

2024 Newsletter Game Situations

September

SCENARIO 1

The batter hits a soft grounder to F3, and beats the throw to first base, but doesn't touch it. F3 catches the ball while in contact with first base, but makes no appeal.

- a. No call is made.
- b. The batter-runner is called out.
- c. The batter-runner is safe.

The correct answer is c. A runner is assumed to have reached the base and is safe unless an appeal is made.

Rule 2, "Definitions," SECTION 1, "APPEALS,"

ART. 1...A play or rule violation on which the umpire does not make a ruling until requested by a coach or player.

ART. 2...Types of appeals:

- a. Missing a base, either advancing or returning (live or dead ball appeal);

ART. 10... Missing First Base Before the Throw Arrives—If a runner passes first base before the throw arrives, the runner is considered to have touched the base unless an appeal is made. It must be made prior to the runner returning to first base while the ball is live.

SCENARIO 2

The runner on 1st base breaks for 2nd base on the pitch. With 1 out, and a 1-2 count, the batter swings and nicks the pitch. It goes directly to F2's shoulder, pops in the air, and is caught.

- a. Foul tip, strike 3, the runner has stolen second base, and remains there.
- b. Foul ball, the ball is dead, and the runner returned to first base.
- c. Blocked, foul ball, the batter remains at bat, and the runner is awarded second base.
- d. Foul ball, the batter is out, and the runner can be put out if she does not return to first base.

The correct answer is d. Because the ball did not go directly to the catcher's hand or mitt, it is not a foul tip. It is a caught foul ball. The batter is out, and the runner can be put out if she does not return to 1st base.

Rule 2, "Definitions," SECTION 2, "BALL, BATTED, BLOCKED, DEAD, DELAYED DEAD, FLY, GROUND, PASSED, ROTATION,"

ART 3... Blocked Ball -- A blocked ball is a live ball, pitched, batted or thrown, ... which touches any object which is not part of the official equipment...

ART 4...Dead Ball -- A dead ball is a ball not in play.

SECTION 24 "FOUL BALL, FOUL TIP,"

ART 1... Foul Ball. A foul ball is a batted ball that:

- d. While on or over foul territory, touches the person of an umpire, a player...

ART. 2...Foul Tip— A foul tip is a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt or hand and is legally caught by the catcher.

SCENARIO 3

With bases loaded and two outs, the third baseman is slightly in front of the base. The batter lines a fair ball that strikes the runner leading off 3rd base in fair territory, but behind the third baseman. No defensive players have a play on the ball, and the third baseman is not within a step or a reach. The runner did not do anything to get deliberately hit.

- a. The ball remains live, and play continues.
- b. The ball is dead, the runner is ruled out and the half inning is finished.
- c. The ball is dead, the batter awarded first base, and other runners advance a base if forced.
- d. The ball remains live, and the runner hit by the ball is declared out.

The correct answer is a. Because the ball went past an infielder, other than the pitcher, and no other defensive player has a play on the ball it remains live. The runner leading off 3rd base is not out.

Rule 8, “Batter-Runner and Runner,” SECTION 8, “RUNNER IS NOT OUT,”

ART. 4...A runner is hit with a fair, untouched batted ball that has passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher, and in the judgment of the umpire, no other fielder had a chance to make an out.

December

SCENARIO 1

In the top of the third inning, the defensive pitching coach requests time to have their first conference of the game with the pitcher. Later in that same half inning, the same coach request time and holds a second conference with her pitcher.

- a. This is legal
- b. The pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- c. The defensive pitching coach holding the second conference shall be ejected.
- d. The defensive head coach and pitcher shall be ejected from the game.

Ruling:

The correct answer is a. During a seven-inning game, teams are permitted three free conferences while on defense. If a fourth conference is held, the pitcher must be removed and not permitted to pitch the remainder of the game. She may play other positions. It is not a conference to address and injury or if a pitching change is made.

Rule 3, “Players, Substitutes, and Coaches,” SECTION 7, “CHARGED CONFERENCES”

Art. 1...Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than three charged conferences without penalty during a seven-inning game to permit coaches or their representatives to confer with a defensive player or players. In any extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one charged conference without penalty for each inning while on defense.

PENALTY: (ART. 1) After three charged conferences in a seven-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.

SCENARIO 2

R1 is on second base when B2 hits a ground ball between F6 and second base. F6 does not have a play on the ball. As R1 heads to third base, F6 is in her basepath causing R1 to stop, take two steps to the side and continue to third base then home. F8 throws home and a) R1 is tagged out two steps from the plate or b) R1 is tagged out 10 feet from home plate.

Ruling:

In both scenarios, bases would be awarded based on the umpire's judgement. In a) if the umpires believed the additional time stopping and taking two sidesteps caused R1 to delay her arrival at home plate, she would be awarded home. For scenario b), R1 is too far to be awarded home plate. An obstructed runner cannot be put out between the bases where she was protected. If the umpires were protecting the runner to home, then she would be returned to third base. If the umpires were protecting the runner to third base, then she would be out.

Rule 8, "Batter-Runner and Runner," SECTION 4, "RUNNERS ENTITLED TO ADVANCE"

ART 3... A runner is entitled to advance without liability to be put out when:

b. a fielder not in possession of the ball or not making an initial play on a batted ball, impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running bases.

PENALTIES: (Art. 3b) When an obstruction occurs (including a rundown), the umpire will signal a delayed dead ball. The ball will remain live.

- 1. If the obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the base that would have been reached had there not been obstruction, a dead ball is called and the obstructed runner and each other runner affected by the obstruction will be awarded the base or base which would have been reached in the umpire's judgment, had there not been obstruction. An obstructed runner may not be called out between the two bases where the runner was obstructed.**