batter-runner) from the base occupied when the throw left the hand of F5 or F8. (8-4-3f)

**8.4.3 SITUATION O:** With two outs and R1 on first, F2 drops a third strike which rolls along the first-base line enabling B4 to reach first and second while F1 chases down the ball. F1 then overthrows third attempting to put out R1. The ball goes into the stands. **RULING:** Both R1 and B4 are awarded two bases from the base each occupied when the ball left the hand of F1 on the overthrow. In this situation, both R1 and B4 score since B4 has reached second prior to the thrown ball leaving the hand of F1. (8-4-3f; 5-1-1g 3)

**8.4.3 SITUATION P:** With R1 on first base and one out, B3 hits a shallow fly ball to right field. R1 goes halfway to second, and B3 rounds first base. F9 traps the ball. However, believing that the ball was caught, F9 throws to first trying to

double off R1. The 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. Only the lead runner is awarded two bases in this situation. (8-4-3f)

**8.4.3 SITUATION Q:** With R1 on second and R2 on first base, B3 hits a fly ball to shallow right field between F4 and F9. It is fielded on the bounce by F4. R1 is beyond third, R2 beyond second and B3 is beyond first when F4 throws to home plate (or third base). The ball bounces into the stands. **RULING:** Award each runner (including B3) two bases from the base occupied when the ball left the hand of F4. (8-4-3f)

**8.4.3 SITUATION R:** B1 hits a long fly ball to center field. F8 goes back to the fence and leaps in an attempt to make the catch. The fly ball goes past F8, deflects off (a) the top of the fence and lands in the outfield; (b) the top of the fence, strikes the fielder's glove and ricochets over the fence in fair territory; (c) F8's outstretched glove and goes over the fence; or (d) the top of the fence and goes over in fair territory. **RULING:** In (a), the hit is a live, ground ball. In (b), a ground-rule double is ruled. When the ball ricocheted off the fence and then off the fielder's glove, it was no longer in flight and caused the hit to be ruled a double. In (c) and (d), it is a home run. (2-28; 8-4-3g, h)

**8.4.3 SITUATION S:** On a hit-and-run signal, R1 has reached and passed second before the ball batted by B2 bounces over or through the fence in right field. **RULING:** In this situation, awards are made from the time of the pitch. B2 and R1 are awarded two bases. R1 will end up on third, while B2 will get second base. (8-4-3h)

### **BALL CARRIED INTO DEAD-BALL TERRITORY**

**8.4.3 SITUATION T:** How are awards determined when a fielder carries or throws a live ball into a dugout or any dead-ball area? **RULING:** When a batted ball is caught in flight and then unintentionally carried into a dugout or other dead-ball area, the award is one base. Any other time a live ball is carried or thrown into dead-ball area, except for a pitch or a throw by the pitcher while in the pitching position, the award is two bases. (8-4-3i)

### **SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE**

**8.4.3 SITUATION U:** R1 is on first when B2 hits a 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 and tosses it to the fielder. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the ball is dead immediately at the moment of interference and the umpire will award R1 and B2 the bases, if in his/her opinion, they would have reached had there been no spectator interference. (8-4-3k)

### **RUNNER(S) MUST RETURN TO BASE(S)**

**8.5.3 SITUATION:** With R1 on second and R2 on first, B3 hits toward third. R1

interferes by touching the batted ball or by illegally hindering F5 in fielding or throwing. R2 reaches second before the interference. **RULING:** R1 is out. R2 may also be out if the interference prevented a double play. If R2 is not ruled out, she must return to the base occupied at the time of the interference, which was second base. B3 would be awarded first base. (8-1-2; 8-6-10a, c, d Penalty)

### **RUNNER LEAVING BASE PATH**

**8.6.1 SITUATION:** In rounding first in a wide turn, B1 is considerably outside the normal baseline to second. B1 is then caught in a rundown between first and second. **RULING:** B1 is considered to have established her base path directly from that position to the base she is moving toward.

### **PASSING ANOTHER RUNNER**

**8.6.4 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first, B2 hits a ground ball to F9. A throw to third drives R1 back to second. B2 rounds second and passes R1. B2 runs back and finally reaches first without being tagged out. **RULING:** B2 was out as soon as she passed R1.

**8.6.4 SITUATION B:** With two outs, R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B5 singles. B5 passes R2 between first and second base (a) just before R1 touches the plate, or (b) just after R1 touches the plate. **RULING:** In (a), the run does not count. In (b), it does count. A runner is out the moment she passes a preceding runner.

**8.6.4 SITUATION C:** With less than two outs and R1 on first, B2 hits a fly ball that drops in front of F7. R1 hesitates to see if the ball will be caught. B2 rounds first base and passes R1. **RULING:** B2 is declared out immediately for passing R1. The ball remains live. The force play ended when B2 was called out.

**8.6.4 SITUATION D:** With R1 at second base, R2 at first base and a 1-1 count on B3, the offensive coach requests time to speak with the runners and batter. When the players return to their bases, R1 and R2 have switched places. After the next pitch to B3, the defensive coach asks for time and informs the umpire that the runners have occupied the wrong bases. **RULING:** Both players are guilty of base running infractions. The umpire shall rule both R1 and R2 out for their actions. If, in the umpire's judgment, the act was deliberate, both players and the coach could be ejected for unsporting behavior. (8-3-6; 10-2-3f)

**8.6.4 SITUATION E:** With R1 on second and R2 on first, B3 hits a ball safely to the outfield fence. After R1 takes off from second, she is obstructed by F6 and knocked down and may be injured. The umpire signals obstruction on F6. Both R2 and B3 pass R1 (who is still on the ground) and subsequently score. F8 finally throws the ball to F6 who tags R1 between second and third base. **RULING:** There is no infraction assessed for passing a runner. Both R1 and R2 score on the play. R1 is awarded home and scores, as this is the base she would have achieved had there been no obstruction. (8-4-3b Penalty c)

**INTERFERENCE PREVENTS A DOUBLE PLAY**

**8.6.10 SITUATION A:** With R1 on second and R2 on first base, B3 hits a sharp ground ball towards F6, who is pushed by R1. **RULING:** Interference causes the ball to become dead and R1 is out. If in the judgment of the umpire the interference clearly prevented a double play and occurs before the runner is put out, the immediate succeeding runner, R2, shall also be called out. When interference occurs, runners must return to the bases legally occupied at the time of the interference unless they had scored prior to the time of interference or were put out.

**8.6.10 SITUATION B:** All bases are occupied and there are no outs when B4 hits a ground ball to F4. As F4 is fielding the ball, R3 collides with her. **RULING:** The ball became dead when the interference occurred. R3 is declared out. If this interference, in the judgment of the umpire, is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play and occurs before the runner is put out, the immediate succeeding runner, B4, shall also be called out. If B4 is not declared out, she would be awarded first base. All other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

**RUNNER INTERFERES WITH FIELDER**

**8.6.10 SITUATION C:** With R1 on second, R2 on first and one out, B4 hits an infield fly. The ball strikes R1 who is (a) near second, or (b) standing on second. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), B4 is out, because of the infield fly rule. In (a), R1 is out and the ball becomes dead. In (b), R1 is not out unless she intentionally interfered. The ball would be ruled dead or live depending on position of the fielder closest to the base. (8-6-10a; 8-2-9)

**8.6.10 SITUATION D:** (F.P.) With all bases occupied and no outs, B4 bunts a fly ball in the infield (never an infield fly). As R1 advances toward home, R1 contacts F5 causing F5 to miss the fly ball. **RULING:** The ball is dead and R1 is out for interference, B4 is awarded first base and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference unless forced to advance because of the batter-runner being awarded first base. (8-6-10a)

**8.6.10 SITUATION E:** R1 is on third and R2 is on first. B5 hits a foul fly ball near the third-base line (a) with less than two outs or (b) with two outs. R1 interferes with F5 who attempts to catch the foul ball. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the ball is dead immediately and R1 is called out for interference. Additionally, in (a) R2 must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference and B5 is charged with a foul ball. In slow pitch, if this were the third strike, the batter would also be out. (8-6-10b)

**RUNNER INTERFERES WITH THROWN BALL**

**8.6.10 SITUATION F:** With R1 on first, B2 hits a grounder between first and second with R1 hindering F4's throw to first. **RULING:** R1 is out and the ball

becomes dead when the interference occurs. If the interference clearly prevented B2 from being put out at first as part of a double play, the umpire shall call B2 out. (8-6-10c)

### **RUNNER LEAPING FIELDER**

**8.6.10 SITUATION G:** B2 hits a hard line drive up the middle to the right of F4. F4 dives and misses the ball. R1 coming from first base leaps over F4 who is lying on the ground in the base path. **RULING:** Legal. A runner may leap or hurdle a defensive player who is lying on the ground. (8-6-10 Note)

### **BATTED BALL HITS RUNNER**

**8.6.11 SITUATION:** With the bases loaded and one out, B5 hits a ground ball toward F6. The batted ball hits R2 and prevents F6 from making a play. May two runners be called out and does the run score? **RULING:** The run does not score since each runner must return to the base occupied at the time of the interference. R2 is out and B5 is awarded first base. (8-1-2 Effect)

**8.6.12 SITUATION:** With R1 on second, B2 hits between F5 and F6, both of whom are playing close for a possible bunt. The ball touches R1 and deflects to foul ground. F6 was in such a position that there was no chance to play the ball. **RULING:** If R1 accidentally touched the ball, it is ignored because the batted ball passed a fielder and no other fielder had an opportunity to make an out. If R1 intentionally deflected the batted ball, the umpire shall rule interference, the ball becomes dead, R1 is declared out and B2 is awarded first base.

### **MALICIOUS CONTACT**

**8.6.14 SITUATION:** With R1 on third and R2 on second, B4 hits safely and while advancing, maliciously contacts F4 after (a) R1 has scored, (b) R2 has rounded third base, (c) both runners have scored. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately. In (a) and (c), runs would score and in (b), R2 would be returned to third base where the runner was at the time of the infraction. B4 is declared out and would also be ejected for malicious contact. (3-6-18)

### **INTERFERENCE BY A RETIRED RUNNER**

**\*8.6.18 COMMENT:** The umpire has authority to declare two runners out when, after being declared out or after scoring, a runner interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play on another runner. A runner continuing to run and draw a throw may be considered a form of interference. This does not apply to the batter-runner running on the dropped third-strike rule.

**\*8.6.18 SITUATION A:** R1 is on third base. B2 hits a slow roller to the short-stop who attempts to throw R1 out at the plate. F2 receives the throw behind the plate. Realizing she cannot make a play on R1, she turns to throw B2 out who is advancing to second and (a) is run into by R1 after R1 has crossed the plate caus-

ing her to drop the ball (the contact is not malicious); (b) is maliciously run into by R1 after R1 has crossed the plate. **RULING:** The run would score in (a) and (b), because R1 interfered after touching the plate. If, in the umpire's judgment, the interference prevented F2 from making a play on B2, the umpire shall call B2 out. In (b), R1 is ejected for malicious contact. (3-6-18)

**\*8.6.18 SITUATION B:** B2 bunts with R1 on third base and no outs. As F1 fields the ball, R1 holds near third base. When F1 throws to first base, R1 tries to score. B2 is put out at first base. As F3 attempts to play on R1 at the plate, she is forced to move two steps into fair territory to avoid hitting B2 with the throw. Consequently, F3's throw is not in time to put out R1. **RULING:** If, in the umpire's judgment, B2 hindered F3's play on R1, R1 is declared out.

### **RUNNER LEAVES BASE EARLY**

**8.6.21 SITUATION:** With R1 on third base and R2 on first base, F1 double touches for an illegal pitch. The plate umpire calls an illegal pitch but before the hands separate to deliver the ball, R2 leaves first base on her way to second base. The base umpire calls "dead ball" and calls R2 out. **RULING:** R2 is out for leaving first base before F1 released the ball. The illegal pitch is enforced which results in a "ball" awarded to B3 and one base (home) to R1. (6-1-2)

### **ABANDONING A BASE**

**8.6.22 SITUATION A:** B1 reaches first safely. In her overrun, she breaks for second and then "gives up" far away from the baseline. **RULING:** If B1 is attempting to reach a base, she must be tagged out, but the fielder is not expected to chase her into the outfield. In the outlined case, B1 is out for giving up. (8-4-2; 8-6-2)

**8.6.22 SITUATION B:** B2 hits a grounder to F6 whose throw to F3 is not in time to retire B2. However, B2, who has not been called out, leaves the baseline and heads for the dugout. **RULING:** B2 may be declared out if the umpire judges the act of B2 to be considered abandoning her effort to run the bases.

### **LOOK-BACK RULE**

**8.7.1 SITUATION A:** R1 is on third base when B2 receives ball four. R1 comes off the base on the pitch. The catcher throws the ball directly back to the pitcher in the 16-foot circle. Can R1 remain off third base until B2 has reached first? **RULING:** Yes. The look-back rule does not go into effect until the batter-runner has touched first base and the pitcher has possession of the ball in the 16-foot circle. At that time, all runners on base must immediately move forward or return to their base.

**8.7.1 SITUATION B:** Following ball four to B1, F2 returns the ball to F1 in the 16-foot circle. F1 places the ball under her chin as she adjusts her hair. Is R1 governed by the 16-foot circle rule? **RULING:** Yes, because F1 is considered to have possession of the ball.

**8.7.1 SITUATION C:** Just after ball four is called on B2 and she is on her way to first base, R1 dances off third base and is moving back and forth between third and home. F2 throws the ball immediately back to F1 in the 16-foot circle. **RULING:** R1 is not restricted and governed by the look-back rule until B2 reaches first base.

### **RUNNERS RELEASED**

**8.7.1 SITUATION D:** With R1 on first, F2 returns the ball to F1 in the 16-foot circle after the pitch. With the ball in her throwing hand, F1 raises her arm (a) slightly and loosens up her arm, or (b) above her head to better position her jersey sleeves and to stretch her arm, or (c) and simply makes a motion intended to get a reaction from R1. **RULING:** In the umpire's judgment, if the arm motion by F1 is an attempt to make a play, R1 is released from base. Therefore, in (a) and (b), the umpire is unlikely to consider these acts as attempted plays. However, in (c) whether the arm is raised or drawn back sidearm or underhand, if in the umpire's judgment, F1 is making the motion in an effort to hold R1 close, the umpire shall consider such an act as an attempted play. The benefit of any doubt goes to the runner. (2-47-2)

**8.7.1 SITUATION E:** F1 is within the 16-foot circle during a live ball, with runners on base and before pitching to the batter, she tucks her glove (containing the ball) between her knees to adjust her hair device. **RULING:** The ball is considered to be in her possession; therefore, the runners are not released.

**8.7.4 SITUATION:** With the ball in F1's possession and in the 16-foot circle, B1 rounds first base on a walk. F1 steps toward (a) third base or (b) first base. **RULING:** B1 at first base is not released in (a) because there is obviously no play being made on her. In (b), if in the judgment of the umpire, the step toward first base was intended to play on the runner, the runner will be released. (2-47-2; 8-7-4a)

### **RUNNER NOT OUT**

**8.8.13 SITUATION:** R1 is on third base with no outs. F5 is playing behind third base a few steps and close to the foul line. B2 hits a hard one-hopper down the line which freezes R1 on third base. R1 is still standing on third base when the batted ball hits her. The umpires judge that F5 could have made a play on the ball. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately; R1 is not out and B2 is awarded first base. (8-4-1f; 8-6-11; 8-8-13; 5-1-1f)

### **RUNNER RETURNS TO BASE**

**8.8.16 SITUATION:** R1 is on first base and while advancing on a hit, misses second base and heads toward third. F7 throws the ball out of play before R1 reaches third. **RULING:** R1 is permitted to complete her base-running responsibilities before a dead-ball appeal can be made. If R1 makes an attempt to return

to and retouch second base, she will also be given the appropriate award for the overthrow. If she does not make an attempt to return to second base, the awarded bases for the overthrow may be administered, but if the defense then makes a proper dead-ball appeal, she will be called out. (5-1-1g 4; 8-4-3h; 2-1-3a)

### **COURTESY RUNNERS**

**8.9.1 SITUATION A:** Team A's courtesy runner runs for the pitcher and later in that same half-inning runs for the catcher. **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 for the duration of the game.

**8.9.1 SITUATION B:** The catcher doubles with no outs. Two outs later the coach sends out a courtesy runner for the catcher. **RULING:** Legal. The decision to use a courtesy runner for the catcher or the pitcher may be made any time the catcher or pitcher reaches base safely.

**8.9.1 SITUATION C:** Smith is a courtesy runner for the catcher in the first inning. She then courtesy runs for the pitcher in the sixth inning. **RULING:** Illegal. The same player cannot be a courtesy runner for both positions in the same game. The illegal substitute is declared out and restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game.

**8.9.1 SITUATION D:** Jones enters the game as the courtesy runner for the catcher in the bottom half of the first inning. In the bottom half of the fourth inning the catcher walks. Must Jones or another player be the courtesy runner for the catcher? **RULING:** Each team has the option of using any legal courtesy runner each time the pitcher or catcher reaches base.

### **PITCHER OR CATCHER RE-ENTERS**

**8.9.2 SITUATION A:** S1 pinch hits for the pitcher and reaches base in the third inning. S1's coach informs the umpire that the pitcher is going to re-enter for S1 and then Jones will be a courtesy runner for the pitcher. **RULING:** Illegal. Since the pitcher has not batted and legally earned her way on base, Jones may not courtesy run for her.

**8.9.2 SITUATION B:** In the top of the first inning, the visiting team is at bat and lists the pitcher, B. Smith, batting first and the catcher, L. Jones, batting second. The center fielder, M. Shaw, is batting eighth and the right fielder, D. Adams, is batting ninth. Both B. Smith and L. Jones (the pitcher and catcher of record) get hits and courtesy runners properly report and run for each player. In the bottom half of the first inning, M. Shaw goes to the pitching position and D. Adams occupies the catcher's position; B. Smith and L. Jones take center and right field, respectively. The ball becomes live. **RULING:** Illegal substitution. After the ball becomes live and M. Shaw and D. Adams take the positions of pitcher and catcher (not the pitcher and catcher of record on the official lineup card), they become

illegal defensive players and are restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game. (8-9-2 Penalty; 3-4-1b Penalty)

### **INELIGIBLE COURTESY RUNNERS**

**8.9.3 SITUATION:** S1 pinch runs for F7 in the second inning, and then leaves the game. She enters the game as a courtesy runner for the catcher in the eighth inning. **RULING:** Illegal. S1 is an illegal substitute and is declared out and restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game.

**8.9.4 SITUATION:** Lee is a courtesy runner for the catcher in the top half of the sixth inning. She 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 in which she has served as a courtesy runner. Therefore, Lee is an illegal substitute and is declared out and restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game.

**8.9.6 SITUATION A:** Jones runs for the catcher in the first inning, but Smith comes out to run for the catcher in the third inning. **RULING:** Legal, if Jones and Smith are both eligible courtesy runners and have reported to the plate umpire as they enter as courtesy runners.

**8.9.6 SITUATION B:** The coach of Team A sends out a courtesy runner for the catcher in the third inning with one out. After the second out, she sends the catcher back out to run for herself. **RULING:** Illegal. Once the courtesy runner replaces the catcher, the catcher cannot re-enter for the courtesy runner in that half-inning.

**8.9.6 SITUATION C:** The catcher singles and is replaced by a courtesy runner. B2 walks. Before the next pitch, the courtesy runner is replaced by another courtesy runner. **RULING:** Illegal. A courtesy runner may not be replaced by another legal courtesy runner at anytime.

**8.9.6 SITUATION D:** Team A has only 10 players available for the game. A courtesy runner is used for the pitcher. During the same half-inning, one of the players is injured, ill or ejected. The coach wants to enter the courtesy runner for that player. **RULING:** This is legal. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other players are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.

**8.9.6 SITUATION E:** A courtesy runner is running for the pitcher and is injured sliding safely into second base. In (a), the pitcher for whom she is running returns to the game and replaces her on second base, or (b), the coach removes the courtesy runner and places a substitute on second base. **RULING:** Legal in both (a) and (b). In (b), a courtesy runner may not be entered for another courtesy runner. The pitcher must run for the injured courtesy runner or the pitcher may be replaced by normal substitution procedures with substitution and re-entry rules applying. (8-9-6 Exception 2)

**SUBSTITUTE FOR A COURTESY RUNNER**

**8.9.6 SITUATION F:** No. 11 has served as the courtesy runner for the pitcher for several innings. In the seventh inning, the pitcher hits for a single. No. 11 again courtesy runs for the pitcher. After No. 11 safely reaches third base, the head coach requests that substitute, S1, who has not previously been in the game, replace No. 11 (the courtesy runner). **RULING:** An eligible substitute may enter the game to "pinch run" for the courtesy runner. In this situation, S1, the pinch runner, is entering the game in the pitcher's position in the batting order; the pitcher has left the game. (3-3-2)

**UNREPORTED COURTESY RUNNER**

**8.9.7 SITUATION:** The coach of Team A sends out a courtesy runner for the pitcher and fails to report the change to the plate umpire. **RULING:** Upon entering the game, the unreported courtesy runner became an official substitute. A team warning shall be issued for the unreported substitute. The pitcher has been replaced and may only return if she has re-entry eligibility. (3-3-4)

**DOUBLE FIRST BASE (STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION)**

**8.10.1 SITUATION A:** With R1 on first base, B2 hits a fair ball to F8. B2, in rounding the 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 portion of the base. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (b) and (c). In (b), B2 is permitted to touch the white part of the base since there is no play being made on her and provided she does not interfere with the fielder at first base. In (c), B2 may touch either the white or colored portion when returning to first base. (8-10-3)

**8.10.1 SITUATION B:** With R1 at third base, B2 hits the ball to F6 who fields the ball and throws to F3 attempting to retire B2. B2 touches the white portion of the base and collides with F3 who is about to receive the ball while standing on the white portion of the base. **RULING:** B2 has committed interference. The umpire will rule an immediate dead ball, declare B2 out for interference and R1 must return to the last base occupied at the time of the interference. (8-10-1 Penalty 2)

**8.10.2 SITUATION:** With a count of 0-2, B1 swings and misses the next pitch. The ball ricochets off the catcher's glove and lands in front of the first base dugout. The catcher throws the ball from foul territory to F3 who is standing on the colored portion of the base. B1 hits the white portion of the base and is ruled safe. F3 appeals to the first base umpire that the runner missed the base since she touched the white portion instead of the colored. **RULING:** B1 is safe. Since the ball was thrown from foul territory the runner could use the white portion of the base. (8-10-2a)

# Rule **9** *Scoring and Record Keeping*

## **RUN SCORES**

**9.1.1 SITUATION A:** With bases loaded and (a) less than two outs or (b) two outs, B4 removes her helmet before reaching first base after being awarded a base on balls. **RULING:** At the end of playing action, the umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the involved player. Subsequent violators and the head coach on that team shall be restricted to the bench/dugout. In (a) and (b), all runners advance. (1-6-2; 3-6-1 Penalty)

**\*9.1.1 SITUATION B:** With R1 on second, B2 hits a ground ball between F7 and F8. R1 touches third, then touches home and scores, but the third base coach believes R1 did not touch third and yells at her to return. F6 receives the relay throw, and instead of throwing to F4 to put out B2, who made a wide turn at second, F6 throws to F5 at third in time to tag R1, who is attempting to return. **RULING:** R1 is not out. Once a runner legally touches the plate, the runner cannot be put out, even if the runner attempts to return to a preceding base. If, in the umpire's judgment, R1 prevented the defense from making a play on B2, then the umpire shall call interference and declare B2 out. (8-6-18)

**9.1.1 SITUATION C:** With two outs and R1 on first, B4 hits an inside-the-park home run. In circling the bases, B4 misses second. **RULING:** If appealed properly, the umpire will call B4 out for missing second base. The run scored by R1 will count. Had the infraction been missing first base, the run by R1 would have been canceled. (8-3-1, 8; 9-1-1 Exception a; 2-1)

**9.1.1 SITUATION D:** With two outs and R1, R2 and R3 on base, B6 receives ball four. R3 touches second and is then tagged off base for the third out before R1 has reached home base. **RULING:** The run scores; R1 was awarded home as soon as ball four was declared. (8-4-3a Effect; 9-1-1 Exception b)

**9.1.1 SITUATION E:** With one out, R1 is on third and R2 is on second base when B4 hits a long fly ball that is caught by F8. R1 remains in contact with the 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 on the live-ball appeal for the third out. If R1 scored before R2 was retired, the run counts. The inning ended with a play in which the third out was not a force out. (9-1-1 Exception d; 2-1)

**9.1.1 SITUATION F:** With R1 on third, R2 on second and one out, B4 flies out to F7 for the second out. R1 legally tags and scores from third base. In (a), R2 is thrown out at third base; or (b), R2 leaves second base early on the caught fly ball and is out when the F7 throws the ball to F4 at second base. In both cases, R1 touches home before the out is made. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), this is a timing play and the run counts.

**NO RUN SCORES**

**9.1.1 SITUATION G:** With R1 on third base, R2 on second base and R3 on first base and one out, B5 hits a slow roller along but just outside the first base foul line. The ground along the foul line is slanted slightly toward fair territory. Just before the ball reaches first it rolls toward fair territory and touches the base. F3 picks up the ball and tags R3, who is standing on first. F3 then throws the ball to the F2 to tag R1, who slides safely under the tag. F2 then throws the ball back to first, F3 steps on first before B5, who had hesitated before running thinking that the ball would be foul, reaches first. **RULING:** Three outs, no run scores since the third out was on B5 before touching first. **COMMENT:** The plate umpire must ensure that such a batted ball is not declared "foul" until it actually becomes foul. (2-20-1-c, 9-1-1 Exception a)

**9.1.1 SITUATION H:** R1 is on third and R2 is on second with one out. B4 is at bat with a 3-2 count. Both R1 and R2 are running on the pitch. B4 swings at and misses a pitch that eludes F2. R1 scores, R2, also attempting to score, is tagged out by F1 who received the throw from F2. F1 then throws the ball to F4 who tags B4 (observing the play) before she reaches first base. **RULING:** The third out is made by the batter-runner before she reaches first base, no run scores. (9-1-1 Exception a)

**9.1.1 SITUATION I:** (F.P.) R1 is on third base and R2 on first base with two outs, when B5 receives ball four. An overthrow at third permits R1 to reach home. In advancing, (a) R2 fails to touch second, or (b) B5 goes to second base but fails to touch first base. **RULING:** If the defense properly appeals, the umpire will declare in (a), R2 out for missing second base, and in (b) B5 out for missing first base. In either case, the run by R1 will not count since the third out of the inning was the result of a force play. (8-6-7 Penalty; 9-1-1 Exception d; 2-1)

**9.1.1 SITUATION J:** With R1 on third base, R2 on second base and R3 on first base and one out, B5 hits safely to right field. R1 scores, R2 misses third base and scores. R3 is thrown out at third base. At the end of playing action the defensive team makes a dead-ball appeal that R2 missed third on her way home. The umpire declares R2 out. How many runs score? **RULING:** No runs score since the put-out of R2 at third base was a force out and also the third out of the inning. (9-1-1 Exception d)

**9.1.1 SITUATION K:** With the bases loaded and one out, B5 hits a line drive to the right field fence. R1 and R2 score. R3 is thrown out at the plate. B5 goes to third, but misses first. **RULING:** If properly appealed, no runs would score. B5's out for missing first was the third out. **COMMENT:** No runs can score if the third out is a force out or if the batter does not reach first. (9-1-1 Exception d; 2-1)

**9.1.1 SITUATION L:** With the score tied in the first half of the seventh inning, the bases are loaded and a fair hit by B4 goes over the fence in flight. B4 or another runner fails to touch all of the bases. **RULING:** If appealed properly, the umpire

will declare the runner who missed the base out. If it is a force out for the third out, no run scores. (8-6-7 Penalty; 9-1-1 Exception d; 2-1)

**9.1.1 SITUATION M:** In the last of the seventh with two outs, the score tied and the bases loaded, B6 receives ball four to force R1 home. Because B6 assumes that the game is over, she fails to go to first and leaves the field. The ball is then held at first. **RULING:** B6 is out and the run does not score. (8-6-7 Penalty; 8-3-11; 9-1-1 Exception d)

**9.1.1 SITUATION N:** R1 is on second base, R2 on first base with one out. B4 hits safely to the outfield. R1 scores, R2 misses second base and is standing on third base when B4 is thrown out at second base. A dead-ball appeal is properly made on R2 for missing second base. The umpire rules R2 out for the third out. Does R1's run count? **RULING:** No. Since R2 was forced to advance to second base, the appealed out at second base was a force out. No runs can score if the third out of an inning is the result of a force out. (8-6-7; 9-1-1 Exception b; 2-1)

#### FOURTH OUT

**9.1.1 SITUATION O:** With R1, R2 and R3 on third, second, and first, respectively, B5 hits a fly ball to F8 for the second out. All base runners tag up and advance one base. F8's throw to F5 retires R2 for the third out, but after R1 has scored. R3 did not tag up and was properly appealed by the defensive team (fourth out). Does the run by R1 count? **RULING:** The only time a fourth out (or fifth) would take precedence is if it negates a score(s). In the above case, the fourth out would not negate R1's run, because R3's out was not a force out. (9-1-1 Exception d, e; 2-1-13)

#### DEFENSE SELECTS OUT TO ITS ADVANTAGE

**9.1.1 SITUATION P:** R1 is on second and R2 is on first with one out. B4 hits a long fly that appears might drop in, but is caught by F8. R1 advances home but misses third base. R2 fails to retouch first base and advances to third base. **RULING:** These are appeal plays and if appealed properly by the defensive team the umpire will declare the runners out. The defensive team is permitted to select the out that is to its advantage. The defense would probably select the out of R1, which would cancel the run. (8-6-6 Penalty; 9-1-1 Exception e; 2-1)

#### PLAYER'S BATTING RECORD

**9.3.2 SITUATION A:** With R1 on third, R2 on second and R3 on first, B4's fly ball to center field is caught by F8, who then throws to second base. F8's throw is (a), in time to retire R3 attempting to advance, or (b) not in time. How are all advances recorded? **RULING:** In (a) and (b) R1 scores by virtue of a sacrifice fly. R2 advances on a fielder's choice. In (b), R3 advances on a fielder's choice, even though the throw was late. (9-3-4)

**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:** In advancing to second, R1 is hit by a batted ball which in the umpire's judgment was an obvious attempt to prevent a double play. **RULING:** Both R1 and B2 are declared out. (8-6-10 Penalty)

**9.3.6 SITUATION:** 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 when making a substitution. Upon entering, S1 is charged with one ball and two strikes. If S1 strikes out, the strikeout is 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.

### PLAYER'S BASERUNNING RECORD

**9.4.1 SITUATION:** (F.P.) R1 is attempting to steal second when there is an illegal pitch. R1 reaches second base after the pitch. **RULING:** A delayed dead ball is called when the illegal pitch occurs. R1 is entitled to a stolen base, if in the scorekeeper's judgment, R1 would have reached base safely. A ball is called on B1.

### PLAYER'S FIELDING RECORD

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

**9.5.5 SITUATION A:** F2 touches B1's bat as she swings at the ball. How is this entered in the records? **RULING:** F2 is charged with an error. The batter is awarded first base and is not charged with a time at bat. (9-3-1a; 2-60; 8-1-1d)

**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 should have been caught, it is a team error and not a hit.

**9.5.5 SITUATION C:** (F.P.) R1 on first base attempts to steal second base. F2 makes a 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 also a team error if R1 advances at least to third base on the play.

### PITCHER'S RECORD

**9.6.6 SITUATION A:** Team A's starting pitcher pitches two innings. With her team ahead, she is replaced by a relief pitcher in the third inning. Team A retains the lead when the starting pitcher returns to pitch the sixth and the seventh innings. Team A wins the game. **RULING:** Since the starting pitcher pitched four total innings out of seven, she is credited with the win. **COMMENT:** The innings pitched do not have to be consecutive in order to be credited with the win.

**9.6.6 SITUATION B:** With two outs in the third inning and her team ahead, Team

A's starting pitcher is taken out of the game. Team A stays ahead for the remainder of the game. The game is concluded in (a) three innings, (b) five innings, or (c) seven innings. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the starting pitcher has pitched more than half of the innings and is credited with the win. In (c), the starting pitcher has not pitched more than half of the innings and is not credited with the win.

## Rule

# 10

## *Umpiring*

### GENERAL

**10.1.2 SITUATION A:** An umpire arrives within the confines of the field and sees the catcher without the required equipment warming up the pitcher (a) within or (b) outside the confines of the field. **RULING:** Umpire jurisdiction begins upon arrival within the confines of the field. Therefore, in (a), the umpire shall require the catcher to wear the required equipment. In (b), the umpire may inform the catcher's coach that the catcher is not wearing the required equipment.

**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 that player's coach immediately, and submit a written account to the state association if circumstances warrant.

**\*10.1.2 SITUATION C:** The game has concluded and the umpires are (a) still within the confines of the field; or (b) in the parking lot preparing to depart when the home team's head coach verbally abuses one of the umpires. **RULING:** Umpire jurisdiction ends when the umpires vacate the confines of the field. In (a), the umpires eject the head coach. Even though the contest has concluded, the coach will be subject to any additional penalties imposed by the conference or state. In (b), no game penalties may be imposed since the umpires no longer have jurisdiction. In both cases, however, the umpires should immediately inform appropriate school personnel and submit a written account to the state association.

**10.1.4 SITUATION:** B1, attempting to check her swing, carries the barrel of the bat past her body. The umpire calls this a strike. **RULING:** The umpire may note whether or not the batter's movement carried the barrel of the bat past the batter's body, but the umpire's final decision is based on whether or not the batter actually struck at the ball.

### PLATE UMPIRE

**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 it is evident that conditions of the field will be impossible to continue play. 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. (5-2-1b Note)

**10.2.3 SITUATION B:** In the third inning rain begins. In the fourth inning, F1 is having a hard time maintaining her footing. The home team's coach (a) brings in sand or a substance to help dry the area around the pitcher's plate, or (b) sets up an artificial surface for the pitcher to use. **RULING:** Legal in (a). Illegal in (b). If field conditions are so poor that the players are at risk of injury, then the umpire shall suspend the game. **COMMENT:** General guidelines for an umpire to suspend a game due to weather conditions include, but are not limited to: observance of lightning, heavy rain, the pitcher's ability to properly grip the ball, the pitcher's footing within the pitcher's circle, if base runners are slipping on the bases, etc. (5-2-1b; 10-2-3e)

**10.2.3 SITUATION C:** F1's cap frequently falls off her 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 or removed. If this situation is not corrected, F1 will be removed as pitcher. (10-2-3g)

**10.2.3 SITUATION D:** (F.P.) 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 heads for the bench and is tagged out during the confusion. **RULING:** R1 is permitted to go back to second base because the umpire's call caused R1 to leave the base. (10-2-3m)

**10.2.3 SITUATION E:** With a runner on third and no outs, the batter hits a high fly in the infield above the second baseman's head. The base umpire erroneously calls, "Infield fly, the batter is out." The second baseman subsequently drops the ball. The runner from third scores and the batter ends up on second base. Does the play stand or is the batter out? Does the run count? **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 despite the umpire's error. (2-20; 2-30; 8-1-1a)

**10.2.3 SITUATION F:** 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. The catcher throws the ball to the second baseman who tags R1 before reaching the base. The catcher 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 the runner to first base. The plate umpire can rectify any situation in which an umpire's decision that was reversed has placed base runners or the defensive team in jeopardy. (10-2-3m)

**10.2.3 SITUATION G:** With a count of three balls and two strikes on the batter and no one on, 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 the catcher. The batter trots to first base and the catcher throws the ball to F3 prior to the batter reaching base. The catcher asks the plate umpire to check with the base umpire to see if it was a strike. The base umpire indicates that the batter did swing at the ball. **RULING:** If, in the judgment of the plate umpire, the batter-runner would have reached first base on the dropped third strike before the throw had it not been called ball four, then the plate umpire can award the batter-runner first base. The plate umpire can rectify any situation in which an umpire's decision has placed a batter-runner in jeopardy. (10-2-3m)

**10.2.3 SITUATION H:** With a full count on B2, R1 attempts to steal second. On a check swing, the umpire calls "Ball Four." R1, hearing the call, stops to adjust her socks. The plate umpire, at the request of F2, then asks the base umpire if B2 did swing and she says she did. R1 races toward second as F2 unleashes a throw to second that sails into center field. Is the ball dead, and does R1 have to return to first, must she stay at second, or is she permitted to advance at her own risk? **RULING:** The ball remains live, since R1 was not put out. Had she been put out because of the umpire's initial call, she would have been returned to first and the out nullified. (10-2-3m)

**10.2.3 SITUATION I:** With R1 on second, B2 hits a line drive that strikes F1 directly in the face. As F1 falls to her knees, placing her hands over her face, the umpire, in her judgment, believing the injury could be serious, immediately calls time as the injured player's coach rushes to assist the injured player. Does R1 advance or must she remain at second, and what happens to B2? **RULING:** In this unique situation where safety has taken priority, the umpire has to use her judgment to determine a fair outcome. If, in the umpire's judgment, B2 and R1 would have advanced one base, then the umpire shall make a one base award. (10-2-3g)

# Official NFHS Softball Signals

**A. DO NOT PITCH**



Signal toward pitcher

**B. PLAY BALL**



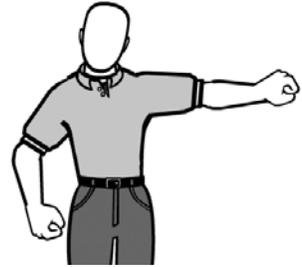
Verbally calls "Play ball"

**C. TIME OUT/FOULBALL/DEAD BALL**



Verbally calls "Time," "Foul ball" or "Dead ball"

**D. DELAYED DEAD BALL**



Extend left arm out, fist with palm down (or out)

**E. STRIKE/OUT**



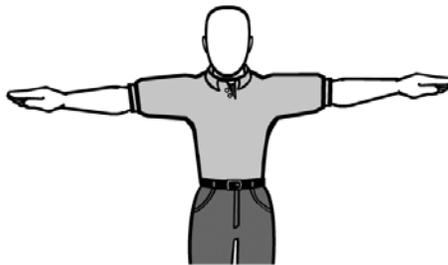
Fist to hammer at 90 degrees

**F. INFIELD FLY**



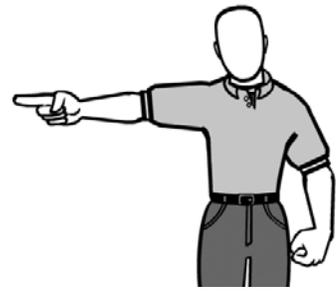
Verbally call "Infield fly"

**G. SAFE**



Verbally call "Safe"

**H. FAIR BALL**



Point to fair territory with hand closest to infield. No verbal call.

**I. FOUL TIP**



Fingers touch together, chest high, followed by strike call.

**J. COUNT**



Left hand indicates balls, followed by strikes on the right hand. Verbally give count.

**K. HOME RUN**



Right fist in the air, rotate counterclockwise

**L. DOUBLE**



First two fingers in the air



## Coaches Code of Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

**The coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The coach** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

**The coach** shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

**The coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

**The coach** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**The coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**The coach** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**The coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

**The coach** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.



# Officials Code of Ethics

Officials at an interscholastic athletic event are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

**Officials** shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

**Officials** shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

**Officials** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

**Officials** shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

**Officials** shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

**Officials** shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

**Officials** shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

**Officials** shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

**Officials** shall maintain an ethical approach while participating in forums, chat rooms and all forms of social media.

# NFHS PUBLICATIONS

Prices effective April 1, 2010 — March 31, 2011



## RULES PUBLICATIONS

|   |        |   |        |
|---|--------|---|--------|
| Baseball Rules Book .....                       | \$7.20 | Football Rules by Topic.....                      | \$8.95 |
| Baseball Case Book.....                         | \$7.20 | Girls Gymnastics Rules Book & Manual (2010-12) .. | \$7.20 |
| Baseball Umpires Manual (2011 & 2012).....      | \$7.20 | Ice Hockey Rules Book .....                       | \$7.20 |
| Baseball Simplified & Illustrated Rules.....    | \$8.95 | Boys Lacrosse Rules Book .....                    | \$7.20 |
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| Football Simplified & Illustrated Rules.....    | \$8.95 | Volleyball Case Book & Manual .....               | \$7.20 |
| Football Handbook (2009 & 2010) .....           | \$7.20 | Wrestling Rules Book .....                        | \$7.20 |
| Football Officials Manual (2010 & 2011).....    | \$7.20 | Wrestling Case Book & Manual .....                | \$7.20 |

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| NFHS Statisticians' Manual .....   | \$6.75      |
| Scorebooks: Baseball-Softball, Basketball, Swimming & Diving, Cross Country, Soccer, Track & Field, Gymnastics, Volleyball, Wrestling and Field Hockey .....     | \$11.20     |
| Diving Scoresheets (pad of 100) .....  | \$7.25      |
| Volleyball Team Rosters & Lineup Sheets (pads of 100).....   | \$7.25      |
| Libero Tracking Sheet (pads of 50).....  | \$7.25      |
| Baseball/Softball Lineup Sheets - 3-Part NCR (sets/100).....   | \$8.75      |
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| Flipping Coin.....   | \$5.50      |
| NFHS Pin .....   | \$4.00      |
| Competitors Numbers (Track and Gymnastics – Waterproof, nontearable, black numbers and six colors of backgrounds<br>Numbers are 1-1000 sold in sets of 100 ..... | \$15.00/set |
| Lane Numbers (1-8), size 4" x 2 1/2" .....   | \$7.25/set  |

## MISCELLANEOUS SPORTS ITEMS

|   |         |  |         |
|---|---------|--|---------|
| High School Sports Record Book (2010) ..... | \$13.20 | Sportsmanship. It's Up to You. Toolkit ..... | \$19.95 |
| Court and Field Diagram Guide.....          | \$20.20 | High School Activities — A Community         |         |
| NFHS Handbook (2009-10) .....               | \$9.00  | Investment in America .....                  | \$39.95 |
| Let's Make It Official .....                | \$5.00  |  |         |

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