

December 2023 Game Situations

1. With R1 on first base and no outs, B2 hits a long high fly ball to centerfield. R1, believing the ball will not be caught, touches second base and starts for third when F8 makes an apparent spectacular catch. R1, who is halfway to third, returns toward the pitcher's plate as she heads back toward first. However, F8 drops the ball as she falls to the ground, not securing the catch. Seeing that, R1 again reverses direction and arrives at third base before the throw from F8.
- A) R1 is out for running out of the basepath.
 - B) R1 is out for running out of the baseline.
 - C) R1 is out for abandonment by leaving the basepath.
 - D) R1 is out if the defense appeals that she did not retouch second base on her way to first
 - E) R1 is not out as she determines her own basepath and no play was ever made on her.

The correct answer is E. The runner can establish any basepath she wants to a base. Because no play was being made on her, the three-foot variance did not apply. She could take whatever route she wanted to third base.

Because she did not return to first base, she was not required to touch second base.

Rule 2, "Definitions," SECTION 4, "BASE LINE, PATH"

ART 2...The traditional path traveled by a runner who is attempting to advance to the next base. It is defined by a direct line between two bases and 3 feet on either side of that line unless a fielder possesses the ball and is within 3 feet of the runner and prepared to apply a tag. A base runner who attempts to avoid a tag by running more than 3 feet to either side of a fielder in possession of the ball shall be declared out.

NOTE: A runner establishes a base path when the runner is not being played upon.

Rule 8, "BATTER-RUNNER, RUNNER," SECTION 3, "TOUCHING BASES IN LEGAL ORDER,"

ART 2...When a runner must return to a base while the ball is in play or dead, the runner must touch the base(s) in reverse order."

EXCEPTION: On a foul ball.

2. With two outs, R1 is on third base and R2 is on first base, B6 hits a pop up that contacts R1 after she has returned to and is standing on the base. R1 did not intentionally interfere with the ball. F5 was positioned about five feet behind the base line moving to catch the popup when the ball contacts R1.
- A) The ball remains live, and play continues.
 - B) The ball is dead, R1 is ruled out, and the half inning is finished.
 - C) The ball is dead, B6 is awarded first base, R2 is forced to second base, and R1 is awarded home.
 - D) the ball is dead, B6 is awarded first base, R2 is forced to second base, and R1 remains on third base.

This week the correct answer is D). Whether a runner is on a base or running to a base and is hit by a ball that has not passed a defensive player, the ball is dead. Here the third baseman was five feet behind the base, so the ball is dead.

She does not have to vacate the base because it puts her in jeopardy. Unless the base runner intentionally interferes, she is not out for remaining on the base. The batter is awarded first base

and runners advance if forced. Otherwise, they return to the base last touched before the dead ball.

If the third baseman were in front of the bag and the ball hit the base runner on third base, the ball would have remained live.

Rule 5, “Dead Ball and Suspension of Play,” SECTION 1, “DEAD BALL”

ART. 1...Ball becomes dead immediately when (Table 5-1):

f. a fair batted ball, which is over fair ground,

1. touches a runner or an umpire before touching any fielder and before passing any fielder other than the pitcher. (8-1-2a., 8-4-1f, 8-6-11)

Rule 8, “Batter-Runner and Runner,” SECTION 1, “THE BATTER BECOMES A BATTER-RUNNER,”

ART. 2...A batter is awarded first base when:

- a. A fair batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment, or clothing of an umpire or a runner.

EFFECTS:

3. **If before passing a fielder, without being touched, the ball is dead. ... When A fair batted ball touches a runner who is in contact with a base, the ball is dead or live depending on whether the closest fielder is in front of the base (live) or behind the base (dead). The runner is not out unless the runner intentionally interferes.**

PENALTIES: (Art. 2).

1. **The ball is dead. The batter is entitled to one base without liability to be put out.**

SECTION 8, “RUNNER IS NOT OUT,”

ART. 13... Hit by a fair batted ball when touching the base unless the runner intentionally interferes with the ball or a fielder making a play.

3. **Jolly old Saint Nicholas is on first base in a red and white suit while the other players on the team are in black and gold. The defensive coach approaches the plate umpire and asks why Santa is wearing red and white. The plate tells the defensive coach:**
 - A) Santa is not limited to red and white but can wear any colors he wants and has done so in the past.
 - B) Santa is wearing red because those are the colors Clement Moore said he was wearing in “A Visit from Saint Nicholas.”
 - C) Santa wears red because in Coca Cola advertising he wore the colors of red and white.
 - D) A) and B)
 - E) A) and C)

The correct answer is E). Historically Santa wore different colors. During the Civil War, Santa was shown in newspaper sketches wearing stars on his jacket and stripes on his pants.

In the 1920s, began using Santa in its advertising. In 1931, Coca-Cola commissioned illustrator Haddon Sundblom to paint Santa for Christmas advertisements. Those paintings established Santa as a warm, happy character with human features, including rosy cheeks, a white beard, twinkling eyes and laughter lines. In the paintings, Santa was dressed in the company’s colors of red and white. Santa became a yearly fixture in Coke Christmas advertisements for the next 30 years, and wearing a red and white suit to match Coke’s colors became a tradition.