

CONFLICTS IN THE RULES #1

PLAY: Runner on 1st, 1 out, 2-2 count on the batter. Batter swings and misses for Strike Three, which lodges in the mask of the umpire: a.) is the batter out? or, b.) is the batter awarded 1st base?

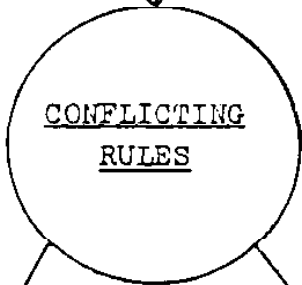
CONFLICTING
RULES

5.09g--fine print:
If a pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or paraphernalia, and remains out of play, on a third strike or fourth ball, then the batter is entitled to first base and all runners advance one base.

6.05c and 6.09b:
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 becomes a runner when...the third strike...is not caught, providing first base is unoccupied, or first base is occupied with two out.

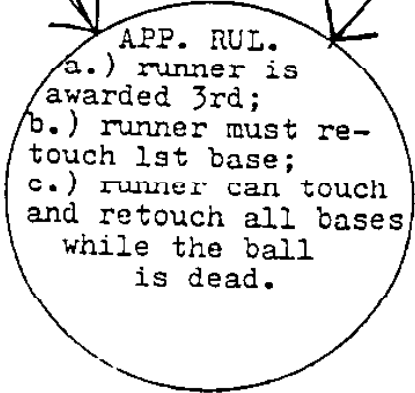
APPROVED RULING: The batter is out, and the runner is awarded 2nd base. 5.09g-fine print is designed to award the batter first base only in situations where he legally can try to reach first base if the catcher does not catch the third strike.

Q: Runner on 1st is stealing on the pitch. Batter hits the ball to the outfield. The runner is on his way to 3rd, when the ball is caught by the rightfielder. The rightfielder's throw goes into the dugout before the runner gets even back to 2nd in his attempt to return: a.) what base is the runner awarded? b.) must he retouch (tag up at) 1st base before advancing? and c.) can he touch and retouch bases while the ball is dead?

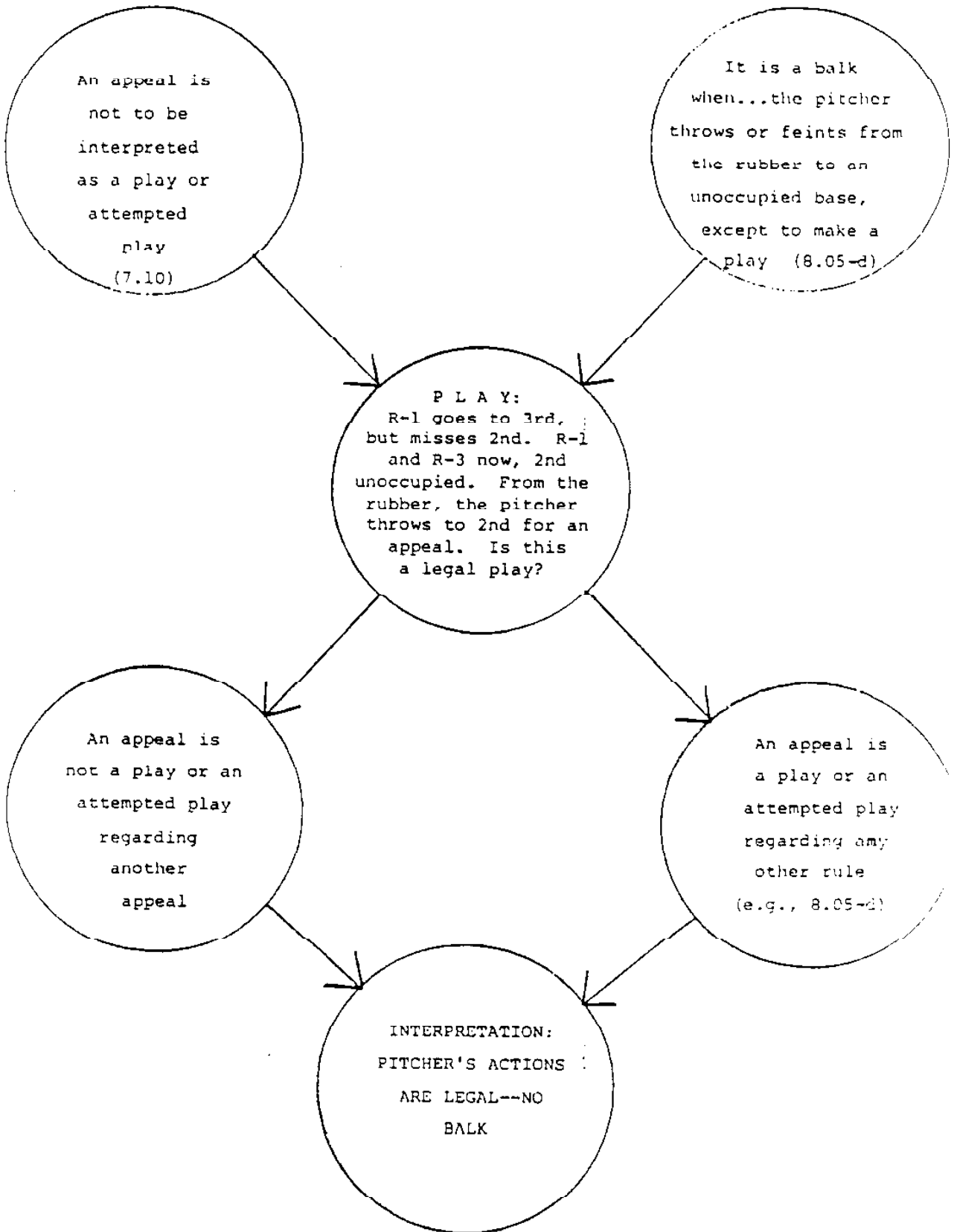


7.05i-fine print, pg. 2
If a runner is forced to return to a base after a catch, he must retouch his original base, even though he is awarded additional bases. He may retouch while the ball is dead and the award is then made from his original base.

7.10b-App. Rul. 2:
When the ball is dead, no runner may return to touch a missed base or one he has left after he has advanced to and touched a base beyond the missed base.



CONFLICTS IN THE RULES #3



CONFLICTS IN THE RULES #4

PLAY: Bases loaded, 2 outs, tie score, bottom of the 9th inning. Batter singles to center. Each runner touches his next base, except the runner from 1st base, thinking the single automatically wins the game, cuts across the infield to his dug-out without touching 2nd. The defense appeals at 2nd base. Is the runner out, nullifying the winning run? or; is the game over when the runner from 3rd touches home plate and the batter-runner touches 1st base?

CONFLICTING
RULES

Rule 4.09a--EXCEPTION (2)--
A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made...by any runner being forced out.

Rule 7.08e--
Any runner is out when...he fails to reach the next base before a fielder tags him or the base, after he has been forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner.

Rule 4.09b--
When the winning run is scored in the last half-inning of a regulation game, or in the last half of an extra inning, as the result of a base on balls, hit batter or any other play with the bases full which forces the runner on third to advance, the umpire shall not declare the game ended until the runner forced to advance from third touches home base and the batter-runner has touched first base.

APPROVED RULING: The runner is out on appeal for failing to touch 2nd base. The appeal results in a force out for the 3rd out, since the runner failed to touch a base to which he was forced. As a result of the third out being a force out, no runner can score on the play, and the game continues with the score tied. The phrase "or any other play" in Rule 4.09b is interpreted to mean on any play with the bases full on which an award of 1st base to the batter forces the runner on 3rd base to advance (e.g., a base on balls, a hit batsman, catcher's interference); it is not meant to apply to a situation in which the runners have to beat the ball to the next base.

CONFLICTS IN THE RULES #5

PLAY: Runner on 1st, 1 out. Following the next pitch to the batter, the catcher attempts a pick-off at 1st base. In cocking his arm to throw, the catcher hits the umpire's mask. As a result, his throw goes wild down the right field line. The runner winds up at 3rd base. Is the play allowed to stand the way it happened? or, is the runner returned to 1st base because of umpire's interference?

CONFLICTING
RULES

Rule 2.00-INTERFERENCE (c):

Umpire's interference occurs...when an umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base.

Rule 5.09b:

The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases, without liability to be put out, when...the plate umpire interferes with the catcher's throw; runners return.

APPROVED RULING: Umpire's interference should be called and the runner returned to 1st base, even though this was not a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base.

CONFLICTS IN THE RULES #6

PLAY: Runner on 1st, 2 outs, bottom of the 9th, score tied 5-5 . Batter hits ball out of the park. However, the runner from 1st rounds 2nd and heads for the dugout, or is passed between 2nd and 3rd by the batter-runner. In either case, the third out occurs before either runner can score. Does the game continue into the 10th inning tied 5-5? Or, is the winning run allowed to score to end the game 6-5 in favor of the home team?

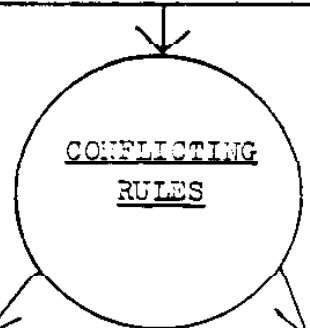
CONFLICTING
RULES

Rule 4.11c-App. Rul.:
If the batter hits a home run out of the playing field to win the game in the last half of the ninth or an extra inning, it is called out for passing the preceding runner. The game ends immediately when the winning run is scored.

Rule 7.08a-fine print, 2nd paragraph:
Less than two out, score tied last of ninth inning, runner on first, batter hits a ball out of park for winning run, the runner on first passes second and thinking the home run automatically wins the game, cuts across diamond toward his bench as batter-runner circles bases. In this case, the base-runner would be called out "for abandoning his effort to touch the next base" and batter-runner permitted to continue around bases to make his home run valid. If there are two out, home run would not count.

APPROVED RULING: With two outs, both situations are "THE PLAYS," and no runs would score; The game would continue tied 5-5. Rule 4.11c-App. Ruling assumes the situation occurs with less than two outs. With less than two outs in both situations, one run would be allowed to score, and the home team would win 6-5.

PLAY: Runner on 1st base is running on the pitch. The runner is around 2nd base and half way to 3rd when the batter's line drive is caught by the center fielder. Runner makes no attempt at all to return to 1st base, and is still between 2nd and 3rd when the center fielder's throw goes wild past 1st base and out of play. Is the runner awarded 3rd base or home?



Rule 7.05g-- Each runner may advance...two bases when...a thrown ball goes out of play. The ball is dead. When such wild throw is the first play by an infielder, the umpire... shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched; in all other cases the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made.

Rule 7.05i-fine print, 2nd paragraph: If a runner is forced to return to a base after a catch, he must retouch his original base even though, because of some ground rule or other rule, he is awarded additional bases. He may retouch while the ball is dead and the award is then made from his original base.

APPROVED RULING: Because the fly ball was caught, the runner from 1st never "legally" reached 2nd base, even though he touched and rounded it. As a result, his two-base award is not made from his position on the basepaths at the time the wild throw was made; it is made instead from his last legally touched base--1st. He would only be awarded 3rd base. To properly take his award, he still must comply with all baserunning rules, even though the ball is dead. He would have to retouch 2nd, retouch 1st, touch 2nd and proceed to and touch 3rd.

CONFLICT #8

PLAY: Runner on 1st, 1 out, running on a 3-2 pitch. Batter swings and misses for strike 3; but backswing knocks the ball out of the catcher's glove and catcher is unable to make a play: a.) Should the batter be called out on strikes and the runner called out for the batters' interference? or, b.) Should the batter be called out on strikes, time called and the runner returned to 1st base?

CONFLICTING
RULES

7.09f--It is interference by a batter or runner when any batter or runner who has just been put out hinders or impedes any following play being made on a runner. Such runner shall be declared out for the interference of his teammate.

6.06c-3rd paragraph--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 judgement, 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.

APPROVED RULING: The batter is out on strikes, the ball is dead and the runner returns to 1st base with 2 outs.

CONFLICT #9

PLAY: Bases loaded, no outs. Batter hits ground ball to 3rd. 3rd baseman throws home to force the runner from 3rd. The catcher then throws to 1st base to retire the batter-runner, but the batter-runner is hit with thrown ball while not in the 3' lane and is called out for interference. At the time of the interference, 1st base runner is at 2nd base and 2nd base runner is at 3rd base. Are R-1 and R-2 allowed to remain at 2nd and 3rd respectively, or must they return to their original bases?

CONFLICTING
RULES

OFF. INT. - 2.00--If the umpire declares the batter, batter-runner or a runner out for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was, in the judgement of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference unless otherwise provided by these rules. (In the event the batter-runner has not reached 1st base, all runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch.

A.L. Interpretation- 3/14/75-- Runner on 3rd base, 1 out. Batter hits a ground ball to 3rd baseman, who throws home. Following safe or out call on the 3rd base runner, the catcher throws to 1st baseman; but hits batter-runner in the back while he is running out of the 3' lane and batter-runner is called out for interference. Does play on 3rd base runner stand, or does he return to 3rd base? ANSWER: The runner on 3rd base is either safe or out at the plate and the batter-runner is out for interference. Since the interference was not the 1st play off the bat, 3rd base runner does not return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

A.L. Directive takes precedence on this play. Since the batter-runner's interference was not the first play off the bat, other runners return to the bases last occupied at the time the interference occurred: B-R is out for interference; R-3 is out (forced at home); R-2 remains at 3rd and R-1 remains at 2nd. - 2 outs.

CONFLICT #10

PLAY: Runners at 1st and 3rd, one out. Batter singles to center. 3rd base runner crosses the plate easily. 1st base runner misses 2nd, and tries for 3rd. Outfielder throw is too late to get 1st base runner at 3rd and he is safe. On the throw to 3rd, the batter-runner tries for 2nd. Following play at 3rd, the 3rd baseman throws to 2nd baseman who tags out the batter-runner for 2nd out. 2nd baseman now appeals at 2nd base that the 1st base runner missed it and umpire calls the 1st base runner (now on 3rd) out for the 3rd out. Does the 3rd base runner's run count because he scored before the 3rd out? or does the 1st base runner being retired at 2nd base result in a force out for the 3rd out, thus nullifying the run on the play?

CONFLICTING
RULES

4.09a--One run shall be scored each time a runner legally advances to and touches 1st, 2nd, 3rd and home base before three men are put out to end the inning. EXCEPTION: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the 3rd out is made... by any runner being forced out. 7.08e--However, if a following runner is put out on a force play, the force is removed.

A force can be removed on a runner originally forced to advance if the batter-runner is retired on the play, even after he has reached 1st base. i.e. runner on 1st base, one out. Batter hits shallow fly to right. 1st base runner holds halfway to see if ball will be caught or tropped. Meanwhile, batter-runner pulls around 1st and is also between 1st and 2nd. Right fielder traps the ball and snap throws to 1st base to retire batter-runner going back into 1st base. 1st base runner (still between 1st and 2nd) is no longer in a force situation-i.e., defense cannot retire him by touching 2nd base and 1st base runner can be legally safe at 1st base if he eludes rundown and gets back before tag.

A.L. Interpretation (3/14/75) - While 1st base runner is the 3rd out on appeal for missing 2nd base, the fact that the batter-runner was retired on the play for the 2nd out eliminated the force situation on the 1st base runner, even though he was originally forced to go touch 2nd base at the time the ball was hit. Since the 3rd out is not a force out the 3rd base runner's run counts.

CONFLICT #11

PLAY: Batter hits a soft pop up near the 1st base foul line in front of the bag. The 1st baseman is camped under the ball when the pitcher obstructs the batter-runner going to 1st base. Following the obstruction, the 1st baseman easily catches the ball. Is the batter-runner out or is he awarded 1st base due to the obstruction?

CONFLICTING
INTERPRETATIONS

7.06a--If a play is being made on the obstructed runner, or if the batter-runner is obstructed before he touches 1st base, the ball is dead and all runners shall advance, without liability to be put out to the bases they would have reached, in the Umpire's judgement, if there had been no obstruction. The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base he had last legally touched before the obstruction.

7.06a--The theory of the obstruction rules is to have the Umpires use their judgement to make any obstruction situation the same as it most likely would have been had no obstruction occurred on this play. The batter would have popped out to the 1st baseman. Therefore, the obstruction did not hinder the batter-runner from reaching 1st base safely and he should be out.

APPROVED RULING: Even though the batter must be awarded 1st base under a literal interpretation of rule 7.06a, he should be called out on this play. Although 7.06a does not so specify, it is interpreted to be applied to situations in which a runner has a chance to be safe by beating the ball to a base.