

2015 Interpretations

February 3, 2015

1. May artificial noise makers be used in NCAA competition? There is no provision prohibiting the use of these noise makers during the regular season. To prohibit these devices would be a conference decision. Artificial noisemakers are prohibited in post-season play.
2. 1-2b—foul poles: advertising may be placed on a foul pole. The advertising should be on the inside (fair side) of the foul pole and shall not be confusing for the umpire to render a decision on whether a batted ball is fair or foul.
3. 1-12—is the use of Baum bats in a contest legal? Yes, as long as the Baum bat is within the guidelines listed in Rule 1-12 for wood bats.
4. 1-14c & i, (1), (3), (4)—the placement of a conference or school's logo on the uniform shall be same size and shape that is recommended in Rule 1-14i. It shall not be in the shape of a baseball nor white or gray in color. It shall not be distracting to the hitter or be positioned in such a place that would be difficult for the hitter to pick up the release and thus be confusing to the hitter.
 - c. if a pitcher wears a helmet, it must have a nonglossy finish.
5. 2-26, A.R. 5—the length of a suspension for a pitcher is determined by the defensive position the player was listed at the time of his ejection. When ejected while listed as the pitcher or after having been removed as the pitcher and subsequently ejected, the player is governed by the four-game suspension penalty. If, after having been replaced as the pitcher and is moved to another defensive position and is subsequently ejected, his suspension is for only one game.
6. 5-2f, Electronic Equipment—Information gathered using electronic equipment may not be transmitted from the stands or areas behind home plate to the dugout.
7. 5-15a, (1,2,3)—when the head coach is ejected as a result of a routine argument that led to the ejection, there is no suspension. If the ejection is for one of the unsportsmanlike acts as listed in Rule -5-15a, 1), 2), 3), a one game suspension is appropriate. For A.R. 4) and 5) and b. the suspension is for two games.
8. 6-1d, (a)—a defensive player may catch a foul popup in the field of play and then step into a dead ball area. Without losing body control, the player may throw from a dead ball area if ground rules allow. Otherwise the player must reestablish himself in live ball territory before he can throw. In the player's attempt to throw from DBT, he drops the ball. Award two bases as a "thrown" ball went out of play. Example: R1 and R2, batter pops up in foul territory. After a legal catch, the fielder enters DBT and prepares to throw (allowed by pregame ground rule discussions) and as he pulls his arm back, drops the ball while still in DBT.

9. 7-11f, Exception 4—replace the words “alters the play” with this wording, “intentionally interferes with the play.”

Rationale: In the body of the rule, reference is made to “intentionally or unintentionally interferes with the catcher’s fielding or throwing . . .” this makes the wording consistent in the body of the rule with the wording in the **Exception**.

10. 7-11p, A.R. 1, A.R. 2—the rule was revised to include the statement “interferes with a fielder taking the throw.” This insertion in the rule was made to ensure that a fielder was in position to receive the throw. This eliminates running lane interference being called when the defense did not have any player in the vicinity of the base.

11. 8-5a—a *base runner assumes his lead off a base by going backwards toward the outfield grass. Is this base runner out of the base line?* No, the runner establishes his own base line. Once established and when a play is being made on him, he is governed by the rule that he cannot move more than three feet on either side of this direct line between the two bases or be guilty of running outside the base line and should be called out. This “skunk in the outfield” play is legal until he violates the three-foot restrictions.

12. 8-2g—speaks to a batted ball deflected by another fielder or by the pitcher; the concept of a runner being out when he is hit by a deflected ball does not apply even though another fielder has a chance to make a play on a ball. After a ball has been touched (deflected) by any infielder (including the pitcher), if the ball strikes a runner (unintentionally on the part of the runner) the ball is alive and in play even if another infielder may be in position to field the ball. Being in a position to field a ball is different than **making a play on the ball**. If a fielder is making a play on The ball and the runner interferes with the fielder, (even though the ball was deflected) the runner must avoid the fielder or he will be called out. A fielder making a play on a batted ball takes priority.

The reasoning is that a runner cannot be expected to avoid a deflected ball while running and should not; therefore, be called out for being struck by the deflection. A runner may still be guilty of interference, if he deliberately deflects the ball or he allows it to strike him when he could have reasonably avoided it.

13. 8-6b (9) A.R.; 8-5j, EX—is the order in which appeals are taken important?
Yes, with only one out and where one of the appeals is at first base, the order is important if a runner is scoring.

If a base running error occurs before a following runner is put out, the force will remain in effect. PLAY: Bases loaded, one out, the batter hits what appears to be a double but is thrown out at second (two outs). On appeal, R2 is called out for missing third. The error at third occurred before the out at second so the force remained in effect. Runs do not count, OBR Wendelstedt, Interpretation.

When there are two outs, and the defense appeals two runners, they get to choose the most advantageous out. Order does not matter. (8-6b, (9), A.R.

14. 9-1a—May a LHP lift his stride leg straight up without breaking the plane of the back edge of the pitcher's plate and turn inside and throw to second base in an attempt to retire a runner from first base who is stealing on the movement?

A pitcher may throw to an unoccupied base in an attempt to retire an advancing runner. As long as the motion is one continuous motion, it is legal. If the pitcher stops at the top (where his lower leg and thigh make a 90-degree angle) before he turns inside, a balk shall be called. The stopping and restarting constitute two moves and not one continuous motion.

A balk would also be called if the runner from first bluffs and goes back to first and the pitcher follows thru with the throw to second.

15. 9-2e (Add an Approved Ruling) A.R. 1—a pitcher may use the rosin bag to apply rosin to his bare hand or hands. The ball may not be dusted with the rosin bag. Neither shall the pitcher or any player apply rosin from the rosin bag to his glove or to any part of their uniforms. Should this happen and, in the judgment of the umpire, the pitcher did not intend to alter the characteristics of a pitch, he may warn the pitcher. Should the pitcher continue violating the rule the umpire should then eject the pitcher.

A pitcher shall not place the rosin bag into his glove with intent to deceive a runner. Should the pitcher do so, the umpire will call a balk.

16. 9-3b—even though the rule reads, “must step ‘directly’ with a runner on third” can the pitcher stride at a 45-degree angle toward the third base foul line and throw or fake a throw to third? Yes, “directly” is interpreted the same as it is for a left-handed pitcher on his step to pick-off a runner at first base.