77. B8 hits a fly ball to the outfield or over the infield. The defensive player grasps the ball in her hand or glove, but drops the ball when she a) falls to the ground, b) collides with another defensive player, or c) collides into any fence.

**Ruling -** NO CATCH in a), b) and c). It is not a catch if, immediately after grasping the ball, the fielder collides with another player, Umpire or fence, or falls to the ground and fails to maintain possession of the ball. In establishing a catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove complete control and that the release of the ball is *voluntary and intentional* (3.CATCH A & 3.CATCH.B.7, p 19)

78. A team manager informs the umpire that a substitute (Lincoln) will hit for the starter (Washington) who is batting third, and then Washington will re-enter the game when the team plays defense.

**Ruling -** IMPROPER PROCEDURE. The umpire may accept the batting substitution, but Washington's re-entry cannot be reported to the umpire until the moment Lincoln is actually withdrawn from the lineup. **Projected substitutions and re-entries are prohibited** (5.5, p 32)

79. R1 is on first base, and B2 has a count of two strikes. B2 swings at the next pitch, which touches her. The ball rolls away from F2, and R1 steals second base.

**Ruling -** DEAD BALL and a STRIKE is charged to the batter. The ball becomes dead when a pitch touches the batter or the batter's clothing, even when the batter strikes at it. The batter is NOT awarded first base on a hit by pitch when **she swings at the pitch**; a strike is called, and since it is the third strike, the batter is out. The runner must return to her base when any part of the batter's person or clothing is touched by a pitched ball that is swung at (8.4.D EXCEPTION 1 & NOTE 4, p 43; 8.16.D, p 49; 10.1.A, p 56)

**NOTE: THE BATTER'S H-A-N-D-S ARE *NOT* PART OF THE B-A-T (8.4.D NOTE 3, p 43)** Know it, believe it, live it!

80. R1 is obstructed by F5 as she rounds third base. R1 continues toward home plate and deliberately crashes into F2 who is waiting with the ball.

**Ruling** - DELAYED DEAD BALL is signaled and "OBSTRUCTION" is called at the time of the obstruction, followed by DEAD BALL at the time of the collision. R1 is called OUT and EJECTED for **malicious contact.** The general obstruction rule (a runner may not be put out between the two bases where the obstruction occurs) is **superseded** when the obstructed runner commits an act of interference or malicious contact (8.13.D.2, p 46; 8.18.D, p 50; 11.2.W, p 59)

81. Just after ball four is called on B2, F2 immediately throws the ball back to F1 in the 16-foot circle. R1 dances off third base and is moving back and forth between third base and home as B2 a) is on her way to first base, or b) has touched first base and is continuing on to second base.

**Ruling -** in a), LEGAL, and the ball is LIVE. R1 is **not restricted** and governed by the Look-Back Rule until B2 reaches first base (or is put out). In b), this is a Look-Back violation, the ball is DEAD, and R1 is OUT. Once B2 reaches first base or is put out, R1 may not leave third base (if she was already off the base, she may stop one time, but then must IMMEDIATELY advance forward toward home or return to third base)

(8.2, p 41)

82. There are less than two outs. R1 holds up between first and second base on a fair fly ball. The ball drops to the ground and the outfielder overthrows the ball into dead ball territory. At the time the ball is thrown both R1 and B2 are between first and second base.

**Ruling -** DEAD BALL, and a TWO BASE AWARD from the time of the throw. R1 is awarded third base and the batter-runner is awarded second base. In this situation, when two runners are between the same bases, the award is based on the **position of the LEAD runner** (i.e., they can't BOTH be awarded third base, because they both can't stand there on the next pitch)

(8.4.C.3 NOTE, p 47)

Comment: if the two runners are between second and third base, or between third base and home, they BOTH are awarded home on the two base award

83. R1 is at third base and R2 is at first base with one out. B4 hits a pitched ball on the ground toward F3 who scoops up the ball and touches first base before B4 does. F3 then a) tags R2, who is standing on first base, b) throws the ball to second base where R2 is tagged out, or c) throws the ball to second base and the fielder touches second base before R2 does. R1 touches home plate in a) and b) after the tags, or, in c), after the touching of the base by the fielder

**Ruling -** in all three situations, the **force play is terminated** when the batter-runner (B4) is put out for the second out. In a), R2 is safe, as she is no longer forced to vacate first base, and play continues with only two outs. In b), R2 is the third -- this is a **TIME PLAY.** Since R1 touched the plate AFTER the third out, no run scores. In c), R2 is safe at second, since it is no longer a force play, she **must be tagged out.** Play continues with only two outs. (3.FORCE PLAY, p 21; 4.2.A, p 26)

84. Smith is a courtesy runner for the pitcher in the first inning. She then is a courtesy runner for the catcher a) in the same inning, or b) in the sixth inning.

**Ruling -** in a), ILLEGAL. The same runner may not be used for both positions **in the same inning.** When Smith CR's for the catcher, having already run for the pitcher in the same inning, she is an INELIGIBLE COURTESY RUNNER. If discovered while still on base, she is called out and a TEAM warning is issued for a first violation. If it is a subsequent offense, she is called out and the HEAD COACH is ejected (for the current game only). In b), LEGAL. (8.3, p 41-42)

85. R1 is at first base. B2 hits a fair ball which rolls under the outfield temporary fence, or beyond the dead ball line in the open corner. The outfielder fails to throw her hands up, and the both runners advance all the way to home plate. At the time the ball left the field of play, R1 is beyond second base, and B2 is between first and second base.

**Ruling -** DEAD BALL and a TWO BASE AWARD. Position of the runners when the ball became dead is *irrelevant* in this situation. The award is based on runner position **at the time of the pitch,** so R1 is awarded third base and B2 is awarded second base (8.15.A, p 48)

Comment: **There is *NO RULE REQUIRING A FIELDER TO THROW UP HER HANDS*** to obtain dead ball treatment. **BALL STATUS** is based solely on position of the ball - NOT position of the fielder's hands; if it's over the line, or goes under the fence, it's out of play, and dead by rule