

Proper Appeals: Live ball/Dead ball

OBR: 5.09(c)

A proper appeal must be made while the ball is live, and may only be made by defensive players on the field.

FED: 8-2-6

Appealing the failure of a runner to touch a base advancing or retreating, and/or failure to tag up, can both be either a live-ball or dead-ball appeal. Live ball appeal must be a proper appeal; dead-ball appeal may be made by manager or any defensive player by clearly indicating the nature of the infraction.

Substitutions: Illegal substitute

OBR: 5.10(d)

No penalty. Remove illegal substitute from the game. Any action by the illegal substitute stands.

FED: 3-1-1

Illegal substituted is restricted to the bench for duration of game. If same player re-enters, he is ejected.

Umpire touches or handles live ball

OBR: 5.12(b)(5)

If the umpire wishes to inspect the ball, he shall call time. If the umpire otherwise handles a live ball, but the umpire release the ball immediately, the ball remains live; otherwise, the ball is dead.

FED: 5-1-1-h

The ball is dead immediately any time the umpire handles a live ball or calls "Time" for inspecting the ball or for any other reason or gives the "Do Not Pitch Signal."

Appeal on checked swing

OBR: 8.02(c) Comment

If a called ball on a checked swing is appealed (by the manager or catcher only), plate umpire is required to ask for help, then is obligated to take the partner's ruling.

FED: 10-1-4-a

If a called ball on a checked swing is appealed, the plate umpire may ask for help on checked swing appeal, but is not required to do so.

Backswing interference / follow-through interference

OBR: 6.06(a)(3) Comment

When the momentum of a batter's swing carries the bat around and contacts the catcher or his equipment, this is backswing interference. The ball is dead, and runners, if moving, must return. There is no penalty so long as deemed by umpire to be not intentional.

FED: 5-1-1-n, 5-1-2-a1, 2-21-4, 2-21-5

Ball immediately dead; runners return; batter is out if impeding play on runner. If no play on runner, dead ball and runners return.

FED draws a distinction between backswing interference and follow-through interference:

Follow-through interference is when bat hits catcher after batter has swung at pitch and hinders catcher's play on a runner.

Backswing interference is when a batter contact the catcher or his equipment prior to the pitch.

Designated hitter (DH)

OBR: 5.11

Designated hitter allowed for pitcher only; double-switch is allowed, but doing so kills the DH. DH not allowed in NL.

FED: 3-1-4

Designated hitter may bat for any player; both retain same position in batting order. May not do multiple subs to change player's position in the batting order. If DH enters game defensively, this kills DH. See new DH rule about player being on defense.

When does runner abandon effort to advance on 3rd strike not caught

OBR: 5.05(a)(2) Comment

Runner abandons effort to advance when he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.

FED: 8-4-1-i

Runner abandons effort to advance when he enters the dugout, or (with two outs) before all fielders leave the diamond.

When is a defensive visit concluded

OBR: 5.10(l)

A defensive conference ends when the manager or coach has left the 18' circle (pitching mound).

FED: 3-4-3

A defensive conference ends when the coach crosses the foul line returning to the dugout; if conference is held in foul territory, it concludes when the coach first starts back toward dugout.

Disciplinary actions against coaches

OBR: 8.01(d)

No provision for warnings; ejection for egregious action on part of coach, player, etc.

FED: 3-3-1 Penalty

Three-tier system: verbal warning, written warning (coach restricted to bench) and then ejection. Teams may be subject to bench warning; players subject to immediate ejection.

Actions allowed from windup position

OBR: 6.02(a), 5.07(a)(1)

The pitcher is allowed three actions from the windup:

- Deliver pitch to batter
- Step and throw to a base to attempt a pickoff
- Disengage the rubber

FED: 6-1-2

The pitcher is allowed two actions from the windup:

- Deliver pitch to batter
- Disengage the rubber

Balks

OBR: 6.02(a)

Delayed dead ball. If all runners and batter-runner advance at least one base, ignore the balk. Otherwise, call time and advance all runners one base.

FED: 5-1-1-k

Immediate dead ball. If the ball is put in play on the pitch, kill the play. Award all runners one base.

Illegal pitch (no runners on)

OBR: 6.02(b)

A ball to the batter (unless batter reaches base on the pitch). Live ball award. With runners on base, a balk.

FED: 6-1-3 Penalty

Immediate dead ball. If runners on base, it's a balk; otherwise, ball to the batter.

Feint to third base / 3-1 move

OBR: 6.02

Not allowed. Balk.

FED: No explicit rule

The 3-1 move is allowed, as is a simple feint to 3rd.

Legal/Illegal slide; force-play slide rule

OBR: 6.01(j)

Begin slide before reaching base. Must attempt to reach base with hand or foot, and remain on base (no slide through to contact). No alteration of pathway for the purpose of contacting fielder

FED: 2-32-1, 2

Must slide within reach of base with hand or foot, but not in a path toward the defender (except straight in). No rolling or pop-up slides into fielder; no slide through the base to contact defender (except at home). No raised leg above defender's knee; no slashing or kicking; no malicious contact with fielder. On force play, must slide in direct line between bases.

Must slide or attempt to avoid

OBR: 6.01(j)

No requirement to slide, but if sliding, must be a legal slide.

FED: 8-4-2-b through g

No requirement to slide, but runner must execute a legal slide, or otherwise attempt to avoid contact with a defender or otherwise altering the play of the defender. On force play, may be two outs on a violation.

Diving over defender

OBR: No rule.

No restriction.

FED: 8-4-2-d, CB 3-3-1-g, CB 8-4-2-T, U, D, W

Runner is out if he dives over a defender who is standing or kneeling, but ball remains live. However, if a defender is laying flat on the ground, runner may jump/leap/hurdle the defender.

Walk-off scoring

OBR: 5.08

Game ends when runner advancing from third has touched home, and the batter-runner has touched first base.

FED: 9-1-1 Note 2

All runners, including batter-runner, must touch the base to which they are advancing, or to which they are forced to advance.

Ball lodged in clothing or equipment

OBR: 5.06(c)(7), 5.06(b)(4)(I)

Fair batted ball: Immediate dead ball. Batter-runner awarded first; runners advance if forced.

Pitched ball: Immediate dead ball. One base all runners from time of pitch.

Thrown ball: Immediate dead ball. One base all runners from last legally touched base.

NOTE: OBR allows tossing glove or mitt in which ball is lodged for purpose of making a play.

FED: 5-1-1-f-5, 8-3-3-d, 8-3-3-f

Fair batted ball: Immediate dead ball. Batter-runner awarded first; runners advance if forced.

Pitched ball: Immediate dead ball. One base all runners from time of pitch.

Thrown ball: Immediate dead ball. One base all runners from last legally touched base.