

Central Loudoun Little League Training Notes

January 24, 2016

Rule 2. Definition of Terms

An **APPEAL** is an act of a fielder in claiming a violation of the rules by the offensive team

- Ball must be alive and in play – runners may advance at their own risk
- Must be made before the next pitch or any play or attempted play
- Should be verbal or clearly intended an appeal is being made
- If the pitcher makes an illegal pitch when making an appeal, this act shall be considered a play and no further appeal will be allowed
- If the ball is thrown out of play when making an appeal, this is considered a play and no further appeal will be allowed
- Only one appeal can be made on a runner at the same base unless the defensive team on its first appeal errs, then a request for a second appeal on the same runner at the same base will be allowed. (err means the ball is thrown to a base, but the ball is dropped or gets past the fielder but does not go out of play)

A **BALL** is a pitch which does not enter the strike zone in flight and is not struck at by the batter. (NOTE: If the pitch touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone, it is a 'ball'. If such a pitch touches the batter, the batter shall be awarded first base. If the batter swings at such a pitch and misses, it is a strike. (Major/Intermediate/Junior/Senior: If the batter swings at such a pitch after two strikes, the ball cannot be caught for the purposes of Rule 6.05(b) and 6.09 (b). If the batter hits such a pitch, the ensuing action shall be the same as if the batter hit the ball in flight.)

A **BULK** is an illegal act by the pitcher with a runner or runners on base, entitling all runners to advance one base. A BALK is not called in the LL (Majors) division, Minor league, or Tee Ball

A **BUNT** is a batted ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. The mere holding of the bat in the strike zone is not an attempted bunt

- Key words are – *intentionally met with the bat*
- For baseball, when the batter squares around in a 'bunt position', there is no need for the batter to pull the bat back. If the pitched ball is out of the strike zone, it shall be called a 'ball'
- The batter must offer at the pitch for it to be called a strike if outside the strike zone

A **CATCH** is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground providing such fielder does not use cap, protector, pocket or any other part of the uniform in getting possession... Runners may leave their bases the instant the first fielder touches the ball

Is a catch

- If the fielder has made the catch and drops the ball while in the act of making a throw following the catch
- In establishing the validity of the catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove complete control of the ball and that **release of the ball is voluntary and intentional**

Not a catch

- If simultaneously or immediately following contact with the ball the fielder collides with a player or with a wall, or if that fielder falls down, and as a result of such collision or falling, drops or releases the ball
- If a fielder touches a fly ball which then hits a member of the offensive team or an umpire and then is caught by that fielder or another defensive player

A **FAIR BALL** is

- a batted ball that settles on fair ground between home and first base or between home and third base
- or that is on or over fair territory when bounding to the outfield past first or third base
- or that touches first, second or third base
- or that first falls on fair territory on or beyond first base or third base
- or that while on or over fair territory touches the person of an umpire or player
- or that, while over fair territory, passes out of the playing field in flight

NOTE: A fair fly shall be adjudged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on fair or foul territory at the time such fielder touches the ball

FAIR TERRITORY is that part of the playing field within, and including the first base and third base lines, from home base to the bottom of the playing field fence and perpendicularly upwards. Home plate, first base, and third base and all foul lines are in fair territory

A **FOUL BALL** is

- a batted ball that settles on foul territory between home and first base, or between home and third base
- or that bounds past first or third base on or over foul territory
- or that first falls on foul territory beyond first base or third base
- or that while on or over foul territory, touches the person of an umpire or player, or any object foreign to the natural ground

A **FOUL TIP** is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught. It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and the ball is in play. It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove or hand. A foul tip can only be caught by the catcher

An **ILLEGAL BAT** is a bat that has been altered or a bat that is not approved for play because it does not meet specifications with regard to length, weight, barrel diameter, labeling or performance standard for the division which it is being used

An **ILLEGAL PITCH** (Majors/Minors) is (1) a pitch delivered to the batter when the pitcher does not have the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate; (2) a quick return pitch, or any other act meeting the criteria established in Rule 8.05

An **ILLEGAL PITCH** (Intermediate & above) is (1) a pitch delivered to the batter when the pitcher does not have the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate; (2) a quick return pitch. An illegal pitch with runners on base is a balk

An **ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL** is one hit by the batter with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box

An **INFIELD FLY** is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder stationed in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of the rule. When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare "infield fly" for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baseline, the umpire shall declare "infield fly, if fair." The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul

NOTE: If a declared infield fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared "infield fly" falls untouched to the ground, outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an "infield fly".

NOTE: The 'infield fly' rule does not apply in Tee Ball.

INTERFERENCE. [There are four types – offensive, defensive, umpire, and spectator](#)

Offensive interference is an act by a member of the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play. 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. [Approved ruling: interference does not have to be intentional for it to be called.]

Defensive interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch

Umpire's interference occurs (1) when an umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to retire a runner, or (2) when a fair ball touches an umpire in fair territory before passing a fielder. [Approved ruling: only the plate umpire may interfere with the catcher and only on a cleanly caught ball or a pitched ball that does not cause the catcher to move from his/her position. If the catcher errs on the ball, the umpire will be considered part of the field, and no interference results.]

Spectator interference occurs when a spectator reaches out of the stands or goes on the playing field, and touches a live ball

- [On any interference call, the ball is dead. However, it is a DELAYED dead ball action on catcher's interference, batter's interference, plate umpire's interference, and coach's interference.](#)

OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. A fake tag is considered obstruction. (NOTE: Obstruction shall be called on a defensive player who blocks off a base, base line or home plate from a base runner while not in possession of the ball.) [Obstruction is a delayed dead ball call.](#)

The **STRIKE ZONE** is that space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance. The umpire shall determine the strike zone according to the batter's usual stance when that batter swings at a pitch.

Rule 9. The Umpire

9.01 (a) – The league president shall appoint one or more adult umpires to officiate at each league game. The umpire shall be responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with official rules and for maintaining discipline and order on the playing field during the game

- Please note and emphasize responsibilities on the playing field. Umpires are not responsible for the conduct of spectators – that is the responsibility of the Board. If an unruly spectator requires the attention of a CLLL Board Member, the umpires may order both teams to their dugouts and suspend the game until the spectator(s) is (are) handled.

9.01 (b) – Each umpire is the representative of the league and LL International, and is authorized and required to enforce all...rules.

9.01 (d) – Each umpire has the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field.

- Please note here again – umpires only have responsibility for the playing field. An ejection from a game does not mean ejection from the park according to LL rules.

9.02 (a) – Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, manager, coach or substitute shall object to any such judgment call.

9.02 (b) – If there is reasonable doubt that any umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, the manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such appeal shall be made only to the umpire who made the protested decision.

9.02 (c) – If a decision is appealed, the umpire making the decision may ask another umpire for information before making a final decision. No umpire shall criticize, seek to reverse or interfere with another umpire's decision unless asked to do so by the umpire making it.

9.03 (a) – If there is only one umpire, that umpire must be an adult...

9.03 (d) – If no adult umpire is available for a game, and non-adult umpires are used exclusively for that game, [the league] must assign an adult as Game Coordinator, or the game cannot be played. The Game Coordinator must not be a manager or coach of either team in the game, and cannot be assigned as Game Coordinator for more than one game at a time. The Game Coordinator duties shall be:

- To be included in the pregame meeting

- To remain at the game at all times, including between half-innings, in a position to see all actions on the field and in close proximity to the field
- To oversee the conduct of all players, managers, coaches and umpires in the game
- To have authority to disqualify [and eject] any player, coach, manager or substitute for objecting to the decisions of an umpire, for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, or for any of the reasons enumerated in these Rules...
- To have the sole ability to judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of inclement weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field...

9.04 – Addresses the positioning of umpires on a field

9.05 (a) – The umpire shall report to the league president within 24 hours after the end of a game all violations of rules and other incidents worthy of comment, including disqualification... and the reasons therefore.

9.05 (b) – When any manager, coach or player is disqualified for a flagrant offense such as the use of obscene or indecent language... the umpire shall forward full particulars to the league president within 24 hours after the end of the game.

- If no adult umpire is assigned, the Game Coordinator is responsible for reporting to the league president

9.05 (c) – After receiving the umpire's report that a manager, coach or player has been disqualified, the league president shall require such manager, coach or player to appear before at least three members of the Board of Directors to explain their conduct. In the case of a player, the manager shall appear with the player in the capacity of an advisor. The members of the Board present at the meeting shall impose such penalty as they feel is justified.