

The Umpire's Pal - March 2019

Situations and calls from the 1st half of the spring season 2019. Names are changed or made up or not. In all situations, **YOU ARE THE UMPIRE.**

Situation 1. 3rd inning. Dennis hits a double and a courtesy runner legally enters the game (manager announces courtesy runner's name to plate umpire). Dennis returns to the dugout and his vast group of admirers. Later that **same inning**, Dennis checks in as a courtesy runner (manager announces courtesy runner's name to plate umpire) **What's your call? Oh oh!**

8.5(2) A runner who is replaced with a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.

umpire's call - None yet. The umpire's waiting for the fielding team to appeal the illegal courtesy runner. This is an appeal play and the defense must bring this breach of the rules to the umpire. The inning continues and Dennis eventually scores. The pitcher throws a pitch to the 1st batter after Dennis had scored. **umpire's call - Still none and it's too late to appeal.**

8.5(5) An illegal courtesy runner on base is committing a continuing violation and may be called out upon appeal at any time while on base or, if he scores, prior to the first pitch to the next batter.

Situation 2. Shortstop chases a popup towards the left field line. He misses the catch and kicks the ball out of play. **What's your call?** Where do you put the hitter?

After you answer one question, the rest is easy. Did the fielder intentionally propel the ball out of play? If no intent, use E, if intentional, use F.

8.4(4)

E. When a live ball is **unintentionally** carried by a fielder from playable territory into dead ball territory. EFFECT: The ball is dead and each base runner is awarded one base from the last base touched at the time the fielder entered the dead-ball territory.

Ground rule double - When a fair batted ball bounces over, rolls under or through a fence or any designated boundary of the playing field. **When the ball deflects off a defensive player and goes out of play in foul ball territory, deflects off a runner or umpire and goes out of play into foul ball territory, after having passed an infielder excluding the pitcher and provided no other infielder had a chance to make an out.

EFFECT: The ball is dead, and all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch.

**** this section will be added to our rule book at the next update. from USA/ASA rulebook**

F. If, in the umpire's judgment, a fielder **intentionally** carries, kicks, pushes or throws a live ball from playable territory into dead ball territory. (NOTE: A fielder carrying a live ball into a dugout or team area to tag a player is considered to have unintentionally carried it there.) EFFECT: The ball is dead. Each runner is awarded two bases from the last base touched at the time the fielder entered or the ball was kicked, pushed or shoved into dead ball territory.

Situation 3. Russ, playing 2b, covers the bag on a throw from SS for a force out. The ball hits the heel of his mitt and drops to the ground after 1 second in the mitt. **What's your call?**

A line drive sticks in the pitcher's web for appx 2 seconds and then falls to the ground. **What's your call?**

A fly ball in the LC gap lands in the outfielder's mitt, she takes 3-4 stumbling steps, falls and the ball comes loose and hits the ground. **What's your call?**

Hopefully you said, "No catch."

1.10 • CATCH

A catch is a legally caught ball that occurs when the fielder catches a batted or thrown ball with his hand(s) or glove and the resulting **release of the ball must be voluntary**. NOTE: It is not a catch if a fielder, after he contacts the ball, collides with another player, umpire or a fence, or falls to the ground and loses possession of the ball as a result of the collision or falling to the ground. A ball that strikes anything other than a defensive player while it is in flight, is ruled the same as if it struck the ground. An illegally caught ball occurs when a fielder catches a batted or thrown ball with anything other than his hand(s) or glove in its proper place.

Situation 4. Dave is hit by a batted ball while standing on 1B. **What's your call?**

What happens to the batter?

8.2 • BATTER BECOMES A BATTER-RUNNER

C. When he bats a fair ball even though it strikes another player, umpire or their attached clothing or equipment.

1. **If the runner is hit with a fair batted ball while touching a base, he is not out. EFFECT:** The ball is live or dead **depending** on the position of the fielder closest to the ball. If the closest defensive player is in front of the base runner hit by the ball, the ball remains live. However, after the runner in contact with the base is hit by the batted ball, it shall be the same as hitting the ground. Since the ball remains live, the defense is free to make whatever plays are available. If the defensive player is behind the base runner, the ball is ruled dead, the hitter is awarded a base hit and runners are advanced **ONLY** if forced to advance.
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Situation 5. Runners on 1st and 2nd. Popup to the fielder at short/2nd. The runner on 2b holds the base, the runner from 1st runs to 2b. The popup is dropped. Runner from 2b heads towards 3rd. Runner from 1b stands on 2b. Batter runs towards 1st.

The fielder recovers the ball, throws to 3b for the force but the throw goes out of play into the parking lot. **What's your call? Where do the runners end up?**

8.4(4) D.

1. When the first throw is made by an infielder, **two bases shall be awarded. The award shall be governed by the position of each runner at the time the pitch was made;** however, if all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when the infielder makes the wild throw, on the first play after a pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the runners when the wild throw was made.

So..... Dead ball, runner from 2b goes home, runner from 1b to 3rd. Batter to 2B.

Situation 6. Player Duane gets hit by a bad hop and suffers a bloody nose. Manager requests a temporary sub until Duane can get the bleeding stopped and return. **What's your call?**

Options are **1)** Duane steps off the field, doesn't get a sub and returns when the bleeding has stopped. If he was due to bat and hasn't returned yet, his turn is skipped without penalty. He returns when able. **2)** If Duane gets a sub, he cannot return EVEN if his sub gets hurt. The sub becomes Duane subject to the same two options. If Duane walked or courtesy ran earlier in the game, the sub inherits that walk, cannot be walked again and cannot courtesy run again.

4.3 • PLAYERS LOST TO INJURY OR EMERGENCY DURING A GAME.

In the event a team with 11 or more players loses a player due to an in-game injury or emergency departure and the manager chooses not to field a replacement player, the game will continue and the missing player's turn at bat will be skipped and not recorded as an out.

If you have situations or questions that we can include in our next Umpire's Pal,

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