

156. R1 is on first base when B2 hits a pitched ball fair. The ground ball is booted by an infielder or outfielder and rolls into dead ball territory.

Ruling - DEAD BALL and a TWO BASE AWARD; R1 is awarded second and third bases, and B2 is awarded first and second bases. Awards on a batted ball which is deflected off a defensive player into dead ball territory are based on **runner position at the time of pitch**, NOT at the time the ball becomes dead (8.14.C.1, p 47; 8.15.A.1, p 48)

157. The batter hits a ground ball toward F3 who dives and fields the batted ball with her glove. While still lying on the ground, with the ball in her glove, F3 touches first base with her a) head, or b) bare hand prior to the batter-runner reaching first base.

Ruling - in both a) and b), the batter-runner is OUT and the ball is LIVE. In a force situation, a fielder can legally touch a base for an out **with any part of their body** while in possession of the ball (3.FORCE PLAY, p 21; 8.18.M, p 51)

158. The batter wishes to move from one batter's box to the other batter's box while the pitcher is taking the signal on the pitcher's plate.

Ruling - the batter must request AND BE GRANTED TIME by the plate umpire before the batter can change to the other batter's box. The ball is DEAD and the batter is OUT if she disconcerts the pitcher by stepping out of the box on one side of home plate to the box on the other side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch (6.10, p 39)

159. R1 is on second base. The pitcher has the ball in the circle. Without asking for time, the pitcher adjusts her hair control device by placing her glove (which holds the ball) a) between her knees, or b) on the ground. R1 advances to third base.

Ruling - in a), DEAD BALL and R1 is OUT for violation of the LOOK-BACK RULE. The pitcher is considered to be **in possession of the ball** when it is held between the knees. In b), LIVE BALL and NO VIOLATION; R1's advance is LEGAL. R1 is released from the Look-Back Rule restrictions because the pitcher no longer has possession of the ball (8.2, p 41; 8.18.L, p 51)

160. The coach enters the playing field and removes the pitcher before making the substitution with the plate umpire. The relief pitcher gets two batters out. The coach again enters the playing field to speak with the reliever.

Ruling - the coach's trip to speak with the first pitcher is not a charged conference; **a conference is not charged when the pitcher is removed** as a pitcher. The visit with the relief pitcher **is a charged conference**, since no pitching change is made (3.CONFERENCE, CHARGED, p 20; 4.8.C.2, p 29)