86. B1 hits a pitched ball fair and runs toward first base but fails to stay in the running lane.

**Ruling -** LIVE BALL and NO VIOLATION, provided the batter-runner does not interfere with a fielder taking the throw at first base (there must be a throw) (8.17.E EXCEPTION, p 49)

87. As R1 is stealing second, B2 hits a pitched ball sharply and directly back toward F2. The ball first deflects off F2's chest protector, and is eventually caught by her before it touches the ground.

**Ruling -** DEAD BALL and FOUL BALL. A batted ball becomes dead when it **goes directly from the bat to the catcher's protector,** mask or person without touching the catcher's hand or glove (10.1.D.2, p 56)

89. After releasing the ball simultaneously with the forward step, F1 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 -** LEGAL and the ball is LIVE. F1's action after releasing the ball is **considered a follow-through.** In b), DELAYED DEAD BALL, and an ILLEGAL PITCH. Any action that, after the ball is released, causes the arm to continue and rotate past the shoulder, is **considered continuation of the windup** (6.1.G.5, p 35)

90. R1 is on third base and R2 is on second base with one out. B4 hits the next pitched ball on the ground toward F6. She scoops up the hard hit ball and tags R2. F6 then, when attempting to throw the ball to first base, is interfered with by R2. At the time of the interference, R1 a) has, or b) has not reached home plate.

**Ruling -** DEAD BALL and INTERFERENCE. This is also a **TIME PLAY,** which affects which runner is called out on the interference. When a *retired runner interferes*, the umpire shall declare the **runner closest to home out.** In a), R1 is also a retired runner (she has scored), so the runner to be declared out would be B4. R1's run would be disallowed because no run can score when the out on the batter-runner is the third out. In b), R1 is still an active runner at the time of the interference, so she is declared out as the most advanced runner. (4.C.1, p 26; 8.18.H NOTE 2, p 51)

91. A line drive to right field touches the foul line beyond first base and bounces into foul territory where it hits the fence and rebounds to F9 who is standing in a) fair territory, or b) foul territory.

**Ruling -** in a) and b), LIVE BALL and FAIR. Any batted ball which **first falls** or is touched on or over fair territory *(which includes the foul lines)* beyond first or third base is a FAIR BALL. The actions of the ball after the initial touch to the ground, and the location of the fielder, are of no significance in determining fair/foul status (3.FAIR BALL.F, p 21; 3.FAIR TERRITORY, p 21)

92. R1 is on second base. The batter hits a pitched ball in the air to the outfield. R1 stands behind second base and not in contact with the bag to get a running start. The fly ball is dropped by the outfielder. After the ball is touched, R1 advances, touching second base on her way toward third base.

**Ruling -** LIVE BALL and the runner is OUT. A runner is out when she is detected taking a position for a running start behind and **not in contact** with a base. The ruling covers any fly ball; the ball need not be caught for the rule to be in effect (8.18.R, p 52)

93. Two outfielders attempt to field a fly ball. The ball hits off one of the fielders on the foot and, while still in the air, is caught by the other fielder.

**Ruling -** a LEGAL CATCH, and the batter is out. A catch is credited when the ball is caught in flight **before** it strikes anything or **anyone other than another defensive player** (3.CATCH.B.6, p 19)

94. The bases are loaded with one out. F6 intentionally drops a lazy pop-up near second base. Another infielder recovers the ball and quickly tags out a surprised R2 who is off second base.

**Ruling -** LIVE BALL; the batter AND the runner are BOTH OUT on this play. The batter is out on the INFIELD FLY RULE, which **takes precedence** over the intentionally dropped ball run. R2 is out (when legally tagged) because when the IFFR is in effect, the runner runs at her own risk (8.17.H EFFECT, p 49-50)

95. The batter hits a pitched ball above the infield. The fly ball lands in fair territory just beyond first or third base on the outfield side of the base line. The batted ball spins back into the infield and rolls into foul territory between home and third base, or home and first base. The ball then rolls out of play.

**Ruling -** FAIR BALL (and live), then DEAD BALL and a **TWO BASE AWARD** based on runner position at **TIME OF PITCH.** A batted ball which first falls in fair territory beyond first or third base is fair, regardless of the actions of the ball afterwards. Runners are awarded two bases when a fair batted ball becomes dead because it goes out of play (3.FAIR BALL.F, p 21; 8.14.C.1, p 47)