

## November 2024 Game Scenarios

1. The JV team has just nine players. Number 23 hits a double but twists her ankle when sliding into second base. The coach asked for a courtesy runner for 23. The umpire explains what the courtesy runner rule is for an injured player.
  - a. There are no substitutes, so the runner is out and removed from second base.
  - b. The previous batter not on base is allowed to courtesy run and 23 is allowed to resume play if she can.
  - c. The previous batter not on base is allowed to courtesy run, 23 is not permitted to return to the game, and her spot in the lineup is skipped with no out is taken.
  - d. The previous batter not on base is allowed to courtesy run, 23 is not permitted to return to the game, and an out is taken at her spot in the lineup.

The correct answer is d. If a team is playing with only nine players, it may courtesy run for an injured player on base with the previous batter not on base. When the player who was removed is scheduled to bat, an out is taken. A player given a courtesy runner due to injury is not allowed to return to the game. The logic is to avoid a coach putting an injured player back in the game and exacerbating the injury.

An exemption to this is the blood rule. A player removed from the game due to blood on her or her uniform must be removed from the game. If she is cleaned and the uniform is cleaned or changed, then she may return to the game.

### **Rule 3, “Players, Substitutes, and Coaches,” SECTION 3, “SUBSTITUTING,”**

**ART.8...**If a team is playing with nine (F.P.) players, and there are no available substitutes when a runner advancing on an awarded base or after reaching base is unable to continue:

- a. The previous batter not on base is allowed to replace that player as a temporary runner until the runner is put out, scores or the half-inning ends.
- b. When the player who could not continue is scheduled to bat, and out shall be called.

**ART 10...** A coach or athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on the uniform, or has blood on their person, shall be directed to leave the game until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to competition. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual does not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is umpire judgment. The re-entry rule would apply to players taken out of the game for this rule.

2. There is one out, R1 on third base, R2 on second base, and R3 on first base. With a 1-1 count, B5 hits a pop up that, in the umpire’s judgement, can be caught with ordinary effort by F3. The plate umpire declares “Infield fly the batter is out if fair.” All runners were off with the hit and R1 continued to run toward home. R2 and R3 retreated toward their bases. As R3 is returning to first base F3 sees R3 retreating and stops her movement to make the initial play on the batted ball to avoid contact with R3. As the ball is falling, it hits R3 who is in front of F3, falls to the ground, and rolls foul. R1 touched home prior to the umpire ruling interference on R3.
  - a. R1’s run does not score because the infield fly rule was in effect, the ball was determined to be fair because the interference happened in fair territory, and the third out of the inning, infield fly, occurred prior to the batter-runner touching first base.

- b. Because the batter was declared out on infield fly before the interference, the third out of the inning was interference and not a force out so the run scores because R1 touched home plate before the third out, a timing out, was made.
- c. R3 is out on interference, it is a foul ball, the batter returns with a 1-2 count, and R1 goes back to third base.
- d. There are two outs, the run scores because the interference resulted in a dead ball, and an infield fly was not in effect after the dead ball.

The correct answer is a). A batter-runner is not out due to an infield fly until the ball's status has been determined to be fair. In this case, that determination is made when the interference occurred while the ball was over fair territory. There are two possible calls on R3, first the umpire could have judged that F3 stopping their movement to make the initial play on the batted ball to avoid R3 was interference or when R3 was struck with an untouched batted ball while not in contact with a base and before it passed an infielder. Either of these situations are forms of interference which is a dead ball and R3 would be the second out of the inning.

Lastly, since the ball's status is fair due to the interference in fair territory the batter-runner is out due to the infield fly rule being in effect. Since the third out was a result of the batter-runner being put out prior to obtaining first base no run can score on the play.

**Rule 2, "Definitions," SECTION 19, "FAIR BALL,"**

**ART. 1...** A fair ball is a batted ball that:

- g. while over fair territory, an offensive player interferes with a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball.

**SECTION 29, "INFIELD FLY RULE,"**

Infield fly rule is, when declared by the umpire, a fair fly (not include a line drive or an attempted bunt) that can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when runners are on first and second or all three bases are occupied and before there are two out in the inning. [...] if a declared infield fly becomes foul, it is treated as a foul ball, not an infield fly.

**Rule 8, "Batter-Runner and Runner," SECTION 1, "THE BATTER BECOMES A BATTER-RUNNER,"**

**ART. 1...** A batter becomes a batter-runner with the right to attempt to score by advancing to first, second, and third and then home plate in the listed order when"

- a. The batter legally hits a fair ball.

**SECTION 2, "BATTER-RUNNER IS OUT,"**

The batter-runner shall be called out when:

**ART. 9...** The batter-runner hits an infield fly. (2-29)

**SECTION 6, "THE RUNNER IS OUT,"**

A runner is out when:

**ART. 10...** The runner interferes:

- a. With a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a fair batted ball. (2-46)

**ART. 11...** The runner is struck with a fair untouched batted ball while not in contact with a base and before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher, ...

**Rule 9, "Scoring and Record Keeping," SECTION 1, "HOW A TEAM SCORES,"**

**ART. 1...**

**EXCEPTION:** A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made as follows:

- a. By the batter-runner before touching first base.
3. B3 hits a long fly ball to left field. F7 races back to the fence and stands against the fence. As the ball clears the fence, F7 jumps and reaches over the fence to try and catch the ball. A fan, who is standing behind the fence, catches the ball. The umpires deem F7 would have been able to catch the ball beyond the fence and rule spectator interference and rule the batter-runner out.
  - a. True
  - b. False

The correct answer is b. Spectator interference only occurs when the ball is in live ball territory.

**Rule 8, “Batter-Runner and Runner,” SECTION 2, “BATTER-RUNNER IS NOT OUT,”**

**ART. 12...** If a spectator reaches into the field of play and interferes with a fielder’s opportunity to catch a fly ball.

**PENALTY: (ART. 12) The ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and the umpire should award runners the bases in the umpire’s judgement they would have reached had the interference not occurred.**

4. With R1 on third base, R2 on first base and one out, B4 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to F4 at second base retiring R2 for the second out of the inning. B4 reaches first base safely. F4 then throws home to make a play on R1 advancing. The throw is late and R1 is ruled safe. B4, thinking there are three outs, retreats toward home and picks up her bat. Everyone starts yelling at B4 to get back to first base. The defense throws the ball to F3 who contacts first base while in control of the ball.
  - a. If B4 returns to first base and is not tagged she is safe and the run counts.
  - b. B4 is out but the run counts because it happened before the third out.
  - c. B4 is out for returning home. This is a timing out and the run counts.
  - d. B4 is out on a force play. The run does not count because the third out was a force at first base.

The correct answer is d). If a runner after touching the next base to which she was forced to run, except home, retreats for any reason toward that base, the force play is reinstated. The runner may again be put out if the defense tags the base.

Although the batter-runner is technically not forced at first base, this rule does apply to the batter-runner because she retreated toward home after touching first base. By retreating home, she reinstated the risk of being put out prior to reaching first base. In this case, the batter-runner was put out prior to touching first base. It was the third out of the inning.

A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made by the batter-runner before touching first base. When the batter-runner retreated toward home she not only reinstated the opportunity to retire them prior to reaching first base but also reinstated the rule Exception that negates any runs scoring.

**Rule 2, “Definitions,” SECTION 23, “FORCE PLAY,”**

**ART. 4...** If a forced runner, after touching the next base, except home, retreats for any reason towards the base first occupied, the force play is reinstated, and the runner may again be put out if the defense tags the base to which the runner is forced.

**Rule 8, "Batter-Runner and Runner," SECTION 2, "BATTER-RUNNER IS OUT,"**

The batter-runner shall be called out when:

**ART. 2...**After hitting a fair ball the batter-runner is legally put out prior to reaching first base.

**Rule 9, "Scoring and Record Keeping," SECTION 1, "HOW A TEAM SCORES,"**

**ART. 1...** A runner scores one run each time the runner legally advances to and touches first base, second baser and third base and then home plate before there are three outs to end the inning (2-49)

**EXCEPTION:** A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during the action to which the third out is made as follows:

- a. By the batter-runner before reaching first base;