

## Questions

1. With a 0-2 count, the batter fouls a pitch sharp and direct to the catcher's mitt and then deflects off of his catcher's mask where it is then caught by the pitcher. The umpire calls the batter out on the foul tip. **True or False.**
2. The batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who makes a bad throw to the first baseman with the ball rolling up the first baseman's arm and ends up being trapped against the first baseman's shoulder. In the meantime, the batter-runner crosses first base, the first baseman did not drop the ball but the umpire calls the batter-runner safe. **True or False.**
3. The third baseman is attempting to catch a high foul fly ball in the coach's box. The coach stands perfectly still and the third baseman comes in contact with the coach causing the third baseman to drop the ball. The umpire calls the ball foul. **True or False.**
4. The batter hits a home run over the fence. In rounding the bases, the batter-runner misses second base. After passing touching and passing third base, the coach yells to the runner to return and tag second base. In doing so the runner touches third base on the way back to second, the defensive team makes a proper appeal of the batter-runner missing second base. The umpire signals safe because the batter-runner retouched third on his/her way back to correct his/her base running mistake. **True or False.**
5. Bases full, two out, the batter hits a triple and three runs score. After the ball is returned to the infield the second baseman calls for the ball, steps on second base and appeals to the umpire claiming the batter had missed touching second base on his/her way to third base. The umpire up holds the appeal and declares the batter out for missing second base and allows the three runs to score. **True or False.**
6. If a batter hits ball a few inches in front of home plate, and when the batter drops his bat, it hits the ball, what is the rule?
7. Can the runner be called out for interfering with shortstop, even though the ball was already in the outfield?
8. In the Little League Baseball® Division, a batter walks, then runs to first base, rounds the base, and proceeds to entice the pitcher into throwing over to the first baseman. The pitcher, standing a few feet from the pitcher's plate, is holding the ball looking at the runner. This goes on for approximately 10 seconds before the runner returns to first base. Is this allowed?
9. Batter has a full count. Pitcher pitches the ball that hits in front of the plate and bounces into the catcher's mitt. Batter swings at the pitch. My question is, can the batter run or is that a catch?" **Note:** For the purposes of this question, **first base is unoccupied and there is one out.**

10. The batter begins his swing at the pitch and while doing so, realizes the ball is coming straight at him. He leans back to keep from getting hit; however, the ball does hit him in the chest, clearly out of the strike zone. During this entire action, he completes the swing. Is this a 'dead ball' with the batter being awarded first base or is this a 'dead ball' and called a strike?"
11. In a Senior Baseball game, the runner on second attempts to steal third as the pitcher delivers the ball to the batter. The pitcher commits a balk that is called by the umpire. The catcher catches the ball, and then immediately throws to third to attempt to retire the runner but his throw sails over the third baseman's head into left field, allowing the runner to score. Once the action has stopped the umpire calls time and sends the runner who scored back to third base. **Right or Wrong**
12. In the fifth inning, with a runner on second base and no outs, John, the number seven batter, inadvertently bats in the number three spot where Dan should have batted and hits a double scoring the runner from second base. Carl, the number four batter steps into the batter's box and takes a pitch for a strike. The defensive manager then requests time out and informs the umpire that they are batting out of order. The umpire checks his line up and agrees. The umpire calls Carl out, puts the runner back on second and removes John from second base. **Right or Wrong**
13. There are runners on first and third and two out. The batter hits a ground ball into the hole at shortstop but the shortstop has no play on the batter or runner from first base. The runner on third base scores and then the runner from first base decides to showboat and does a head first slide into second base. The umpire calls the runner from first out on the head first slide. The umpire scores the run from third because he says it is a timing play. **Right or Wrong**
14. In a Little League baseball game, the bases are loaded with two outs. The runner on second leaves the base before the pitched ball reaches the batter and the umpire drops the signal flag. The batter hits the ball into the gap and all the runners score before the batter-runner is thrown out at third base for the third out of the inning. **How many runs are allowed to score?**
15. The catcher in trying to catch a foul pop fly, has the ball go down between his chest protector and his uniform shirt. The catcher acquires possession of the ball before it can hit the ground and shows it to the umpire. The umpire calls the batter out. **Right or Wrong**
16. In the Little League® Baseball Major Division, there is a situation that has base runners on first and second, one out. The Batter swings and misses on a third strike and the ball passes the catcher. The Batter mistakenly begins running to first and, as a result, both runners advance to the next base. What is the ruling?

17. During their pregame inspections, the umpires discover that Joey's bat does not meet the specifications per Rule 1.10. The umpire ejects Joey from the game and limits the team to only one adult base coach for the game. **Right or Wrong.**
18. With runners on first and second base with less than two outs, the batter hits a declared infield fly that is coming down directly on second base. The runner on second base stands perfectly still, while maintaining contact with the base, so as to not interfere with the defensive player trying to catch the ball but the runner is hit by the infield fly. The defensive manager wants the runner on second called out for being hit by a fair batted ball and the batter called out on the infield fly. The umpire calls time and declares the batter out on the infield fly but allows the runners to remain on first and second. **Right or Wrong**
19. Runner on second base, two outs, and the batter hits a single to right field. The runner, from second, in trying to score, rounds third base and goes way out of the baseline from third to home and scores, just as the catcher is fielding the ball from the fielder. The defensive manager protests that the runner was out of the base line and should be called out and that no run be scored. Umpire allows the run to score. **Right or Wrong**
20. With runners on first and third base, and two outs, the batter hits a single to center field. The runner on third scores and the runner on first base is thrown out at third base for the third out of the inning. As the team is leaving the field, the defensive manager tells the second baseman, who has not left fair territory, to take the ball to second base and appeal to the umpire that the runner from first base do not touch second base on his way to third. The umpire up holds the appeal and calls the runner from first out for failing to touch second and declares that no run scores. **Right or Wrong**
21. In a Little League baseball game, the bases are loaded with two outs and a two ball, two strike count on the batter. The runner on first base leaves the base before the delivered pitch reaches the batter and the umpire drops the signal flag. The batter swings at the pitch which gets by the catcher. The batter and all the runners advance safely to the next base with the runner from third scoring. After the action has stopped, the umpire calls time and states that the runner on first left early and that since everyone advanced safely, that the runner from third cannot score but is just removed to the dugout. **Right or Wrong**
22. After the wrong batter works the count to 0-2, the offensive manager realizes the mistake and gets the proper batter up at bat.
23. Bases loaded, one out, or two outs, wrong batter steps into the box and strokes a triple; defense appeals, how many runs scored?
24. Bases loaded, no outs, ground ball to shortstop. Anticipating a double play, runner from second intentionally crashes into the shortstop and grabs him just as the shortstop is beginning his throw to second.

25. Runner on second base, one out. The batter hits a ball on the ground toward the hole. The third baseman charges in on the grass to try to cut it off as the shortstop breaks deep toward the hole while the runner is advancing. The ball gets past the third baseman without being touched by him and strikes the runner in the base path. The shortstop had a play on the ball.

## Answers

1. False – Rule 2.00 – Foul Tip – A foul tip can only be caught by the catcher.
2. True – Rule 2.00 – A Catch – The first baseman did not have secure possession in the hand or glove of the ball in flight before the batter-runner touched first base. It was a trapped ball.
3. False – Rule 7.11 – This is interference on the coach and the batter is called out. The coach must vacate any space needed by the fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball.
4. False – Rule 7.10 (b) Approved Ruling #2 – When the ball is dead no runner may return to touch a missed base after said runner has advanced to and touched a base beyond the missed base.
5. True – Rule 4.09 – This is a timing play as the out at second base on the appeal was not a force play.
6. According to Rule 6.05 (g), the batter is out when after hitting or bunting a fair ball, the bat hits the ball a second time, in fair territory. The ball is dead and no runner may advance.

If, however, the batter drops the bat, and the ball roles against the bat a second time, and in the umpire's judgment there was no intent to interfere, the ball remains alive. For most instances, we can hang our hat on this statement: Ball initiates second contact, ball is alive and in play. Bat initiates second contact call play dead and batter out, no one advances.

7. With a runner on second base, a ground ball is hit to shortstop, but the ball goes through the player's legs into outfield. The runner, advancing to third base brushes the shortstop. A fielder is protected while fielding a batted ball under 7.09 (j), which states in part ... "It is interference by a batter or runner when the runner fails to avoid the fielder who is fielding a batted ball..." so the question becomes, when is a player considered fielding a ball, and when is he not.

A fielder is considered as fielding a batted ball during his first effort at fielding the ball and also any second effort provided the batted ball remains within about a stride of the fielder. For example, a batted ball that hits off the chest of a shortstop and falls to the ground is still being fielded by that fielder provided the shortstop can legitimately reach the ball without taking more than one stride. If a runner were to make contact with that fielder, while reaching for the ball in his second effort, the ball should be ruled dead and the runner called out for interference under 7.09 (j).

However, if a batted ball is not fielded cleanly and is out of the fielder's reach after taking a stride, then 7.09 (j) no longer applies. In the scenario presented, the ball has passed through the legs of the shortstop and is in the outfield when the contact is made. Thus, it would be

inappropriate to rule the runner out for interference. Depending on how soon after the ball passed the fielder the contact with the runner occurred, the fielder could be called for obstruction as he is no longer fielding the ball and must be out of the way of the runner.

8. There is nothing in the Little League Baseball playing rules that prevents a runner from doing this. Until the pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball (reference Rule 7.13), the runner is at liberty to round first and stop or attempt to acquire second. Note that the catcher does not have to be squatting to receive a pitch; they can be standing. However, this is not the case in softball. If the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle, and is not making a play (a fake throw is considered a play), runners not in contact with their bases must immediately attempt to advance or return to base (reference Softball Rule 7.08 (a) (5) Note: 2). The penalty is the ball is dead, "No Pitch" is declared and the runner is out. Additionally, the eight-foot radius circle must be clearly marked.
9. First we recognize that this question addresses the **Little League/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball** and **Little League/Junior/Senior/Big League Softball** divisions. Reference Rule 6.09 (b): The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out.  
The key here is whether or not this is a catch. Let's reference Rule 2.00 – A Catch. A Catch is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground providing such fielder does not use the cap, protector, pocket or any other part of the uniform in getting possession. Referring back to Dwane's question, the pitcher pitched the ball and bounced it in front of the plate where the catcher then fielded it. According to Rule 2.00 – A Catch, this is not a catch because the catcher did not gain secure possession of the ball in flight before it touched the ground. As a result, the batter can attempt to advance to first base.
10. When determining the ruling on this play, we will reference rule 2.00 – A Strike and rule 6.08 (b). First let's define a strike.

**In 2.00 - Definitions:**

A **Strike** is a legal pitch which meets any of these conditions –

1. is struck at by the batter and is missed;
2. is not struck at, if any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone;
3. is fouled by the batter when there is less than two strikes;
4. is bunted foul (batter is out and ball is dead, if the batter bunts foul on the third strike);

5. touches the batter's person as the batter strikes at it (dead ball);
6. touches the batter in flight in the strike zone; or
7. becomes a foul tip (ball is live and in play).

Take note of sub-section (e). The definition of a strike, in part, states, "(if a legal pitch) touches the batter's person as the batter strikes at it (it is a dead ball)."

Now let's look at rule **6.08 (b)**: The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when –

**(b)** the batter is touched by a pitched ball which the batter is not attempting to hit unless (1) the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or (2) the batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball.

For this scenario, it is difficult to provide a definitive ruling because it is ultimately the umpire's judgment as to the intent of the batter. When making judgment rulings, it is important to quickly identify the rule or rules that pertain to the play (which we have done for this scenario), apply them to the specific situation, and make an efficient, informed decision. Whatever the decision, it is in the umpire's best interest to explain it using rulebook terminology. This is why having a working knowledge of the rules is so important.

11. **Right** – When a balk is called, it is a delayed dead ball. When the pitch was delivered it is still a live ball until the pitch is caught or hit by the batter. As soon as the catcher caught the pitch the ball became dead at that point. So all action after the catcher caught the ball is nullified. The umpire will call time as soon as the catcher caught the ball and enforce the balk penalty. Rule 8.05 Penalty.
12. **Wrong** – The team was batting out of order but once a pitch was thrown to Carl, John the improper batter then became the proper batter and all his actions were legalized, so no one can be called out and the run is allowed to score. The only problem now is that since John become the proper batter, after a pitch to Carl, the batter that now should be at bat is the number eight batter, Tony and he can replace Carl at any time without penalty before Carl completes the at bat. Rule 6.07 (c).

13. **Wrong** - Since the runner from first was forced to advance due to the batter becoming a runner, the out at second base is a force play whether the defense tags the base or the runner, the runner is out on an appeal for not touching the base or on a head first slide. So no runs can score when the third out of inning is a result of a force play. Rule 2.00 – Force Play; Rule 4.09 (a) Exception; Rule 7.08 (a) (4).
14. **None, Zero** – When one runner leaves early it jeopardizes all the runners, so normally after all action has ceased, the umpire will call time and return all the runners to as close to their original bases as possible. Since the batter-runner was thrown out at third base, leaving the bases empty, all the runners should have be returned to their time of pitch base. Since the out at third base was the third out of the inning, the teams will switch sides and no runs will be recorded. Rule 7.13 (b) Exception; Rule 7.13 Note 2.
15. **Wrong** - As soon as the pop fly went down between the chest protector and the uniform shirt it became a trapped ball and was dead at that point and cannot be secured for an out. It is just a foul ball. Rule 2.00 – Catch.
16. In this situation, reference Rule 6.05 (b) (2) which states: “A batter is out when a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out.” The batter in this situation is out by rule and the umpire will signal and vocalize, “Batter is out.” As for the runners, remember that the ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk. The runners would remain at second and third base, respectively. This rule is similar to an infield fly in that the batter is out, the ball is live, and runners may advance at the risk of that ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched.
17. **Wrong** – If the umpire discovers a bat in his/her pregame inspections that does not meet specifications, the only penalty is to remove the bat from the dugout, so that it cannot be used during the game. Rule 1.10; Rule 6.06 (d).
18. **Right** – The batter is out on the infield fly. The ball becomes dead as soon as it makes contact (touches) the runner on second. Since the runner had contact with the base when it touched him and he did not interfere with the defensive player, the runner is not out. Rule 2.00. Infield Fly; Rule 7.08 (f) Exception.

19. **Right** – The runner establishes his/her base line and can only be called out for being out of the baseline when the defense has the ball and is waiting to make a tag at which time the runner cannot go more than three feet out of his/her baseline to avoid the tag. Since the defensive player did not have possession and waiting to make the tag when the runner went wide around third there is no violation by the runner. Rule 7.08 (a) (1).
20. **Right** – Even though the third out of the inning was made on the runner at third base, the appeal, upheld by the umpire, of the runner failing to touch second base on his way to third takes precedent. Since the runner on first was forced to advance by the batter becoming a runner the out on the appeal is a force out and no runs can be allowed to score when the third out is the result of a force play. This is a situation where an umpire has to recognize an apparent fourth out. Rule 7.10 Note 1.
21. **Right** – When one runner leaves early it jeopardizes all runners. So since the ball (uncaught third strike) did not leave the infield, no run can be allowed to score and since the runner on third cannot be returned to third due to everyone advancing one base safely, no run can be allowed to score and there is no out recorded, the runner just returns to the dugout. Rule 6.05 (b) (2); Rule 7.13 (c).
22. As umpire, you should inform the proper batter he/she has a 0-2 count and then call “Play”. No other penalty is given.
23. With one out, umpire calls out correct batter and returns all runners to the base they occupied at time of hit, no runs scored; with two outs, the umpire calls out correct batter for the third out and no runs scored.
24. Runner from second is guilty of willfully and deliberately interfering with a fielder with the obvious intent to deprive the defense of the opportunity to make a double play. Runner from second is declared out and so is the batter-runner. Runners return to first and third.
25. Runner from second is out and the batter-runner is awarded first base. The ball passed by an infielder other than the pitcher before striking the runner. However, another fielder behind the runner was deprived of an opportunity to field the ball.