

December 2024 Game Scenarios

1. In the third inning, the coach of Team A informs the umpire that number 23 is entering the game to run for number 31, the fourth batter in the lineup. The plate umpire accepts this change and informs Team B. As Team A is coming to bat in the fourth inning Team A's coach informs the umpire that they incorrectly reported the substitution and number 23 should have been entered for number 12 the fifth batter in the lineup.
 - a. The umpire informs the coach that the substitution as reported and recorded must remain and that number 23 is in the game for number 31.
 - b. This is an unreported substitution. The change is made, and the coach is given a warning.
 - c. An illegal substitution has occurred, the player is ejected.
 - d. This is a lineup correction after the lineup is official. The change is made, and the coach is given a warning.

The correct answer is a. The coach reported and the umpire recorded the substitution as the substitution was reported. It cannot be changed. At this point, the team will continue with the lineup changes as reported to the plate umpire.

If the coach inserted number 23 for number 12 in the fourth inning without telling the umpire, there was the potential of an illegal substitution. If there was an illegal substitute, it had to be discovered after a live ball was declared.

Rule 3, "Players, Substitutes, and Coaches," SECTION 3, "SUBSTITUTIONS,"

ART. 2...A substitute may replace any player when the ball is dead, or time has been called. The substitute or coach shall report to the plate umpire at the time of the change by stating name and shirt number ..."

ART. 3... The plate umpire shall record all substitutions on the lineup card and then announce immediately any change(s) to the opposing team's head coach.

SECTION 4, "ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTE,"

ART. 1... Illegal offensive or defensive players may be discovered by the umpire or either team any time after the ball becomes live and an illegal substitute has taken a position as:

- a. a runner the illegal substitute has replaced as a batter in the batter's box;
- b. a pitcher on the pitcher's plate or as a fielder reaching a position usually occupied by the fielder being replaced; or
- c. a courtesy runner if that player has violated the courtesy runner rule.

PENALTY: (Art. 1) Restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game. (Art. 1a, c) the player is called out.

2. B5 is at bat with a 2-1 count. She swings at the next pitches and misses. Thinking it is three strikes she goes in the dugout. The umpire should call the player out for abandoning the field.
 - a. True
 - b. False

The correct answer is b., False. With only two strikes, the player is still the batter. Therefore, she can return to the field. She can only be declared out once she completes her time at bat.

Rule 2, “Definitions,” SECTION 5, “BATTER, BATTER-RUNNER, ON-DECK BATTER,”

ART. 1... Batter – The batter is the player of the team at bat who is entitled to occupy either of the two batter’s boxes.

ART. 2...Batter-runner – The batter-runner is a player who has finished a time at bat until the batter-runner is put out or playing action ends.

Rule 7, “Batting,” SECTION 4, “BATTER IS OUT,”

There is no article in Section 4 that states a batter is out for stepping in the dugout.

Rule 8, “Batter-runner and Runner,” SECTION 2, “BATTER-RUNNER IS OUT,”

ART. 4...The batter-runner fails to advance to first base and enters the dugout/bench area after a batted fair ball, a base on balls, a hit batter (F.P.), a dropped third strike (F.P.), or catcher obstruction.

3. **B4 is at bat and bunts a fair ball in front of the plate. As she leaves the batter’s box, she 1) carelessly throws the bat towards the first base dugout, or 2) carelessly throws the bat back towards the catcher who moves to avoid it while going for the ball.**
- In both 1) and 2) the batter is out and ejected.
 - In 1) the team is given a warning and the next player who carelessly throws a bat is restricted to the bench. The batter is out in 2) if in the umpire’s judgement the thrown bat interfered with the catcher. All players return to the base occupied. A team warning is given and the next player who carelessly throws a bat is restricted to the bench.
 - In 1) the team is given a warning and the next player who carelessly throws a bat is ejected. The batter is out in 2) if in the umpire’s judgement the thrown bat interfered with the catcher. All players return to the base. A team warning is given and the next player who carelessly throws a bat is ejected.
 - In both 1) and 2) the batter is out and restricted to the bench.

The correct answer is b. A player who carelessly throws a bat is not out unless the thrown bat interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.

Rule 3, “Players, Substitutes, and Coaches,” SECTION 6, “BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT,”

ART. 3...A team member shall not carelessly throw a bat.

PENALTY: (Arts. 2 through 10) The umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.

Rule 7, “Batting,” SECTION 4, “BATTER IS OUT,”

ART. 14...The batter throws the bat and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.

Note: If the bat breaks and a portion is hit by ball or hits a runner or fielder, no infraction has occurred.

PENALTY: The ball is dead immediately. Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of interference. (8-6-10)

4. **The defensive coach request time out and approaches the plate umpire. The defensive coach asks why the third base coach for the team visiting from Japan is eating on the**

field. The plate umpire responds that the third base coach is eating the most popular Christmas dish in Japan. When the defensive coach asks what it is, the plate umpire tells the defensive coach it is.

- a. Sushi
- b. Boston Chicken
- c. Curry Rice, one of Japan's national dishes and loved by Japanese people of all ages
- d. Kentucky Fried Chicken

The correct answer is d. The most popular Christmas meal in Japan is Kentucky Fried Chicken. It is so popular that to have it on Christmas Day, Japanese must order it months in advance.

Thus, ends our game scenarios for the year. In just a few weeks we start the new year with training.