126. The batter hits a pitched ball in the air to the outfield. The curving ball is a) inside, or b) outside the foul line when it passes over the outfield fence, scarcely glancing off the side of the foul pole.

**Ruling -**in both a) and b), DEAD BALL and a HOME RUN. A batted ball is considered fair when it passes out of the playing field in flight while over fair territory, **which includes the foul poles** (3.FAIR BALL NOTE, p 21)

128. As the pitcher pauses to take (or simulate taking) her signal from the catcher, the plate umpire notices that the batter's foot is partially out of the batter's box.

**Ruling -**the umpire should hold up the pitcher or call "Time" and then ask the batter to correct the position of her foot. The umpire should NOT allow the pitcher to pitch when he/she observes that the batter is not in proper batting position. Prior to the pitch, the batter must have **both feet completely in the batter's box;**the batter may touch the lines, but **no part of the foot may be outside the lines**prior to the pitch (7.4.A, p 38)

130. The batter beats out a fair batted ball by sliding into and touching first base. The batter-runner's momentum causes her to lose contact with the base. The first baseman then tags the batter-runner with the ball.

**Ruling -**the batter-runner is NOT OUT. A batter-runner who reaches first base safely and then overruns or over slides may immediately return **without liability to be put out,**provided they do not feint or attempt to advance to second base (8.10, p 45)

131. R1 is on second base. The batter hits a pitched ball on the ground. After the ball passes the shortstop, R1 intentionally deflects the ball with her right foot so that the ball is directed away from the left fielder who is covering up behind the shortstop.

**Ruling -** DEAD BALL and INTERFERENCE; R1 is declared out, and the batter-runner is awarded first base. A runner is out when she **intentionally** contacts a fair ball (8.18.U, p 41)

132. There are no runners on base with two outs, and the batter has two strikes. The batter attempts to bunt the next pitch, but misses, and the catcher drops the ball.

**Ruling -** LIVE BALL; the batter becomes a batter-runner when charged with a third strike (unless there are less than two outs AND first base is occupied at the time of the pitch). If the catcher does not complete the putout by catching the third strike, the batter-runner will be called safe if she reaches first base before the ball is held by a fielder while touching the base or before being tagged with the ball (7.4.B, p 43, 8.17.D, p 49)

133. A runner a) intentionally removes her helmet and carries it with her while running the bases, or b) after the ball has returned to the circle and she is standing on base, removes her helmet to wipe perspiration from her hair or eyes.

**Ruling -** in a), DELAYED DEAD BALL when anyone who is required to wear a batting helmet deliberately removes the helmet when the ball is live; at the conclusion of the play, if it is a:

First offense - TEAM WARNING

Subsequent offense by any team member - the offender is RESTRICTED to the bench and her Head Coach is EJECTED

In b), no penalty in this situation, common sense must be used! It is **not within the spirit or intent of the rule** to sanction a runner for removing her helmet when all action has ceased, even when the ball is live

(2.1, p 8; 10.2.F, p 57; 11.2.C, p 58)

134. B4 is the last out from the previous inning. In the next inning, B3 comes to bat instead of the proper batter, B5. B3 flies out and B4 comes to bat again and singles. The defense now appeals batting out of order.

**Ruling -** INVALID APPEAL. Although B3 was an improper batter, the first pitch to the next batter **legalizes B3's improper at bat.** B4 is now the legal batter, because her name follows that of the last legal batter, B3

A batter is in proper order (in this case, B4) if the batter follows the preceding player (B3) in the lineup, *even though such preceding batter may have batted out of order.* The instant an improper batter's actions are legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized improper batter

(7.2, p 38; 9.10.D, p 55-56)

135. The batter hits a pitched ball, on the ground, out in front of home plate. She runs in fair territory and toward the three-foot running lane. Before she reaches the running lane, the catcher's throw toward first base hits the batter-runner in the back.

**Ruling -** LIVE BALL and NO VIOLATION unless the batter-runner intentionally interferes. If a batter-runner is hit with a thrown ball **before the running lane,** she is not out. It does not matter whether she is in foul or fair territory as long as she did not intentionally interfere with the thrown ball (8.18.F, p 50)