

111. F3 throws her cap or glove and makes contact with a fair batted ball. The batter-runner is thrown out at a) third base, or b) home plate.

Ruling - DELAYED DEAD BALL at the time of the infraction. When a fair batted ball is touched by detached player equipment that is thrown, tossed, held or kicked by a fielder, all runners are **awarded three bases but may advance further AT THEIR OWN RISK**. In a), DEAD BALL when the batter-runner is thrown out, and she is awarded third base. In b), the infraction is *ignored* since the batter-runner has attained third base; the out stands, and the ball remains live (8.14.B.1, p 47; 8.14.D NOTE 1, p 48; 10.2.B, p 57)

112. The bases are loaded with one out. B5 hits a pitched ball for a home run. All runners touch the respective bases and score; however, R3 scores before R2. B5 also missed first base. A proper appeal is made at first base.

Ruling - DEAD BALL when the ball clears the fence. R3 is declared OUT when she passes R2 for the second out. B5 is declared OUT upon appeal at first base and NO RUNS SCORE. Runs scored **DO NOT COUNT** if a missed base (properly appealed) is the first to which the batter or runner is forced to advance when there are two outs (4.C.5, p 26; 8.18.O, p 52; 8.18.J, p 51; 10.1.F.4, p 56)

114. R1 is on first base, and attempts to steal second base on the next pitched ball. B2 steps across home plate after F2 catches the ball. F2 hesitates in throwing the ball because B2 is in the way.

Ruling - DEAD BALL and INTERFERENCE; the batter is declared OUT and the runner(s) must return to their bases. A batter may not interfere with the catcher's fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box (7.12, p 39-40)

Note: If the batter is already out because the pitch was strike three, then the infraction would constitute interference by a **RETIRED RUNNER**, and the runner closest to home plate would be declared out on the infraction

115. The pitcher is removed from the pitching position as a result of excessive charged defensive conferences. The pitcher returns later in the game and throws one pitch. The coach of the other team protests the use of an illegal pitcher.

Ruling - VALID PROTEST and the illegal player and her head coach are **EJECTED**. A player who pitches after removal from the pitching position for excessive defensive conferences is an **ILLEGAL PLAYER**. When a defensive play has been made by an illegal player and discovery is made before the next pitch, the offensive team has the **OPTION** of:

- i) the result of the play, or
- ii) replaying the previous pitch

(5.7.C, p 33; 5.7 PENALTY C, p 33)

116. R1 is on second base and R2 is on first base with no outs. B3 hits the next pitched ball for a single. R1 advances to and stays at third base. R2 advances to second base and is obstructed rounding the base; she continues toward third base in spite of the obstruction. The ball is thrown to third base and the fielder tags R2.

Ruling - DELAYED DEAD BALL is signaled and OBSTRUCTION should be called at the time of the infraction; followed by a DEAD BALL when the obstructed runner (R2) is put out. An obstructed runner **may not be put out between the two bases where the obstruction occurred**, unless an exception applies.

If, in the umpire's judgment, R2 would have reached third base if she had not been obstructed, she will be awarded third base. When a preceding runner (R1) is **forced to advance by the awarding of a base to an obstructed runner (R2)**, the umpire shall award the preceding runner the necessary base or bases

If, in the umpire's judgment, R2 would NOT have reached third base, she is awarded second base and R1 remains at third base

(8.13.B, p 46)

117. R1 is at first base. B2 hits a pitched ball toward first base. The batted ball makes contact with R1 who is still standing on first base in fair territory. F3 is playing in front of the base.

Ruling - LIVE BALL and NO VIOLATION, unless R1 intentionally interfered. When a runner is *touching a base and hit with a batted fair ball*, the ball is:

LIVE - if the nearest fielder is **in front of** the base, or

DEAD - if the nearest fielder is **behind** the base

(8.18.N EXCEPTION, p 52)

118. The batter is in possession of a non-approved or altered bat which is detected by the plate umpire before the batter enters the batter's box.

Ruling - NO VIOLATION; however, the umpire should have the non-approved/altered bat removed from the game/tournament. In addition, if the bat is altered, the matter should be immediately referred to tournament administration for investigation and possible administrative sanctions against the player, her coach, and her parents (2.10.E-M, p 13-16)

Note: an umpire should NEVER knowingly allow a batter to enter the batter's box with an illegal bat of any kind. Even if the defense complains that they "lost an opportunity for an out" because the umpire intervened, the prevailing issue is PLAYER SAFETY

119. The pitcher tries to pitch before a runner has retouched her base after a foul ball.

Ruling - DEAD BALL; a NO PITCH is declared when the pitcher pitches before a runner has retouched her base after being legitimately off that base (6.4.D, p 37)

120. The bases are loaded with two outs. A batter bats out of order and hits a pitched ball clearing the bases. The batter-runner tries to stretch her double into a triple and is thrown out at third base. The teams switch positions, but before a pitch, the team coming to bat appeals the batting out of order.

Ruling - INVALID APPEAL; appeals at the end of an inning must be made **before all infielders have left fair territory AND the catcher vacates her normal fielding position.** All three runs count (9.4.B, p 54)

121. The lineup card, consisting of all starters and available substitutes, was given to the umpires at the start of the game. In the fourth inning, the manager substitutes a player whose name was not on the lineup card.

Ruling - LEGAL, provided the player is listed on the team's online roster. Eligible roster members may be added as substitutes **at any time** (5.1.C, p 29)

Comment: when a coach tenders a lineup or makes a substitution, he/she is representing that the involved players are eligible roster members and - unless there is obvious evidence to contradict that - umpires should take that representation at face value. If the opposing coach doesn't agree, it is his/her responsibility to file an eligibility protest

122. The bases are loaded with no outs when B4 hits into a 6-4-3 double play. Both R1 and R2 advance and score; however, R2 missed third base and is called out on appeal.

Ruling - VALID APPEAL for the third out, but R1's RUN COUNTS. This is a TIME PLAY, **not a force out.** The front end of the double play (the putout of R3 at second base) terminates the force on R2; therefore, the putout on R2 at third base becomes a time play (3.FORCE PLAY, p 21; 4.2.A, p 26)

123. B4 leads off the inning and hits a pitched ball over the fence. She falls down as she attempts to run the bases and is injured and unable to continue. The manager wants to insert a) B3, the last completed at bat, or b) S1 to fulfill B4's base running responsibility.

Ruling - in a), LEGAL, provided the team has no unused substitutes available. When an Absent Player situation is created (because a team has no substitutes) **due to injury AND** while the player is either a batter-runner or runner, she may be replaced by the last completed at bat (LCAB) **to fulfill her base running responsibility.** However, this exception doesn't apply to any future at bat. In b), LEGAL. A legally eligible substitute

may be entered during a dead ball to fulfill a player's base running responsibilities related to an award arising while the ball was live (5.2.A.1 EXCEPTION, p 30)

124. The pitcher is wearing a red, white and blue glove.

Ruling - LEGAL; the glove/mitt may be **any combination of colors except** the color of the game ball or optic (2.9.B, p 11)

125. The bases are loaded with no outs when the batter hits a) a line drive to the shortstop, or b) a bunted pop fly which lands midway between home plate and the pitching circle.

Ruling - LIVE BALL; the infield fly rule is never in effect on a line drive, or a bunt. If an infielder grasps or controls the ball and then intentionally allows it to drop or guides it to the ground, then the **INTENTIONALLY DROPPED BALL RULE** would apply; the ball would be dead, the batter would be declared out (lifting the force play), and the runners would return to their bases (3.INFIELD FLY, p 22; 8.17.D, p 49)