

Intentional Dropped Fly Ball

K. When an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball, including a line drive or a bunt, which can be caught with ordinary effort with first, first and second, first and third or first, second and third bases occupied with fewer than two outs.

Effect:

1. The ball is dead.
2. The batter-runner is out.
3. Runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
4. If an infield fly is ruled, it has precedence over an intentionally dropped ball.

5.

Intentional Dropped Fly Ball purpose

What is the purpose of this rule?

The purpose is to **PROTECT** the offense. It prevents the defense getting a “cheap” double play because the runners have to wait for the ball to be touched to leave the base.

The fielder **MUST touch** or **guide** the ball to the ground.

If the fielder just watches the ball fall to the ground, it does not meet the definition of an intentional dropped fly ball

For example:

- a. With a runner on 1st, a fly ball is hit toward the 2nd baseman who watches the ball hit the ground in front of him. Not intentional
- b. With a runner on 1st, a line drive is hit toward the 2nd baseman who uses her glove to direct the ball to the ground. Intentional.

Mechanic for an Intentional Dropped Fly Ball

When you have an intentionally dropped fly ball, immediately call “**DEAD BALL**”. Extend your arms above your head (similar to calling a fly ball).

Point at the player that committed the act and announce “**That’s intentional**” The base umpire will send any runners from 1st and/or 2nd base back to their last legally acquired base.

The plate umpire, if there is a runner on 3rd base that advances, send the runner back to 3rd base.