

**Official Rules of Baseball**

**Canadian Content**



**BASEBALL CANADA  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012**

January 14	National Teams Awards Banquet & Fundraiser	Toronto, ON
Mar 4 - 14	Junior National Team Spring Training Camp & National Team Alumni Week	St. Petersburg, FL
April 12 - 22	Junior National Team Spring Training Camp (ESPN's Wide World of Sports)	Orlando, FL
May 24 – June 1	Junior National Team Dominican Tour	Dominican Republic
July 25 – 28	Senior Women Invitational	Spruce Grove, AB
Aug 8 - 13	Baseball Canada Cup	London, ON
Aug 10 – 14	Women's World Cup	Edmonton, AB
Aug 16 – 20	Junior Championships	Trois-Rivières, QC
Aug 16 – 20	Midget Championships	Québec City, QC
Aug 18-Sept 9	Junior National Team Fall Camp and World Junior Championships	USA & Korea
Aug 23 – 27	Pee Wee Boys – Regional (Western)	Saskatoon, SK
Aug 23 – 27	Senior Men Championships	Prince George, BC
Aug 23 – 27	Bantam Boys Championships	Vaughn, ON
Aug 23 – 27	Bantam Girls International Invitational	Hammonds Plains, NS
Sept 6 – 10	Pee Wee Boys – Regional (Atlantic)	St. John's, NL
TBD	Mizuno Elite Development Camp Rogers Centre	Toronto, ON
TBD	World Baseball Classic Qualifier	TBD
Nov 1 - 4	Baseball Canada Fall Convention	Québec City, QC

Please check Baseball Canada website  
at [www.baseball.ca](http://www.baseball.ca) for the latest information.

## OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL CANADIAN CONTENT

### 1. Age Categories - Baseball Canada

Pee Wee Boys 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year.

Pee Wee Girls 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year.

Bantam Boys 15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year. **NL may bring two players who do not reach their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year. (Policy approved Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, after the rule book went to print. Provincial offices informed & web site updated.)**

Bantam Girls 16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year. **NF, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, and BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year.**

Midget Boys 18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year. **NL may bring two players who do not reach their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year. (Policy approved Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, after the rule book went to print. Provincial offices informed & web site updated.)**

Midget Girls 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday during the current calendar year.

Junior 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday during the current calendar year.

Canada Games 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year.

Canada Cup 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year. NF, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, and MB may bring two players who do not reach their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday during the current calendar year.

Senior Men - Open classification.

Senior Women – Open classification.

Female players can play in Male events one calendar year older than the male ages stated above.

### 2. Baseball Canada Rules Interpretation

**1.04** On page 13, delete "Lime", Keep chalk, and other white material.

**1.10** Bats constructed of alumni, fibreglass magnesium, or other approved manufacturer's materials will be permitted. For Baseball Canada Championships, at the **Bantam category, only Minus 3** (Minus 5 for bantam girls) (length-weight differential) bats with 2 5/8 maximum diameter barrel will be allowed.

For Baseball Canada Cup, (***Bantam Boys\*\*\*to only apply starting in 2013***), Midget, Junior, Canada Games and Senior Men (minus 5 for Senior Women) championship, only wood bats will be allowed. The bat must clearly show the manufacturer's ORIGINAL marking (length-weight differential). If not, the bat will be considered illegal.

**See Baseball Canada web site for up to date list of approved bats.**

Rule 6.06 (d) will apply with this addition as shown in bold above. This rule applies only to non-wooden bats.

**1.11** All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt. Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

**1.16** All players shall wear double earflap helmets while at bat, in the on-deck circle and on the base-paths in all age categories. Chinstraps on batting helmets are to be mandatory for Pee Wee category and lower.

**1.17** The C.F.A.B. rules require catchers in all age categories to wear a protective helmet and mask while catching. NOTE: This includes practice and warm-up situations such as the bullpen or between innings. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm-up situations. Throat protectors are to be mandatory for all catchers and umpires. Extension masks are acceptable provided that the throat area is adequately covered in conjunction with the chest protector.

**1.18** It is recommended that all players wear a protector cup (or Jill straps for females).

**3.02** The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender from the game. In addition, the pitcher may be subject to further penalties following investigation by the Baseball Canada Rep. For rules in regard to a pitcher defacing the ball, see Rules 8.02 (a) (2) through (6).

**4.06.1** THAT the use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, umpires etc.) be prohibited at all competitions sanctioned by Baseball Canada, PENALTY: Automatic ejection from the game.

**6.05** Contact Rule: Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has already scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared safe).

B. Contact shall be considered malicious if: the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or there is intent to injure.

C. Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. The Umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable whether the runner was trying to reach the base or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. IF the runner a) could have avoided the fielder and reached the base, or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner is out even if the fielder loses the possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other runners shall return to the last base legally occupied by them at the time of intent to contact. If the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base. IF the collision is flagrant, the runner is called out and ejected. The ball is declared dead. If the defensive player blocks the base path clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction is called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball is signaled. If the runner collides flagrantly, he/she shall be declared safe due to obstruction but shall be ejected. The ball is dead.

**6.10** The designated hitter may be used in any exhibition play, league play, play-offs, tournaments, and championships in the midget, junior, senior and Baseball Canada Cup.

8.02 (a) 2 through 6: The pitcher shall be ejected immediately from the game and may be subject to further penalties following investigation by the Baseball Canada Rep.

**8.06 (b)** "A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position.

The pitcher once removed from the mound as a result of 8.06 (b) as stated above, although retained in the game, may not be back as a pitcher in that same game.

## 11.00 MINOR DIVISIONAL PLAY

### RULES GOVERNING MOSQUITO DIVISION

#### **1.0 - Playing Field: Dimensions, Equipment**

**1.04** The playing field shall conform to the following measurements:

- (a) The distance between all bases shall be sixty (60) feet.
- (b) The distance between the point of home base and the front side of the pitcher's plate shall be forty-four (44) feet
- (c) The batter's box shall be rectangular in shape, the size being 6 ft. x 3 ft. and shall extend to the front from the centre of home plate, 3 ft. and an equal distance of 3 ft to the rear. The inside line shall be four (4) inches from the plate.
- (d) The pitcher's mound shall be raised to a gradual slope. At a height of 6 inches above the levels of the base paths. Optional for league play but it is mandatory for all Inter-Provincial play.
- (e) The coaches' box shall be 8 x 12 feet and not closer than ten (10) feet to the base- path.
- (f) The backstop (behind home plate) shall NOT be less than 25 feet nor MORE than 40 feet from home plate.
- (g) The following outfield fence distances are recommended: Left and right field foul line (180 feet min., suggested 200 feet) ... (Centre field 200 feet min., suggested 225 feet).

**1.10** THE BAT: The bat shall be round and made entirely of wood or approved material ... it shall NOT be more than thirty-two (32) inches in length, nor more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter at its thickest part. Bats may be taped to a distance not exceeding sixteen (16) inches from the handle.

**See Baseball Canada web site for up to date list of approved bats.**

**1.11** SHOES: Shoes with metal cleats or "spikes" are prohibited. Rubber molded cleats on running shoes are permitted.

Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

**3.03** All players are registered on the offensive line up and each one hits at his turn:

- (a) When a player arrives during the game, he is inserted in the last spot on the batting order. When a player leaves during the game, he is removed from the batting order. No automatic out is counted.
- (b) If a player cannot complete his turn at bat, the following batter will replace him with the same count. The replaced player can be reinserted in the game.

- (c) If a player cannot complete his presence on bases, he is replaced with the last recorded out. The replaced player can be reinserted in the game.

An offensive inning ends when three outs are recorded or when the offensive team scores five runs. If there is a homerun outside the playing field limits (above the fence), the team will be awarded all runs even if total runs go over the inning limit. However, there is no run limit during the last inning.

#### **Game re-entry**

Game re-entry is allowed, meaning that any player can be replaced in his defensive role and return at any time to any position, except for the pitcher's position, if the player has already pitched.

#### **Playing equity**

A player must be registered on the starting defensive lineup when he is present, at least one game out of two. An equitable usage of the players is recommended (i.e. If in 2 games a team plays 12 innings in defense, a player should play a minimum of 6 innings over these two games).

### **4.00 - Starting and Ending a Game**

- 4.10** All games are of six innings to be completed, if time and weather permits. However, three and a half (3½) innings constitute a regulation game if the home team has more runs than the visiting team.

### **6.00 - The Batter**

- 6.09** (b) The batter cannot become a runner on a catcher's miss of a third strike. The third Strike, either called or swinging does NOT have to be caught by the catcher. The batter is AUTOMATICALLY RETIRED... however, the ball is alive and in play.
- 6.10** The designated hitter rule is not permitted in this age category.

### **7.00 - (The Runner) Special Regulations Governing Lead-offs in Mosquito Division**

**For Mosquito low tier division only:**

- 7.00** (a) No runner can leave his base before the ball crosses home plate or is hit. If there is a violation, the runner is returned to his base and the ball is dead. When the pitcher receives the ball and takes position on the rubber and the catcher is in his position, all runners must return to the base they were occupying. For Mosquito low tier division only, the stealing of bases is not allowed.
- (b) The runner at 3<sup>rd</sup> base can reach home plate only if the ball is hit or because he is forced to advance. If there is a violation, the runner is returned to his base.
- (c) No bunts are allowed. If there is a violation, the ball is dead and a strike is called on the batter. On a bunt attempt on a third strike, the ball is dead and the batter is allowed to continue his at-bat.
- (d) For mosquito low tier division only, a base on balls is not allowed. After four (4) balls, an offensive team coach takes position on the mound, on the Mosquito pitching rubber and pitch from above the shoulder for a maximum of three (3) additional pitches, independent of the count on the batter after which, the batter is called out. The strike count is carried on, the player is called out if he swings at a third strike. The player cannot be called out on a foul ball.

- **If the coach is hit by a batted ball, the ball is declared dead and the batter is awarded first base. The runners advance if forced.**
- **If the batter is hit by a pitch thrown by the coach, the ball is dead, the pitch is declared erratic and is not counted. The player must continue his at-bat.**

- 7.00**
- (a) When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's rubber with the ball in his possession PREPARATORY TO THE PITCHING ACT and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the pitching action, base runners SHALL NOT leave their bases UNTIL THE PITCHED BALL HAS REACHED THE BATTER.
- (b) When a base runner DOES leave his base BEFORE the pitch has reached the batter and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner is permitted to continue. If a play is made on him and he is tagged out... the OUT will stand. If, however, he reaches a base safely, "TIME" is called and he is returned to the base he occupied before the pitch was made... and NO OUT shall result.
- (c) When a base-runner leaves his base before the pitched balls has reached the batter and the batter hits the ball and the runner shall return to his original base (if the batter is retired on a fly ball or any other play) OR... he must return to an unoccupied base nearest the one he left depending on the advance of the batter... who in this case shall NOT advance beyond the first base on a single... second base on a double... or third on a triple.
- (d) When any base-runner leaves his base before the pitched ball has reached the batter, and the batter hits or bunts the ball to an infielder, who in the judgment of the umpire, could have with reasonable effort effected an out on the runner had the violation not occurred... NO RUNNER shall be allowed to score or advance (unless forced) and all runners shall remain. If three (3) runners are on base and the batter reaches first base safely on a similar action to an infielder, and ANY runner violates the leadoff rule... SUCH RUNNER SHALL BE DECLARED OUT IN THIS INSTANCE.
- (e) In the event that more than one runner is simultaneously adjudged to have violated the leadoff rule... The violating runner CLOSEST to scoring shall be declared out. Exception: If at the conclusion of play there is an open BASE... sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) will apply.
- (f) THE VIOLATION OF ONE BASE RUNNER SHALL AFFECT ALL OTHER BASE RUNNERS.
- (g) **When a team has a lead of five or more runs, the runner (s) of this team can reach the following base only if the ball is hit or if he is forced to advance. If the runner reaches the next base, he is returned to his base and the ball is dead.**

**Case Example of Lead-Off Infractions:**

- (1) Runner on first leaves too soon... batter reaches first on a single... RUNNER can go no further than second.
- (2) Runners on second and third, either leaves too soon... batter singles... RUNNERS MUST return to their bases.
- (3) Runners on first and third, either leave too soon... batter hits a double. Runner on third would score... runner from first cannot proceed beyond third base.
- (4) All runners on base (if either leaves too soon) will be permitted to score if the batter hits a clean triple or home run.
- (5) Bases full... runner on third leaves too soon, batter hits or bunts the ball to an infielder which, in the judgment of the umpire, should have resulted in an out if the violation had not occurred...

Runner violating is declared OUT... advance runners... placing batter-runner on first... In the event, on this same situation an out is made at either first, second or third... the runner scoring (not allowed) will return to third... other runners returned.

**NOTE:** Field umpires must assume the responsibility of indicating a leadoff infraction by dropping a signal-flag (or handkerchief) upon detection of the offence.

### **RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in MOSQUITO DIVISION**

Refer to page 93.

### **RULES GOVERNING PEE WEE DIVISION**

#### **1.0 - Playing Field: Dimensions, Equipment**

- 1.04** The playing field shall conform to the following measurements:
- (a) The distance between all bases shall be seventy (70) feet.
  - (b) The distance between the point of home base and the front side of the pitcher's plate shall be forty-eight (48) feet.
  - (c) The pitcher's mound shall be raised to a gradual slope. To a height of 6 inches above the levels of the base-paths. Optional for league play but is mandatory for all Inter-Provincial play.
  - (d) The coaches' boxes shall be 8 x 12 feet and NOT closer than 10 feet from the base paths.
  - (e) The backstop (behind) home plate shall NOT be less than 35 feet and no more than 45 feet from home plate.  
NOTE: It is recommended that the fence-line to the base-path distance be twenty-five (25) feet.
  - (f) The following outfield fence distances are recommended: Left and Right foul lines (200-ft. min., suggested 225 ft.). Centre field (225-ft. min., suggested 260 ft.).

**1.10** THE BAT: See **Baseball Canada web site for up to date list of approved bats.**

**1.11** SHOES: Shoes with metal cleats or "spikes" are prohibited. Rubber molded cleats on running shoes are permitted.

**1.11** Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

**3.03** Any starting player may be substituted for and returned to the game, one time only. He/she must return to his/her original place in the batting order. Any pitcher, if removed from the game may return, but may not pitch. Any further substitutions do not jeopardize the right of re-entry for the original/starting player. Any starting player returned to the game may pitch if he/she has not previously assumed that position.

#### **4.00 - Starting and Ending a Game**

**4.10** The number of innings prescribed for Pee Wee division is seven (7) innings.  
NOTE: See general baseball rules re: ending a game.

#### **6.00 - The Batter**

**6.10** The Designated hitter rule is not permitted in this age category.

#### **7.00 - The Runner**



ALL RUNNERS ARE PERMITTED TO LEAD - OFF. All base-runners are governed by standards of regulation baseball on all base-running actions.

**RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in  
PEE WEE DIVISION**

Refer to page 93.

**RULES GOVERNING BANTAM BOYS AND GIRLS DIVISION**

**1.0 - Playing Field: Dimensions, Equipment**

**1.04** The playing field shall conform to the following measurements:

- (a) The distance between all bases shall be eighty (80) feet.
- (b) The distance between the point of home base and the front side of the pitcher's plate shall be fifty-four (54) ft.
- (c) The pitcher's mound shall be raised to a gradual slope. To a height of 8 inches above the levels of the base-paths. Optional for league play but is mandatory for all Inter-Provincial play.
- (d) The coaches' boxes shall be 8 x 16 ft. and NOT closer than 10 ft. from the base-paths.
- (e) The backstop (behind home plate) shall NOT BE LESS THAN 40 ft. and no more than 50 ft. from home plate.
- (f) The following outfield fence distances are recommended: Left and Right foul lines (245 ft. min., suggested 270 ft.)...Centre field (280 ft. min., suggested 300 ft.)

**1.10** THE BAT: (\*\*\*to apply starting in 2013) See Baseball Canada web site for up to date list of approved bats. Bantam Boys only wood bats will be allowed.

**1.11** Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

**3.03** Any starting player may be substituted for and returned to the game, one time only. He/she must return to his/her original place in the batting order. Any pitcher, if removed from the game may return, but may not pitch. Any further substitutions do not jeopardize the right of re-entry for the original/starting player. Any starting player returned to the game may pitch if he/she has not previously assumed that position.

**4.00 - Starting and Ending a Game**

**4.10** The number on innings prescribed for Bantam Division is seven (7) innings. NOTE: See general baseball rule re: ending a game.

**6.00 - The Batter**

**6.10** The designated hitter rule is not permitted in this age category.

**RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in  
BANTAM (Boys & Girls) DIVISION**

Refer to page 93.

**RULES GOVERNING MIDGET DIVISION**

**RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in  
MIDGET DIVISION**

Refer to page 93.

**RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in  
MOSQUITO, PEE WEE, BANTAM (Boys & Girls),  
and MIDGET DIVISION**

Rules Governing the Pitcher

(Exhibition Play, League Play, Play-Off's, Tournaments, and Championships)

- 8.01 (1) Any player on the team is eligible to pitch, and there are no restrictions to the number of pitchers a manager may use in a game.
- (2) Pitchers shall be permitted to have 2 appearances in the same calendar day. If a pitcher requires a rest following 1<sup>st</sup> appearance, they cannot return in the same calendar day.
- (3) Pitcher cannot pitch 3 consecutive days unless a pitcher's first 2 days combined does not exceed:  
Mosquito:25 Pee Wee:30 Bantam Boys/Girls:35 Midget:40  
If pitcher's day 1 + day 2 exceeds figure above for their division, they require at least 1 days rest.  
Pitcher cannot pitch 4 consecutive days. One (1) days rest is needed.
- (4) Pitchers and managers shall follow the following guidelines:

Mosquito (9-11)	Pee Wee (12-13)	Bantam Boys/Girls (14-15)	Midget (16-18)	Rest required
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	4 days
75	85	95	105	Maximum

- (5) The official scorekeeper will calculate the total pitches thrown for that calendar day and determine the required rest starting the next calendar day. Athletes must not exceed the maximum pitch count total for that day.
- (6) Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.
- (7) Pitchers will be permitted to finish the batter if his or her maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day.
- (8) Intentional Walks will be included in Pitch Count totals.
- (9) Required Rest shall be defined in "Days" starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.
- (10) If a game continues past 12:01am, those pitches are counted as if pitched prior to midnight. If a game is suspended, when it resumes it is defined as a different day.
- (11) A pitcher who is removed from the mound during a game shall not be permitted to return to pitch in the same game, even if the pitcher is retained in the game at another position.
- (12) Any violation of any part of the pitch count rule, the result is the Head Coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.**

- 8.06 (c) The manager or coach may make a 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to the mound while the same batter in at bat in order to remove the pitcher.

## **IMPORANT PITCHING INFORMATION (ALL MINOR DIVISIONS)**

When the use of a pitcher who is ineligible or about to become ineligible is evident scorekeepers or other officials **MUST** notify the manager or coach of the offending team so that an opportunity for assignment correction may be immediately affected. In the event that a coach deliberately over pitches his pitcher, **the result is the Head Coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.**

## **INFORMATION ON COMPILING A PITCHER'S "OUT" RECORD**

An "OUT" is listed against a pitcher's record during HIS ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT ONLY. Although all runners who may be on base upon a pitcher's removal are chargeable to that pitcher in determining won or lost records... ALL OUTS ON THE SAID RUNNERS SHALL BE LISTED AND CHARGED TO THE PITCHING RECORD OF THE SUBSTITUTE PITCHER OF ACTION WHEN THE OUTS OCCUR.

NO PITCHER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY for exceeding the out limitations through: (a) a scorer's error in compiling records: or (b) should the limit be exceeded on a DOUBLE or TRIPLE play on the pitcher's last out.

NOTE: The extras OUT (S) as circumstances may provide in multiple play sequences ARE NOT CHARGEABLE TO ANY SUCCEEDING PITCHER. Scorers MUST NOTE the fact on the pitching records that extra out(s) over the maximum allowed were the results of a double or triple play action.

### **Baseball Canada Umpires Committee**

#### **Rule Interpretations / Case Studies**

#### **1) Obstruction before first base.**

Situation: On a fly ball to right field line and a runner on third the batter runner is obstructed on his way to first. The right fielder catches the ball and R3 tags up and scores.

Rule 7.06 a): When a batter-runner is obstructed before he touches first base, the ball is dead and runners shall advance, without liability to be put out, to the base they would have reached, in the umpires judgment; if there had been no obstruction.

Interpretation: Since the batter was out on the fly ball, and would not have reached first base safely, the batter shall be ruled out and the play stands with no reference to the obstruction.

#### **2) Runner stealing on ball four:**

Situation: With a runner on first, with a 3-1 count on the batter, the runner attempts to steal second on the pitch, and the umpire calls the runner out. Ball four was called on the pitch. The runner, because of being called out, is now off the base is tagged again.

Interpretation: Because the runner was entitled to second base on ball four, and is called out in error, the umpire shall call time, and place the runner back at second.

#### **3) Multiple substitutions involving the DH**

Situation: The pitcher is removed from the mound and is now playing short stop, and the new pitcher enters the game from the bullpen.

Rule: 6.10 states that the game pitcher can only pinch hit (bat) for the DH. Which means the new pitcher would have to bat in the batting position that was occupied by the DH.

Interpretation: This is a multiple substitution and the manager can choose where he wants the players to bat. If the manager does not specify, the new pitcher will bat in the batting position that was occupied by the DH.

#### **4) Obstruction with continuous action**

Situation: Bases loaded, the batter doubles and R3 and R2 score. R1 is obstructed rounding third base and continues home and is thrown out at home. The batter, on the throw to the plate, attempts to go to third base and is called out.

Rule 7.06 b) If no play is being made on the obstructed runner (at the time of the obstruction) the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call time and expose such penalties. In the above situation, R1 would be ruled safe on the obstruction and the batter would be ruled out.

Interpretation: On an obstruction play, the ball becomes dead when the play is made on the obstructed runner, therefore, when the tag is made at the plate, time is called and the runner is called safe on the obstruction, and the batter returns to second.

#### **5) Balk followed by a throw**

Situation: R1 is stealing. The pitcher balks while throwing to first. The first baseman catches and throws the ball to the shortstop, who tags R1 as he over slides second base.

Rule 8.05 penalty. The ball is dead and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out unless all runners advance at least one base in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk.

Interpretation: A balk is indicated, and since the first baseman caught the ball, (not a wild throw as indicated under "penalty approved ruling"), time is called and the runner is awarded second base.

#### **6) Catcher's Interference with R3 stealing home**

Situation: 1 out, with runners at second and third. R3 attempts to steal home, R2 remains at second. The catcher interferes with the batter and the pitch is fouled off.

Rule 6.08 c). If a catcher interferes with the batter, the batter is awarded first base. If, on such interference a runner trying to score on a steal or squeeze from third, the ball is dead and the runner on third scores and the batter is awarded first base. Runners not attempting to steal or not forced to advance remain at the base they occupied at the time of the interference.

Rule 7.07. If with a runner on third base and trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal, the catcher steps on or in front of home plate without possession of the ball, or touches the batter or his bat, the pitcher shall be charged with a balk and the batter shall be awarded first base on the interference and the ball is dead.

Interpretation: The balk is enforced. All runners advance one base, and the batter is awarded first base on the catcher's interference.

#### **6) Plays / Attempted Plays**

Interpretation: A play or an attempted play shall be considered as one of the five following situations:

- Tag or attempted tag of a runner
- Tag or attempted tag of a base
- Throw from another fielder in an attempt to get an out
- Rundown
- Balk

#### **7) Player Manager and visits to the mound**

Interpretation: A player manager is the person who is designated by his team and is recognized under the roster requirements.

- 1) A player (or player coach) may visit a pitcher as permitted by the umpire whether or not time has been called. This would not be considered a trip to the mound.
- 2) A player manager who leaves his position to talk to his pitcher, whether or not time is called, is subject to the same rules provisions as a non playing manager. Therefore, a trip would be charged to the pitcher.

**8) Ball Going into Player's Uniform****Existing Rule 5.09(g), 7.05(f), 7.05(g), 7.05(h), 7.05(i)**

If a batted or thrown ball inadvertently goes inside a player or coach's uniform (or lodges in the catcher's face mask or paraphernalia), the umpire shall call "Time." The umpire will place all runners, including the batter-runner, in such a manner that in the umpire's judgment, will nullify the action of the ball going out of play. In no circumstance may any outs be recorded on such a play.

This does not apply to situations where a batted or thrown ball lodges in a fielder's glove. In that case, the ball is alive and in play. A fielder may legally throw the glove with the live ball lodged in the glove. Any fielder in possession of the glove containing the lodged ball is considered in possession of the ball for the purpose of the Rules.

**9) Backswing Hits the Catcher****Existing Rule 6.06(c)**

If a batter strikes at a ball and misses and in the umpire's judgment unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball in the back of the batter on the follow-through or backswing while in the batter is still in the batter's box, it shall be called a strike only, not interference. The ball will be dead, however, and no runner shall advance on the play. If this infraction should occur in a situation where the catcher's initial throw directly retires a runner despite this infraction, the play stands the same as if no violation occurred. If this infraction occurs in a situation where a batter would normally become a runner because of a third strike not caught, the ball shall be dead and the batter declared out.

This interpretation does not apply to a situation where a batter is attempting to bunt and decides to pull his / her bat backwards and not attempt to strike the ball. This situation is not considered a follow-through or backswing as the batter is in full control of his / her bat. Should the batter interfere with the catcher by pulling his / her bat backwards and there is no play being made on a runner, "Time" shall be called but no interference. This does not give the batter the license to pull his back intentionally interfering with the catcher. If the catcher is making an attempt to retire a runner when the batter pulls his / her bat backwards, interference should be called on the batter and no runners may advance. If the catcher's first throw retires the runner attempting to advance, then the interference shall be disregarded

**THE OFFENSE****10) 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.

**11) 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****12) 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.

### **13) 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**

### **14) 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.

### **15) 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.

### **16) 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.

### **17) 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.

### **18) 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.

### **19) 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.

### **20) 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**

### **21) 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.

### **22) 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.

### **23) 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.