



**Approved Rule Interpretation
Additions**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE OFFENSE	3
BATTER’S POSITION IN THE BATTER’S BOX.....	3
BATTER-RUNNER RETREATING TOWARD HOME PLATE	3
THE DEFENCE	3
APPEAL PLAYS	3
<i>Batting Out of Order</i>	3
<i>Live Ball</i>	3
BALKS	4
<i>Throw to the First Base Fielder away from First Base</i>	4
<i>Throw to second base fielder or short stop fielder away from second</i>	4
BALL HITS A BIRD OR OTHER ANIMAL	4
INFIELD FLY	5
BALLS DEFLECTED OUT OF PLAY.....	5
<i>Intentionally Deflected Ball</i>	5
<i>Intentionally Deflected Ball by a Fielder other than the Catcher</i>	5
TRIP TO THE MOUND	6
<i>Beginning of a Trip</i>	6
PITCHING REGULATIONS	6
<i>Ambidextrous Pitcher</i>	6
<i>Pitcher Ejected</i>	6
<i>Pitcher playing another position and returning to pitch</i>	7

THE OFFENSE

Batter's Position in the Batter's Box

6.03 The batter's legal position shall be with both feet within the batter's box.

APPROVED RULING: The lines defining the box are within the batter's box.

No part of either foot may extend beyond the lines defining the batter's box when he assumes his position. There is no penalty other than the umpire must direct the batter to the correct starting position.

Batter-Runner retreating toward home plate

7.08 (i) After he has acquired legal possession of a base, he runs the bases in reverse order for the purpose of confusing the defence or making a travesty of the game. The umpire shall immediately call "Time" and declare the runner out;

When running towards 1st base, it is acceptable for the batter-runner to run backwards towards home plate for the purpose of avoiding a fielder attempting to tag him. Once the batter-runner crosses back over the edge of home plate, he shall be called out. The ball remains alive and in play for the purpose of other runners.

THE DEFENCE

Appeal Plays

Batting Out of Order

6.07(b) When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter of either team, or before any play or attempted play, the umpire shall (1) declare the proper batter out; and (2) nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter or because of the improper batter's advance to first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.

Any Batting Out of Order appeal under rule 6.07 when an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, must be made before the next pitch to a batter of either team, or a play or attempted play.

Live Ball

7.10 Any runner shall be called out, on appeal, when—

- (a) After a fly ball is caught, he fails to retouch his original base before he or his original base is tagged;
- (b) With the ball in play, while advancing or returning to a base, he fails to touch each base in order before he, or a missed base, is tagged.
- (c) He overruns or overslides first base and fails to return to the base immediately, and he or the base is tagged;
- (d) He fails to touch home base and makes no attempt to return to that base, and home base is tagged.

Any appeal under this rule must be made before the next pitch, or any play or attempted play. If the violation occurs during a play which ends a half-inning, the appeal must be made before the defensive team leaves the field.

APPROVED RULING: (1) No runner may return to touch a missed base after a following runner has scored. (2) When the ball is dead, no runner may return to

touch a missed base or one he has left after he has advanced to and touched a base beyond the missed base.

If the ball is thrown out of play while making an appeal, such act shall be considered an attempted play for the purpose of making an appeal and no further appeal will be allowed.

For the purposes of an appeal, the defensive team only includes the pitcher and the infielders crossing the foul lines and the catcher leaving his position around home plate.

Balks

Throw to the First Base Fielder away from First Base

8.05(b) The pitcher, while touching his plate, feints a throw to first base and fails to complete the throw.

It shall be a balk if the pitcher, while in contact with the rubber, throws to a first baseman whom is either in front of or behind first base and obviously not making an attempt to retire the runner at first. There would be no violation if the pitcher throws directly to first base even though the first baseman is not there to field the ball. This only applies to first base and not second or third base. The first baseman should be within a step and a reach of the runner in making an attempt to retire him or her.

Throw to second base fielder or short stop fielder away from second

8.05(c) The pitcher, while touching his plate, fails to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base;

8.05(c) Comment: Requires the pitcher, while touching his plate, to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base. If a pitcher turns or spins off of his free foot without actually stepping or if he turns his body and throws before stepping, it is a balk. A pitcher is to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base but does not require him to throw (except to first base only) because he steps.

It is not a balk if the pitcher attempts to pick-off a runner at second base and seeing that neither the second baseman or the shortstop are covering the base, throws to either of them at their position. Neither fielder in this case needs to be in the vicinity of the base or making an attempt to retire the runner. This only requires the pitcher to step towards the base prior to making the throw.

Ball Hits a Bird or other Animal

2.00 IN FLIGHT describes a batted, thrown, or pitched ball which has not yet touched the ground or some object other than a fielder.

If a batted or thrown ball strikes a bird in flight or any other animal on the playing field, the ball remains alive and in play, the same as though it had not touched that animal. Therefore, it is possible to make a legal catch on a batted ball still in flight.

If a pitched ball hits a bird in flight, the pitch is nullified and play shall be resumed with the previous count to the batter.

Infield Fly

- 7.08(f) Any runner is out when — he is touched by a fair ball in fair territory before the ball has touched or passed an infielder. The ball is dead and no runner may score, nor runners advance, except runners forced to advance.

If an infield fly touches a runner not on his or her base, both the runner and batter are out. The ball is dead and runners may not advance.

Balls Deflected Out of Play

- 7.05 (h) One base, if a ball, pitched to the batter, or thrown by the pitcher from his position on the pitcher's plate to a base to catch a runner, goes into a stand or a bench, or over or through a field fence or backstop. The ball is dead;

APPROVED RULING: When a wild pitch or passed ball goes through or by the catcher, or deflects off the catcher, and goes directly into the dugout, stands, above the break, or any area where the ball is dead, the awarding of bases shall be one base. One base shall also be awarded if the pitcher while in contact with the rubber, throws to a base, and the throw goes directly into the stands or into any area where the ball is dead.

If, however, the pitched or thrown ball goes through or by the catcher or through the fielder, and remains on the playing field, and is subsequently kicked or deflected into the dugout, stands or other area where the ball is dead, the awarding of bases shall be two bases from position of runners at the time of the pitch or throw.

Intentionally Deflected Ball

If, in an umpire's judgment, a fielder intentionally deflects or kicks a thrown or batted ball out of play, the award is two bases from the position of the runners at the time the ball was kicked or deflected

An unintentional deflection occurs when the momentum of the fielder causes the ball to go out of play. For example, the ball has come to rest on the playing field and is then deflected or kicked out of play.

If the umpire determines that the ball would have gone out of play on its own even though it was deflected in an attempt to prevent it from going out of play, the award is only one base from the time of the pitch or two bases from the time of throw.

Intentionally Deflected Ball by a Fielder other than the Catcher

If a thrown ball deflects off a fielder and goes directly out of play, the award is two bases from the time of the pitch if it is the first play made by an infielder, otherwise it would be two bases from the time of the throw.

If a fielder has secure possession of a batted or thrown ball, and subsequently deflects or kicks the ball out of play, the award is two bases from the position of the runners at the time the ball is deflected or kicked.

If a fielder has secure possession of a batted or thrown ball, and subsequently drops the ball and it goes out of play, the award is two bases from the position of the runners at the time the ball is dropped

Trip to the Mound

Beginning of a Trip

- 8.06 A manager or coach is considered to have concluded his visit to the mound when he leaves the 18-foot circle surrounding the pitcher's rubber.

A trip to the mound begins and ends with the 18-foot circle surrounding the pitcher's rubber.

Pitching Regulations

Ambidextrous Pitcher

- 3.05 (b) If the pitcher is replaced, the substitute pitcher shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute batter, until such batter is put out or reaches first base, or until the offensive team is put out, unless the substitute pitcher sustains injury or illness which, in the umpire-in-chief's judgment, incapacitates him for further play as a pitcher.

The pitcher must visually indicate to the umpire, batter and runner(s) which way he will begin pitching to the batter. Engaging the rubber with the glove on a particular hand is considered a definitive commitment to which arm he will throw with. The batter will then choose which side of the plate he will bat from.

The pitcher must throw one pitch to the batter before any "switch" by either player is allowed.

After one pitch is thrown, the pitcher and batter may each change positions one time per at-bat. For example, if the pitcher changes from right-handed to left-handed and the batter then changes batter's boxes, each player must remain that way for the duration of that at-bat (unless the offensive team substitutes a pinch hitter, and then each player may again "switch" one time).

Any switch (by either the pitcher or the batter) must be clearly indicated to the umpire.

There will be no warm-up pitches during the change of arms.

If an injury occurs the pitcher may change arms but not use that arm again during the remainder of the game.

Pitcher Ejected

- 8.03 When a pitcher takes his position at the beginning of each inning, or when he relieves another pitcher, he shall be permitted to pitch not to exceed eight preparatory pitches to his catcher during which play shall be suspended. A league by its own action may limit the number of preparatory pitches to less than eight preparatory pitches. Such preparatory pitches shall not consume more than one minute of time. If a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without any opportunity to warm up, the umpire-in-chief shall allow him as many pitches as the umpire deems necessary.

If a pitcher is ejected during an inning in which he is pitching, the substitute pitcher shall be given as much time as the umpire deems necessary similar to the time allotted for an injured pitcher.

Pitcher playing another position and returning to pitch

- 8.03 When a pitcher takes his position at the beginning of each inning, or when he relieves another pitcher, he shall be permitted to pitch not to exceed eight preparatory pitches to his catcher during which play shall be suspended. A league by its own action may limit the number of preparatory pitches to less than eight preparatory pitches. Such preparatory pitches shall not consume more than one minute of time. If a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without any opportunity to warm up, the umpire-in-chief shall allow him as many pitches as the umpire deems necessary.
- 6.10(b) The Designated Hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made, and the manager then must designate their spots in the batting order.

A pitcher may change to another defensive position only once per inning. This would eliminate the Designated Hitter role if being utilized. Upon returning to pitch in the same inning, the pitcher will receive eight warm-up pitches.