



RULES DIFFERENCES

There are some rules differences from BASEBALL Pro Rules used in High School. Some of the major differences are as follows:

Rule 6.1 Regarding Pitcher.

BALK = Immediate dead ball.

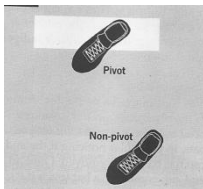
- It is umpire judgment whether or not anything on the pitcher's hands, wrists or arms is distracting to the batter.
PENALTY: Correct before next pitch.
- Wearing or placing tape, bandages or other foreign material (other than rosin) on the fingers or palm of HIS PITCHING hand that could come in contact with the ball must be removed.
PENALTY: Correct before next pitch.
- A pitcher may bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth within the dirt area of the mound as long as he distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before it touches the ball.
PENALTY: A 'ball' shall be called each time a pitcher violates this rule.
- A pitcher may not be within approximately **five feet of the pitcher's plate** without having the ball. **PENALTY:** runners on, balk.
- The starting pitchers may warm up by using not more than eight throws, completed in one minute (timed from the first throw). When a pitcher is replaced during an inning or prior to an inning, the relief pitcher may not use more than eight throws. **At the beginning of each subsequent inning, the pitcher may warm up by using not more than five throws, completed in one minute (timed from the third out of the previous half- inning).**
- **'Trips to the mound' is not High School terminology;** 'charged conference' is. Each team while on defense may be granted not more than three charged conferences during a seven-inning game **TO CONFER WITH ANY DEFENSIVE PLAYER, not just the pitcher.**
- A conference is not charged when the pitcher is removed.
- After three charged conferences in a seven-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for duration of the game.
THE PITCHER DOES NOT HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME.

WIND-UP POSITION

- Must step off with pivot foot before throwing to a base. He cannot throw to a base while in contact with the rubber in the wind-up position. **PENALTY:** balk.
(Wind-up position, continued next page)

For clarification what is legal & illegal movements getting on or once on the rubber; actions are:

- ❖ May bring both hands together and stop **AS HE IS STEPPING ON THE RUBBER.**
- ❖ May as he steps on the rubber have one hand in front of him and have the other arm down at his side, then put his hands together and pause.
- ❖ **MAY NOT BE ON THE RUBBER WITH BOTH ARMS AT HIS SIDE, THEN BRING HANDS TOGETHER AND STOP**, with runner(s) on it is a **BALK!**
- ❖ During delivery, he may lift his non-pivot foot in a step forward, a step sideways, or in a step backward and a step forward, but he shall not otherwise lift either foot.



For the wind-up position, the pic displays an **ILLEGAL** stance. The pitcher's non-pivot foot shall be in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate. Pic shows exaggerated illegal stance.

SET POSITION

With runner(s) on it is a balk if:

- **Comes set with his entire glove above his chin.**
6.1.3 He shall come to a complete and discernible stop (a change of direction is not considered an acceptable stop) with the ball in both hands in front of the body and **his glove at or below his chin.**
NOTE: As long as **any part** of the glove is at his chin it is considered legal. He **does not** have to have the entire glove below his chin.

Rule 1.1.4 At the time of the pitch, all fielders shall be on fair ground except the catcher who shall be in the catcher's box. **A fielder is in fair ground when at least one foot is touching fair ground.**

Rules 2.21.1 & 2.22.1 Interference & Obstruction may be **verbal** as well as physical.
Obstruction - Is always a **delayed dead ball.**

Rule 2-22-3 – Fielders without possession of the ball will not be allowed to deny access to the base that a runner is attempting to achieve. **PENALTY: Obstruction.**
ACCESS allowed must be at least **50%** of base or plate.

Rule 2.4.3 Intentional Base on Balls

Pitches do not have to be thrown. Ball declared dead before making the award. The coach or catcher may call time and request the award. **There may be a count on the batter** and the request still be granted. **THIS IS NOW ALSO A MLB RULE.**

Rule 3.1.3 All starters may re-enter once, including the starting D/H.

Rule 3.1.4 Designated Hitter (must be declared before game starts) ***See pg. 5 for Pitcher/DH Rule.

- May bat for any player. Starting DH is considered a 'starter'; has re-entry status.
- A substitution for the DH then becomes the new DH.
- D/H and player he's batting for are locked into the batting order.
- If the player the D/H is batting for comes in and bats, the role of D/H is lost.
If the D/H plays defensively the role of D/H is lost.
- D/H and player batting for MAY NOT play defensively or be in the line-up at the same time.

Rules 3.3.1.a & 2.22.2 Fake Tag

Is obstruction. Team warning. Next offender of warned team is ejected.

Rule 3.3.1g5 Unsportsmanlike act.

To be in live ball territory (excluding team's bullpen area) during the opponent's infield practice prior to the start of the game.

Rule 3.3.1n Initiating Malicious Contact

PENALTY: The umpire shall eject the offender from the game. The **ejected player is declared out, unless** he has already scored.

Rule 3.4 Charged Conferences

- Each team while on defense may be granted not more than three charged conferences during a seven-inning game **TO CONFER WITH ANY DEFENSIVE PLAYER, not just the pitcher.**
- Each team while on offense may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning.
- In an extra inning game each team is permitted one charged conference each inning while on defense and on offense.
- Any unused conferences in the first 7 innings **MAY NOT BE CARRIED** into the extra innings.
- Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference.
NOTE: When either team has a charged conference, the other team may also have a conference, which is not charged, provided the conference concludes when the opposing team's charged conference concludes, so that the game is not further delayed.

NOTE:

- **'Trips to the mound'** is **NOT** High School terminology; 'charged conference' is.
- A conference is not charged when the pitcher is removed.
- After three charged conferences in a seven-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for duration of the game. **DOES NOT HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME.**
- **CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCES**
Rule 3-4-3 A defensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or non-playing representative crosses the foul line if the conference was in fair territory. If in foul territory...when the coach or non-playing representative initially starts to return to the dugout/bench area.
Rule 3-4-4 An offensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or team representative initially starts to return to the coach's box or dugout/bench area.

Rules 4.1.3 & 4.4.1f Must start with 9 players, may finish with 8. NOTE: An out will be called each time that spot in the batting order comes to bat. If the offensive player must be substituted for after reaching base, the most recent batter not on base is allowed to run for that player. **A team may return to 9 players.**

Rule 5.1.2b PITCH TOUCHED WITH DETACHED PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Two base award. (time of infraction)

Rule 6.25 Hidden Ball Trick

With runners on it is a balk if the pitcher is within 5' of the pitching rubber without the ball.

Rule 7.1.2b Batting Out Of Order

Any outs made on play stand. An out for batting out of order supersedes an out by the improper batter on a play.

Rule 7.3.2 TOUCHING Home Plate While Hitting the Ball

The batter is out; foot does not have to be entirely out of the box.

Rule 7.3.5 Follow-through interference. (intentional or not)

Delayed dead ball. Batter is out (or runner advancing home if less than 2 outs) unless interference ignored.

Rule 7.4.1a, 4.1.3b Penalty ILLEGAL bat use. Coach is restricted to the dugout on first offense and ejected for a second violation. NOTE: Umpires are no longer required to perform pregame equipment checks; that responsibility is the coaches. Coaches can still ask umpires at the pregame conference to confirm that equipment is compliant.

Rule 7.4.1f* The Batter is Out When:

Any member of the offensive team, *other than the runner**, or coach interferes with a fielder who is attempting to field a foul fly ball. (*2010 Rule Change now AGREES with MLB)

Rule 8.1.1.e 8.3.1c

Catcher obstructs the batter by stepping on or across home or pushing the batter to reach the pitch...ONLY RUNNER(S) ATTEMPTING TO STEAL ON THE PITCH ADVANCE ONE BASE AS WELL AS THE BATTER (UNLESS RUNNER(S) ARE FORCED DUE TO B/R BEING AWARDED 1ST) Catcher's obstruction...NO BALK! (Pro & college this is a balk). The infraction may be ignored if the offensive coach declines the obstruction penalty and accepts the resulting play. Simply put, in High School this type of obstruction is treated the same as if the batter's swing hits the catcher's glove.

Rule 8.2 APPEAL PLAYS Live ball appeals may be made immediately following the play and before a pitch (legal or illegal), granting an intentional base on balls, or the next play or attempted play. If the offensive team initiates a play before the next pitch, the defensive team does not lose the right to appeal. Live ball appeal is made by the defensive player having the ball in his possession and tagging the runner with the ball or touching the base missed or left too early.

DEAD BALL VERBAL APPEALS allowed by a coach or any defensive player.

The coach may make the appeal ONLY DURING DEAD BALL. (Allowed once all runners have completed their advancement and time has been called and granted.)

Either the coach or defensive player simply verbalizes the appeal. Must be made before the next pitch (legal or illegal), at the end of an inning before pitcher and all infielders have left fair territory, before an intentional base on balls is granted or on the last play of the game, an appeal can be made until the umpires leave the field of play.

Rule 8.3.3d Fielder Leaving the Field of Play

A fielder after catching a ball leaves the field of play by stepping out **with both feet** causes the ball to become dead. Runner(s) advance one base. (A fielder can NEVER return to field of play to make a play after being in dead ball territory.)

Rule 8.4.2b Force Play Slide Rule (all bases except Home Plate)

Any runner is out when he does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases. PENALTY: The runner is out, the ball is dead immediately and interference is called. On a force-play slide with less than two outs, the runner is declared out, as well as the batter-runner. EXCEPTION: A runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.

NOTE: **Runners are never required to slide**, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal.

!!! New 2017!!! 2-32-2 c At HOME PLATE...it is NOW permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the plate in a straight line (baseline extended).

Rule 8.4.2d Dives over a fielder

Diving over a fielder is illegal. Runner is declared out. Ball remains alive unless interference occurs.

Speed-Up Rules

Courtesy runners allowed for pitcher and catcher at any time by a player that has not been in the game. May not use the same player for both positions. A player that is used as a courtesy runner may not pinch hit or pinch run in the half inning he is used as courtesy runner. A violation of this rule is considered an illegal substitute. PENALTY: For illegal substitute - restricted to the bench. Same player violating the substitution rule while on offense results in an out and ejection. (Violating the second time while on defense, ejected). EXCEPTION: If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.

...and some minor differences

- 1.2 Diagram 2 The coaching box is only 5 feet wide.
- 1.2.3 The on-deck circle does not have to be occupied.
- 3.2.1 Base coaches are not required.

***Pitcher/DH. See web site www.PalmBeachBaseballUmpires.com FOR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON Pitcher/DH rule added in 2011. **This rule is only done in Florida.** It is an addition to the High School DH rule, not a replacement of. **A team may use a DH or a P/DH or neither.** Officials Guidebook, 2002.03