

Summary of Pertinent Major League Baseball Rule Changes

(Effective for the 2013 American Legion Baseball Season)

This summary is provided as a courtesy only. As a Manager / Coach, It is your responsibility to know and understand the rules. The intent of the Minnesota and National Rule Books is to only highlight the exceptions to Major League Baseball rules that are applicable to American Legion Baseball. Official Major League Baseball rules are available on-line at http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreword.jsp -- a link is also available on the MN Legion Baseball web page. Teams may also order a printed copy of the Official Rules of Major League Baseball through National, or through Triumph Books; again, a link to these publications is available on the MN Legion Baseball web page.

The Official MLB Playing Rules Committee made the following changes that will be in effect for the 2013 season (language additions are underlined):

- Rule 1.15(a) was amended to clarify legal colors for fielding gloves. ("No fielder, regardless of position, may use a fielding glove that falls within a PANTONE® color set lighter than the current 14-series.")
- Rule 2.00 (Infield Fly). The comment was amended to include the situation when interference occurs during an Infield Fly. ("If interference is called during an Infield Fly, the ball remains alive until it is determined whether the ball is fair or foul. If fair, both the runner who interfered with the fielder and the batter are out. If foul, even if caught, the runner is out and the batter returns to bat.")
- Rule 2.00 (Interference (a) Comment) was amended to include the situation where an intervening play occurs at home plate prior to the batter-runner being declared out for interference out of the three-foot lane. ("In the event the batter-runner has not reached first base, all runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch; provided, however, if during an intervening play at the plate with less than two outs a runner scores, and then the batter-runner is called out for interference outside the three-foot lane, the runner is safe and the run shall count.")
- Rule 2.00 (Interference) was amended to delete the last sentence (at the end of the section covering Interference), "~~On any interference the ball is dead.~~" -- in order to account for cases where interference does not result in an immediate dead ball (e.g., batter's interference, catcher's interference, etc.)
- Rule 3.05(d) was amended to reflect the situation in which the pitcher is at bat or on base when the inning ends -- and the associated requirements of such pitcher for resuming pitching the next half-inning. ("(d) If a pitcher who is already in the game crosses the foul line on his way to take his place on the pitcher's plate to start an inning, he shall pitch to the first batter until such batter is put out or reaches first base, unless the batter is substituted for, or the pitcher sustains an injury or illness which, in the judgment of the umpire-in-chief, incapacitates him from pitching. If the pitcher ends the previous inning on base or at bat and does not return to the dugout after the inning is completed, the pitcher is not required to pitch to the first batter of the inning until he makes contact with the pitcher's plate to begin his warm-up pitches.")
- Rule 6.05(h) was amended to include foul territory, in cases when a batter is called out for throwing his bat and interfering with a fielder attempting to make a play. ("If a whole bat is thrown into fair or foul territory and interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play, interference shall be called, whether intentional or not.")
- Rule 6.06(c) comment was amended to delete the phrase "before the catcher has securely held the ball," in cases when the batter's swing (follow-through) unintentionally strikes the catcher. ("If a batter strikes at a ball and misses and swings so hard he carries the bat all the way around and, in the umpire's judgment, unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball in back of him on the backswing before the catcher has securely held the ball, it shall be called a strike only (not interference). The ball will be dead, however, and no runner shall advance on the play.")

- Rule (and Comment) 7.09(a) was amended to clarify situations when a batter is called out for hindering the catcher after a dropped third strike. ("It is interference by a batter or a runner when (a) After a third strike he clearly hinders the catcher in his attempt to field the ball. Such batter-runner is out, the ball is dead, and all other runners return to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch." Rule 7.09(a) Comment was added: "If the pitched ball deflects off the catcher or umpire and subsequently touches the batter-runner, it is not considered interference unless, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter-runner clearly hinders the catcher in his attempt to field the ball.")
- The penalty for violation of Rule 8.02(a)(1) -- Hand-to-Mouth-Rule -- was amended. ("PENALTY: For violation of this part of this rule the umpires shall immediately remove the ball from play and issue a warning to the pitcher. Any subsequent violation shall be called a ball.") Previously, the umpire immediately called a ball.
- **Rule 8.05(b) was amended, so that the pitcher, while in contact with the pitcher's rubber, is prohibited from faking a throw to third base. Penalty: Balk when runners are on base. ("If there is a runner, or runners, it is a balk when— (b) The pitcher, while touching his plate, feints a throw to first or third base and fails to complete the throw;"**

The associated Comment was amended to be in agreement: "A pitcher is to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base and is required to throw (except to second base) because he steps. It is a balk if, with runners on first and third, the pitcher steps toward third and does not throw, merely to bluff the runner back to third; then seeing the runner on first start for second, turn and step toward and throw to first base. It is legal for a pitcher to feint a throw to second base."

- Rule 8.05(k) was amended to include the situation of the ball slipping or falling out of the pitcher's hand or glove, while the pitcher is in contact with the rubber, as a balk. ("If there is a runner, or runners, it is a balk when -- (k) The pitcher, while touching his plate, accidentally or intentionally has the ball slip or fall out of his hand or glove;")