

APRIL 2, 2020 – USSSA SOFTBALL PLAYS

66. The batter's bat is discovered to have paint on the bottom end of the barrel. The paint is not on the hitting surface.

Ruling - LEGAL, provided the paint is not on the hitting surface and does not obscure Key Graphic Information or add to the thickness of the barrel (2.10.E1.L.4, p 15)

67. The pitcher stands in a legal pitching position. When delivering the ball, she steps so that the non-pivot ("stride") foot lands a) inside the 24" width of the pitching plate, b) on the imaginary line extending forward from the edge of the pitching plate, or c) completely outside the 24" width of the pitching plate.

Ruling - in a) and b), LEGAL. When the pitcher steps forward, the step with the non-pivot foot must be toward the batter and simultaneous with the delivery. "Toward" the batter means **within or partially within** the 24" length of the pitcher's plate. In c), DELAYED DEAD BALL is signaled and an ILLEGAL PITCH is called when the pitcher steps entirely outside the 24" width of the pitching plate (6.1.E.2, p 34)

68. B3 incorrectly bats in place of B2, and the infraction is not discovered until a pitch to the next batter.

Ruling - All action stands, and B3's improper at bat is legalized by a pitch to the next batter. APPEALS must be made **before the next legal or illegal pitch**. The next proper batter is B4, and B2 misses her turn and may legally bat when her turn comes around again (7.1.2, p 38; 9.4.A, p 54; 9.10.B)

69. The batter has a count of one ball and two strikes. She hits a pitched ball in the air to the outfield or above the infield, near the foul line. The defensive player dives for the fly ball and touches it in the air over a) foul territory, or b) fair territory. The fielder then collides with the ground and drops the ball.

Ruling - in a) and b), NO CATCH. In a), DEAD BALL and the ball is FOUL. In b), LIVE BALL and the runner(s) are in jeopardy (3.CATCH, p 19; 3.FAIR BALL.D, p 20; 3.FOUL BALL.A, p 21)

70. R1 is on second base. B2 hits the next pitch for a single. F8's throw to the plate is a few feet up the first baseline. F2, who had picked up the batter's bat, uses the bat to stop the misdirected ball. As a result, R1, who is between third base and home at the time of the catcher's actions, retraces her steps and arrives safely at third. B2 had not reached first base at the time F2 contacted the ball.

Ruling - DEAD BALL when the ball is contacted by the bat held by catcher, and a TWO BASE AWARD to all runners based on their position at the time of the INFRACTION. Runners are awarded two bases if a live thrown ball is **touched by detached player equipment** which is held by a fielder. R1 is awarded home, and B2 is awarded second base (8.14.C.2, p 47; 8.15.B.1, p 48)