

171. A batted ball comes to rest on home plate.

**Ruling** - LIVE BALL and a FAIR BALL; fair territory **includes home plate** and perpendicularly upwards (3.FAIR TERRITORY, p 21)

172. R1 is on second base. A pitched ball is hit sharply toward F1, who deflects the batted ball but cannot make the play. F6 moves in to follow up on the play and in doing so collides with R1. F6 a) does not have a chance to make a play, or b) does have a chance to make a play on the deflected ball.

**Ruling** - in a), DELAYED DEAD BALL and OBSTRUCTION, assuming R1 doesn't intentionally initiate contact. F6 is not entitled to initial play protection **when she doesn't have a reasonable chance** to make a play. In b), DEAD BALL and INTERFERENCE; R1 is declared OUT, and the batter-runner will be awarded first base. A fielder is **still considered to be making an initial play** when the ball is **deflected BY THE PITCHER** IF she has a reasonable chance to make a play (3.INITIAL PLAY, p 21)

173. The batter swings at a pitched ball and hits it on the ground to F1. In a), the bat breaks and a piece of the bat makes contact with the ball or F1; in b), the whole bat slips from the batter's hands and makes contact with the ball or F1.

**Ruling** - in a), LIVE BALL and NO VIOLATION; if the **bat breaks** and is hit by the ball or hits a runner or fielder, **no interference will be called**. In b), DEAD BALL and INTERFERENCE; **if a whole bat is thrown** and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play, **interference shall be called** (7.13, p 40)

174. A line drive is grasped by the outfielder who drops the ball after a) leaving her feet on the catch and hitting the ground, or b) colliding with another fielder.

**Ruling** - in a) and b), LIVE BALL and NO CATCH. A catch shall not be credited when, immediately after grasping the ball, the fielder collides with another player, umpire or fence, or falls to the ground and fails to maintain possession of the ball (3.CATCH.B.7, p 19)

175. The distance from home plate to the pitching plate is discovered to be wrong a) after the first pitch of the game, or b) when the visiting pitcher is warming up in the bottom of the first inning.

**Ruling** - the error should be corrected **IMMEDIATELY upon discovery** the game should continue from that point forward.

176. F9 tries to catch a fly ball but instead ends up dropping the ball and then unintentionally kicks it out of play. All runners have advanced one base at the time of a) the misplayed ball, or b) the ball rolling out of play.

**Ruling** - in a) and b), DEAD BALL and a TWO BASE AWARD for each runner based on her position **at the time of the pitch**.(8.14.C.1, p 47; 8.15.A.1, p 50)

Comment: even though the ball may not have gone out of play unless it was misplayed, the rule is two bases from the time of the pitch. If the fielder, in the umpire's judgment, **intentionally** carries (or, by interpretation, kicks, pitches or throws) a live ball into dead-ball territory, the two base award would be based on time the ball was last touched (i.e, left the hand of the thrower)

177. On a close play at the plate, the runner slides into home and misses the plate. The catcher also misses the tag.

**Ruling** - LIVE BALL and the RUN COUNTS **UNLESS the defensive team properly appeals the play**. The umpire should indicate that the catcher misses the tag by giving a safe signal and using a verbal of "No Tag", but should otherwise give no indication that the runner has failed to touch the plate unless a proper appeal is made (8.18.J, p 51)

178. The batter is legally replaced by a substitute with a count of two balls and two strikes. At the same time, a new pitcher is brought in to pitch to the substitute. The offensive coach argues that a new count should start on the batter.

**Ruling** - ALL PRIOR PLAY SHALL STAND when a substitute enters the game **legally**, whether reported or unreported. The substitute batter will assume the count at the point of substitution. (5.5, p 32)

179. The third base coach requests and is granted time to talk with the first base coach.

**Ruling** - CHARGED CONFERENCE; a charged conference takes place when a **coach** or bench personnel requests time-out to meet with **offensive** or defensive personnel (3.CONFERENCE, CHARGED, p 20)

180. The FLEX enters the game unreported to bat for F1, the ninth batter, and has a 1-1 count at discovery. F1 a) is, or b) is not, the DP.

**Ruling** - in a), this is a LEGAL substitution, and ALL PRIOR ACTION STANDS. The penalty for the unreported substitution is a Team Warning for a first offense, followed by Head Coach Ejection (for the remainder of the game only) for a subsequent violation. The **DP may be substituted for at any time by the FLEX player**.

In b), ILLEGAL PLAYER; the FLEX and her Head Coach are **both ejected**. The illegal player may be replaced by a legal substitute (if one is available), or the DP (if she has a re-entry available), and the replacement will assume the batter's count in the uncompleted turn at bat. Whether reported or not, placing the FLEX player in the batting order for someone other than the DP is an **illegal player**.

(5.4.D, p 31; 5.7, p 32-33)

181. R1 is on first base. F1 delivers a ball, which is ruled an illegal pitch. The ball hits the batter after the batter swings at the pitch.

**Ruling** - DELAYED DEAD BALL is signaled and an ILLEGAL PITCH is called, followed by a DEAD BALL when the batter is hit by the pitch, and she is charged with a STRIKE. The ball is dead immediately when a pitched ball, **legal or illegal**, hits the batter's person or clothing. This is an exception to the general rule awarding the batter first base when she is hit by a pitch; if the batter swings or the ball enters the strike zone, a strike is called, and if it is the third strike, the batter is OUT (8.4.D EXCEPTION 1, p 43)

182. R1 is on first base with no outs. On the next pitch, R1 attempts to steal second base. The plate umpire accidentally knocks the ball from F2's hand on the throw. F2 retrieves the ball and throws out R1 at third base.

**Ruling** - DELAYED DEAD BALL and UMPIRE INTERFERENCE, followed by a DEAD BALL when the base runner safely attains second base. Base runner(s) must return to the last base attained at the time of the umpire interference (9.2.C, p 57)

Note: if the original play (the steal at second base) does not result in an out at second base, the DDB becomes a dead ball, and what happens after that is a moot point

183. R1 is on third base. On the next pitched ball, F2 cocks her arm in an attempt to pick R1 off third base, but finds she cannot make the throw because a) the batter remains in the batter's box, or b) the batter steps out of the batter's box.

**Ruling** - in a), LIVE BALL and NO VIOLATION, unless the batter intentionally interferes. The batter is entitled to her original position in the batter's box, and is not required to move when the catcher is **throwing to a bag**. In b), DEAD BALL, INTERFERENCE is called, and the batter is declared OUT. A batter shall not interfere with the catcher's fielding or throwing by leaning over home plate, **by stepping out of the batter's box**, or by making any other movement that hinders the catcher's attempt to play on a runner (7.12, p 39-40)

Comment: while the batter IS entitled to her position in the box, she is NOT entitled to **RE-POSITION** once the ball reaches the catcher so as to interfere. She is also not entitled to interfere by deciding "now would be a good time to take a few practice swings" while the catcher is making or attempting a play

184. In the third inning, B1 leads off with a double. B3 steps in the box next and the batting out of order is noticed by a) the plate umpire, or b) the pitcher's grandfather sitting in the stands.

**Ruling** - batting out of order is an APPEAL PLAY. Neither the umpire nor the pitcher's granddaddy has the standing to make an appeal. When a proper appeal is made by a

player or coach, the outcome would **depend on WHEN the appeal is made** (9.10, p 55)