

146. The batter leans into or tries to get hit by the pitch and gets hit by the ball.

Ruling - DEAD BALL whenever a pitch touches the batter or the batter's clothing. The batter is awarded a BALL ("only" a ball) **unless the pitch is in the strike zone**, is prevented from entering the zone by the batter, or the batter swings or offers at the pitch, in which case a strike is called. If the awarded ball happens to be ball four, then (and only then) is the batter awarded first base (8.4.D EXCEPTIONS 1 & 2, p 43)

Mechanic on "Ball Four" award when a batter leans into a pitch: after signaling "Dead Ball", the umpire should remove his/her mask, raise the right arm with four fingers extended above the eyes and verbalize **"that's ball four"** to sell the fact that the batter is being awarded first base because of the count advancing to four balls -- NOT because of a hit-by-pitch award

147. R1 is on first base. B2 hits a pitched ball sharply on the ground past F3, who is playing in. The batted ball makes contact with R1 who is off base and advancing towards second base. The umpires judge that F4 a) does, or b) does not have a chance to make a play on the ball.

Ruling - in a), DEAD BALL and INTERFERENCE is ruled; R1 is declared OUT, and B2 is awarded first base. A runner is out when she is contacted by fair batted ball before it touches or passes an infielder, or after it passes any infielder (except the pitcher) **AND the umpire judges ANOTHER INFIELDER has a play.** In b), LIVE BALL and NO VIOLATION unless the runner intentionally contacts the ball. When a runner is hit by a fair batted ball after it is touched or has passed an infielder (except the pitcher) **AND the umpire judges that no other infielder has an opportunity to make a play**, the runner is not out and the ball remains live (8.18.N, p 51; 8.18.N NOTE 2, p 52)

148. The bases are loaded with no outs. All runners leave their respective bases when the pitch is released. B4 hits a ball deep above the outfield. F9 makes a spectacular catch for out number one. The ball is relayed to second base and then on to first base to play on the runners who failed to tag for outs number two and three. R1 scores before the third out at first base.

Ruling - this is a **TIME PLAY** since the third out is **not a force out**; therefore, R1's RUN COUNTS. However; R1 is **LIABLE FOR A FOURTH OUT APPEAL TO NULLIFY THE RUN.** The appeal must be made **before all infielders have left fair territory** and the catcher vacates her normal fielding position, or, on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the field of play (9.4.B & C, p 54; 9.9, p 55)

150. B1 hits a pitched ball on the ground toward F3, who is playing slightly behind the base line. The batted ball hits first base and then rebounds toward home plate and makes contact with B1 in fair or foul territory.

Ruling - FAIR BALL, DEAD BALL and INTERFERENCE is ruled if a fielder has an opportunity to make a play or the batter-runner intentionally interferes. Deflection off the base is unusual but offers the runner no special protection (8.18.N, p 51)