

**INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS:**

- Obviously, since in Little League programs, the dugouts are out of play, the fielder may not go into a dugout to make a play. However, if someone inside the dugout interferes with the player when he/she reaches into the dugout, interference shall be called. Depending on the team at fault, this could result in an out call, awarding bases, or nullifying the outcome.

7.12 - Unless two are out, the status of a following runner is not affected by a preceding runner's failure to touch or retouch a base. If, upon appeal, the preceding runner is the third out, no runners following the preceding runner shall score. If such a third out is the result of a force play, neither the preceding nor following runners shall score.

**7.13 – When a pitcher is in...**

**Baseball - Little League (Major) and Minor League:** contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter. **NOTE: Tee Ball:** Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. When players have advanced as far as possible without being put out or having been retired, the umpire shall call "time" and place the ball on the tee.

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- In Minor League and Tee Ball, the local leagues may adopt the option that a base runner is called out for leaving the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter.
- If, in the umpire's judgment, the manager is instructing his/her players to leave early intentionally, the manager may be warned and/or ejected from the game for deliberately violating the rules.
- When a runner is legitimately off his/her base, the pitcher cannot stop the runner by taking the ball back to the pitcher's plate.
- The catcher is "ready to receive delivery" of the pitch when he/she has his/her mask on and is facing the pitcher. It is not necessary for him/her to be in a squat position.
- Until the pitcher and catcher have satisfied the above elements of this rule, the runners are free to advance without violation.

The violation by one base runner shall affect all other base runners -

- (a) when a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner is permitted to continue. If a play is made on the runner and the runner is out, the out stands. If said runner reaches safely the base to which the runner is advancing, that runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made, and no out results;

**INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS:**

- It doesn't matter which runner leaves early. The violation affects each and every base runner.
- Rule 7.13(a) will be enforced after all play has stopped. If the batter does not hit the ball, umpires will allow the play to continue until all play has been completed. Any outs on the play will stand. All other runner(s) will return to their original base or bases.

[**CHALLENGER:** Base stealing is not permitted. Base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball is batted. Violation: All base runners are returned to their original bases and "no pitch" declared.]

- (b) when a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter hits the ball, the base runner or runners are permitted to continue. If a play is made and the runner or runners are put out, the out or outs will stand. If not put out, the runner or runners must return to the original base or bases or to the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left; In no event shall the batter advance beyond first base on a single or error, second base on a double or third base on a triple. The Umpire-in-Chief shall determine the base value of the hit ball

**EXAMPLE: Play:** Bases loaded and any one of the runners leaves his/her base early, batter hits a clean triple, but is thrown out at the plate trying to score after the over throw at third. Ruling: "Time" is called, the out stands. Return all runners to first, second and third

**INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS:**

- Note that the umpire determines the base value of the hit ball, not the scorekeeper. This is not protestable, but rather the judgment of the umpire.
- The batter may not advance beyond first base on a single or an error, including two-base errors, obstruction or any other award he/she may receive. This also applies to a batter-runner who advances to first base on uncaught/dropped third strike,, he/she will not be allowed advance any further than first base, even on an over throw.
- If at the end of the entire play, an open base exists, the runners must return to the original base or to the one nearest to the one that was left early.

- (c) when any base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter bunts, hits a ball within the infield or advances on an uncaught third strike, no run shall be allowed to score. If three runners were on the bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied at the start of the play except the runner who occupied third base, that runner shall be removed from the base without a run being scored.

**NOTE:** See exceptions following this rule.

**EXCEPTION:** If at the conclusion of the play there is an open base, paragraphs (a) and (b) will apply.