

ISF Rule Changes 2010 – 2014

RULE 1, SECTION 2

DESCRIPTION:

Sec. 2 APPEAL PLAY

A live or dead ball appeal is a play or situation on which an umpire cannot make a decision unless requested by a Manager, Coach or **infielder-player** of the non-offending team. A coach or manager may only make a dead ball appeal and only after stepping onto the playing field.

Delete Exception

If made by a fielder, the fielder must be in the infield when making the appeal. The appeal may not be made after any of the following has occurred:

- a. A legal pitch has been thrown or an illegal pitch has been called.

EXCEPTION:

1. An appeal for the use of an Illegal Substitute, ~~or~~ an Illegal Re-entry, a Replacement Player or Withdrawn Player (either leaving or returning to the line-up under the **Replacement Player Rule**) and not reporting to the umpire can be made at any time while such player is still in the game.
 2. An appeal for **base-runners switching positions may be made any time until all such runners are in the dugout or the inning is over.**
- b. Same
 - c. Same

These are the types of appeals:

1. Same
2. Same
3. Same
4. Same
5. Same
6. Same
7. Same
8. Same
9. **Base-runners switching positions on bases.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Amendment recognizes that runners might attempt to switch bases at any time not just during an offensive conference. It also recognizes this situation as an appeal play.

RULE 1, SECTION 6

DESCRIPTION:

Sec. 6. BASE ON BALLS

~~(FP and SP) A base on balls permits a batter to gain first base without liability to be put out and is awarded to a batter by the plate umpire when four pitches are judged to be balls. This is sometimes referred to as a walk. If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, he may do so by notifying the plate umpire who shall award the batter first base. The pitcher's notification to the umpire shall be considered a pitch.~~

A base on balls is awarded to the batter when four pitches are judged by the plate umpire to be balls, including illegal pitches. (FP) ball is alive, (SP) ball is dead

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Definition of base on balls included an Intentional Walk which in fact is a different play. A base on balls is a live ball play while an Intentional Walk is a dead ball.

RULE 1, SECTION 13

DESCRIPTION:

Sec. 13. BLOCKED BALL

A blocked ball is a batted, thrown, or pitched ball

- a. That becomes lodged in the fencing, or
- b. Is touched, stopped, or handled by a person not engaged in the game, or
- c. That touches any object that is not a part of the official equipment or playing area.
~~**Official equipment means equipment in actual use by the offensive team or defensive team**~~
~~**Defensive equipment left on the field by the team playing offence is an example of equipment that is not part of the official equipment.**~~ A thrown ball touching a base coach accidentally (in or out of the coaches box) is not a blocked ball.

d) is a ground ball that is touched by a defensive player who is in contact with the ground that is not part of the playing area

new definition 67

Sec. 67 OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT

Official Equipment is considered to be any equipment (bats, gloves, helmets etc) in actual use by the defensive or offensive team during the course of play. Defensive equipment left on the field by the team playing offensive would not be regarded as Official Equipment.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Clarifies the definition of a blocked ball to include a ball lodged in a fence and a ball that contacts equipment improperly left on the playing field

RULE 1, SECTION 35

DESCRIPTION:

Sec. 35. FORCE OUT

A force-out is an out which can be made only when a runner loses the right to the base which he is occupying because the batter becomes a batter-runner, and before the batter-runner or a succeeding runner has been put out. **On an appeal the force out is determined at the time of the appeal not at the time of the infraction.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Currently the rules only state that on an appeal you can still have a force out. It does not state when the force out is determined. The new rule stipulated it is determined when the team appeals, not when the infraction occurred. Game situations change after the infraction and a force should be determined when the team appeals not when the infraction occurred.

RULE 1, SECTION 37, LETTER d

[Rule interpretation, technical bulletin](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 1 Section 37d

A foul ball is a legally batted ball which:

- d. while on or over foul territory touches the person, attached or detached equipment or clothing of an umpire or player, **in foul territory** or any object foreign to the natural ground **including the foul portion of a double base or the portion of a dislodged base located in foul territory.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Revised wording clarifies the status of a ball that hit the portion of a base that is in foul territory.

RULE 1, SECTION 57

DESCRIPTION:

Section 57 [INTENTIONAL BASE ON](#)

[BALLS](#)[Intentional Walk](#)

~~If the defensive team desires to walk a batter intentionally, the pitcher may notify the plate umpire who shall award the batter first base. The pitcher's notification to the umpire shall be considered a pitch, the ball is dead.~~

[An intentional base on balls occurs when the defensive team desires to place the batter on first base without the requirement to deliver four pitched balls. This is sometimes referred to as an Intentional Walk.](#)

REASON FOR CHANGE:

A base on Balls and an Intentional walk differ. In FP, a base on balls the ball is alive whereas on an Intentional Walk the ball is dead.

RULE 1, SECTION 67

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 1 Sec 67 (New)

Offensive Player Only

An Offensive Player Only (OPO) is a player in the batting order that continues to play offence, but not defence, when the DP plays defence for that player rather than for the FLEX PLAYER for whom he is batting.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Scorers use the term "Temporary DP" when an offensive player remains in the line-up but no longer plays defence because of the DP playing defence for other than the FLEX. The term Offensive Player Only refers to the offence player batting only and not fielding as the DP is fielding for them. Rule 4 Sec 5 g. The DP may play defence at any position. Should the DP play defence for a player other than the **FLEX**, that player will continue to bat, but not play defence, and is NOT considered to have left the game.

A term is necessary for use with scorers and to have a title for the batter for whom the DP is fielding when ever discussing this situation.

RULE 2 SECTION

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 2: Throughout, and with reference to distance tables and illustrations pages 105, 106, 107, and 108. There exist inconsistencies between distances as expressed in Rule 2 text and measurements / distance tables shown in pages 105, etc.

PROPOSED: That all field measurements which are variable according to discipline be expressed in one table embedded in the rule.

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An example is shown below. The distance table presently printed on page 105 contains data, including maximum distances and boys / girls distances, not in the rule text. This also provides an opportunity to review all distances and rationalize as appropriate.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Having only one table of variable distances, the reader can be sure of accessing the correct data, in a tabular form that makes for complete and easy comparison between the disciplines.

RULE 2, SECTION 1 et seq

DESCRIPTION:

Format of Distances: pages 37-39; pages 105-107.
All distances defined throughout the Code should be consistently displayed and conversions between systems consistently applied.

Format should be either:

*ft*ins / (8m) which indicates Imperial as the primary unit

*m / (*ft*ins) which gives metric preference

REASON FOR CHANGE:

At present, some conversions between metric and Imperial. systems are quotes with Imperial first, some with metric. Some conversions are incorrectly calculated. This could lead to confusion over which takes precedence.

A further, more radical, solution would be to use only one system (preferably metric) to express all measurements.

RULE 2, SECTION 3

DESCRIPTION:

PITCHING DISTANCES

Girls 16-under 12. 19m (40 ft)

Girls 16-under 12.19m (40ft)

REASON FOR CHANGE:

It could be simply a misprinted

RULE 2, SECTION 4, LETTER c

technical code

DESCRIPTION:

Note: In World Championship or Olympic Play, on skimmed or loose surfaces there shall be a marker of rope or horse hair staked below the surface to mark the outside corners of the batter's box, or a line marked across the back of the batters boxes from one to the other extending 0.91 meter (3ft) passed the outside of the box, to determine the back of the box as the game progresses and the lines disappear.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

If batting box lines become erased or faded over the course of the game or disappear from slide in plays, the tags will assist the umpires in determining the limits of the batters box so they can then enforce the rules and manage the game.

RULE 3, SECTION 1, LETTER a

manufactures item 3 and bat components item 4 to technical code

DESCRIPTION:

Sec. 1. THE OFFICIAL BAT

- a. Shall be of one piece **construction, multi-piece permanently assembled or two piece interchangeable construction. If the bat is designed with interchangeable components it must meet the following criteria:**
 1. **Mating components must have a unique locking key to prevent uncertified equipment combinations in the field.**
 2. **All component combinations must meet the same standards as if it were a portion of an one piece bat-rules.**
 3. ~~**Manufacturer must demonstrate that the interchangeable bat fails in a safe manner. (i.e. visible damage before locking feature's fail's)**~~
 4. ~~**Bat components must be designed in a way to prevent uncertified equipment alterations.**~~

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Manufacturers are coming out with a safe two-piece bat designed to have interchangeable barrels. Both barrels and handles would have to bear the ISF approval logo.

RULE 3, SECTION 1, LETTER k

DESCRIPTION:

- k. If metal and not made of one-piece construction with the barrel end closed, shall have a rubber or vinyl plastic or other material insert approved by the ISF Equipment Standards Commission, firmly secured in the large end of the bat.
 1. **The insert of the end cap shall be firmly and permanently sealed so it cannot be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer without damaging or destroying the end cap or barrel.**
 2. **The bat shall be free of ~~audible~~ rattles ~~when shaken.~~**

3. The bat barrel shall not have signs of tampering.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Amendments better define when a bat is official and legal.

RULE 3, SECTION 4, LETTER b

Housekeeping remove word 'and'

DESCRIPTION:

Gloves worn by any player and may be any combination of colors, provided none of the colors (including the lacing) are the color of the ball.

RULE 3, SECTION 5 EFFECT

DESCRIPTION:

Effect: Section 5: Failure to comply with the provisions of Section 5, after a warning from the umpire, shall result in the removal-ejection of the player from the game.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Clarifies how to handle a player who is not wearing official shoes.

RULE 3, SECTION 7 EFFECT

DESCRIPTION:

Section. 7. EQUIPMENT ON PLAYING FIELD
ENo equipment that is not part of the official equipment shall not be left lying on the field, either in fair or foul territory.

EFFECT – Sec. 7:

The ball is dead if it **contacts equipment that is not part of the official equipment. Official equipment means equipment in actual use by the offensive team or defensive team. Defensive equipment left on the field by the team playing offense is an example of equipment that is not part of the official equipment.**

- a. For offensive equipment causing a blocked ball (and creating interference), the player being played on is out.
- b. If no apparent play is obvious, no runner will be called out, but all runners will return to the last base touched at the time of the dead ball declaration.

- c. For defensive equipment causing a blocked ball, **runners are awarded two bases;**
i one base from the time of the pitch on a pitched ball
 - ii. two bases from the time of the throw on a thrown ball, or
 - iii. two bases from the time of the pitch on a fair batted ball.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Clarifies what happens when a ball contacts equipment improperly left on the playing field.

RULE 4, SECTION 1, LETTER f NOTE to technical code

DESCRIPTION:

Note: Communication devices issued by the official scorer for the purpose of communication between the coaches/managers and the official scorer are permitted provided they are only used for official scorekeeping purposes. ISF World Championships and Olympic play only.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Allows coaches/managers to make line up changes directly with official scorer by use of electronic communication devises.

RULE 4, SECTION 1, LETTER f NOTE

DESCRIPTION:

EFFECT – Section 1b-f:

Any infraction **shall result in a warning for the first infraction. Any subsequent infraction by a coach/manager of the same team shall result in the ejection of the coach/manager.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Any breach of the b-f should result in a warning and an ejection for a second infraction.

RULE 4, SECTION 3, LETTER b

DESCRIPTION:

Remove the exception which allows Co-Ed SP to play shorthanded.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

There is no objective reason why SP Co-Ed should be allowed to play short handed in international competition.

Rules should be consistent with other disciplines.
Also removes the regulations regarding playing two batters of same gender back to back.

RULE 4, SECTION 4, Note [to technical code](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Note: At World Championship play, Olympic [GamesPlay](#), or Tournaments when the ~~official~~-line up is submitted to the Umpire in chief before the game as per the championship regulations, the line up must be signed by the Head Coach/Manager. Once submitted to the Umpire in chief the line up will be official.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The current rule does not cover the line ups being handed to the UIC of a tournament although the Championship rules do. There could be issues with line ups not signed when line ups handed into UIC. This rule addition makes the list approved and official. Changes can still be made at the plate meeting as per rule book for sickness or injury. We don't want line up changed at the plate meeting.

RULE 4, SECTION 5, LETTER g

DESCRIPTION:

The DP may play defence at any position. Should the DP play defence for a player other than the FLEX, that player will continue to bat, but not play defence, and is NOT considered to have left the game. **This player is referred to as the offensive player only (OPO).**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

If Offensive Player Only is adopted as a new definition, the additional wording is required in 4, 5 g.

RULE 4, SECTION 5, LETTER i,

EFFECT 5 g-i

DESCRIPTION:

The provisions of Rule 4 Sec 8 and penalties for violations apply. Placing the FLEX in a position in the batting order other than that of the starting DP, results in ~~declaring the FLEX player an Illegal Player~~ **the ejection of both the manager/coach (whose name appears on the line-up card) and the FLEX, or his substitute.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Effect 5 a-f. It is considered an illegal re-entry when the DP re-enters into a place other than the DP or his original position. In fact any batter re-entering into another position, effect is ejection of coach and player. The rules currently say a FLEX player must only enter into the offensive line up in the DP position. However if he enters into another position he is only an illegal player (ruled ineligible), this is not consistent with other rules, illegal players are allowed to be there, they are just not announced. In the FLEX players situation they are not allowed to be there. There should be a tougher penalty for the FLEX batting in a position which is illegal.

RULE 4, SECTION 8, LETTER 2g,

NUMBER 2-4 note 2

DESCRIPTION:

NOTE – EFFECT Sec 2-4:

Should an Ineligible Player return to the game, it is declared a forfeit to the team not at fault.

Change NOTE 2 to Section 8:

After an upheld appeal for an unreported substitute or an illegal re-entry, the original starting player or his substitute is considered to have left the game.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The status of the player entered during an unannounced substitute is not stated in the rule book. The fact that an illegal substitute takes place should constitute a withdrawn player, so when a player is ruled ineligible for being unannounced or illegally re-entered a starting player could be re-entered, this would be considered a re-entry, and he would be able to be re-entered again later in the game. If the original player had already been substituted that substitute should not go back into that position as he has already been withdrawn by the illegal player being forced out. The fact that a player was found guilty of being unannounced, the withdrawn player is considered to have left the game.

RULE 4, SECTION 10, LETTER b

DESCRIPTION:

Sec. 10. DUGOUT CONDUCT

- a. Coaches, players, substitutes or other bench personnel shall not be outside the designated bench dugout area, except when the rules allowed or considered justified by the umpire.

Note: This includes players other than the on-deck batter (who must remain in the on deck circle) at the start of the game, between innings, or when a pitcher is warming up.

- b. **There shall be no smoking in the designated bench dugout area.**

EFFECT - Sec. 10:

The first offence is a team warning. Any repeat offence shall result in the ejection of that team member.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

While Rule 1 Section 27 provides that there will be no smoking in the Dugout area, there is no penalty.

RULE 5, SECTION 5, NUMBER 1

also to technical code

DESCRIPTION:

(FP and MP ONLY) **Fifteen (15)** runs after three (3) innings: **ten (10)** runs after four (4) innings or seven (7) runs after five (5) innings.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

For make the balance between 3rd, 4th and 5th innings. The 20 runs ahead is not a mercy for the lost team.

**RULE 5, SECTION 7, LETTER b
DESCRIPTION:**

A run shall not be scored if the ~~third and/or last~~ out of the inning is the result of ...

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Eliminates the word "third out" and now says no run counts if the last out is the result of anything listed in the Rule. Previously it stated third out. We allow appeals after the third out to eliminate runs and re-instate the batting order. This new change makes any of the items listed in 7-5 b 1-5 a reason to eliminate a run.

**RULE 5, SECTION 7, LETTER c
DESCRIPTION:**

Sec. 7c. SCORING OF RUNS

- c. **Additional out appeals may be made after the third out to remove a run.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Clarifies that an appeal may be allowed after a third out for the sole purpose of removing a run from the scoring records.

**RULE 5, SECTION 8, LETTER b NOTE
6(d)**

DESCRIPTION:

6. It is not a charged conference for the defense if:

- (d) **The manager or coach ~~makes a substitution for the pitcher over the foul line to talk with pitcher when before or after making the pinch pitcher.~~**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The manager or coach talk with pitcher that has no meaning and function for the team stratagem.

**RULE 6, SECTION 1-3, LETTER a-d
DESCRIPTION:**

Sec. 1. PRELIMINARIES.

Before commencing the delivery (pitch), the pitcher

- May not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate without having the ball in his possession.
- Shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
- Must have both feet on the ground within the 61.0 cm (24 inch) length of the pitcher's plate. The hips shall be in line with first and third bases and both feet must be in contact with the pitcher's plate.

- Must, while standing on the plate and with the ball in either the glove or the pitching hand, take the signal, or appear to be taking a signal, from the catcher with the hands separated.
- Must, after taking the signal, bring his whole body to a full and complete stop with the ball in the **hand or glove with both held together** in front of the body. This position must be held for **not less than** two (2) seconds and not more than five (5) seconds before releasing the ball. NOTE: Holding the ball in both hands to the side of the body is considered in front of the body.

Sec. 2. STARTING THE PITCH.

The pitch starts **when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of his wind-up.**

Sec. 3. LEGAL DELIVERY.

- The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- The pitcher must not use a pitching motion in which, after having the ball in both hands in the pitching position, **he removes one hand from the ball, then takes a backward and forward swing**, and returns the ball to both hands in front of the body.
- The pitcher must not use a wind-up in which there is a stop or reversal of the forward motion.
- The pitcher must not make two revolutions of the arm on the windmill pitch. However, he may drop his arm to the side and to the rear before starting the windmill motion. This allows the arm to pass the hip twice.
- The delivery must be an underhand motion, with the hand below the hip and the wrist not farther from the body than the elbow.
- The release of the ball and follow through of the hand and wrist must be forward and past the straight-line position of the body.
- Both feet must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate ~~at all times prior to the forward step~~ **and the pivot foot must remain motionless at all times before the start of the pitch. (See 6-2)**
- The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times before the forward drag, leap or hop.**
- In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher **may** take one step **with the leading, non-pivot foot** simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward toward the batter and within the 61.0 cm (24 inch) length of the pitcher's plate.
NOTE: It is not a step if the pitcher slides his foot across the pitcher's plate, provided

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contact is maintained with the plate **and there is no movement backwards**. Lifting the pivot foot off the pitcher's plate and returning it to the plate, creating a rocking motion, is an illegal act.

- j. The pivot foot **must** remain in contact with, or ~~may~~ push off and drag away ~~from the pitcher's plate~~ **or be airborne** prior to the stepping (non-pivot) foot touching the ground, ~~provided the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground.~~

NOTE:

It is legal to drag, leap or hop and then land and throw as long as the original push starts from the pitcher's plate. It is not legal to step off with the pivot foot and then drag, leap, or hop and throw.

- ~~j. Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate before the stepping (non-pivot) foot has left the plate is considered a "crow hop" and is illegal.~~
- k. The pitcher must not continue to wind up after releasing the ball.
- l. The pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll, or bounce the ball in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.
- m. The pitcher has **twenty** (20) seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball, or after the umpire indicates, "Play Ball".

EFFECT – Sec. 3m: An additional ball is awarded the batter.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Two feet on the pitching rubber limits the amount a pitcher can leap and allows for better control.

RULE 6, SECTION 3, LETTER k

DESCRIPTION:

The pitcher ~~may~~ **shall** not push off from a place other than the pitcher's plate prior to separating his hands ~~or prior to the windmill action, even after dragging.~~

REASON FOR CHANGE:

There is no clarification to deal with the pitcher that still has his/her hands together when they land out front and still have their hands together.

RULE 6, SECTION 7 EFFECT

Housekeeping

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 6, Sec.7. Effect THROWING TO A BASE. THE FOLLOWING IS THE EFFECT FOR ALL SECTIONS 1 – 7 ABOVE.

EFFECT – Sections 1-7:

Any infraction of Sections 1-7 is an Illegal Pitch. (EXCEPTION: Rule 6, Sec. 3m and **Sec. 6b**)

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Correction of Rule reference in Exception.

RULE 6, SECTION 8

DESCRIPTION:

INTENTIONAL ~~WALK~~ **BASE ON BALLS**

If the pitcher **or Coach** desires to walk a batter intentionally, either the **pitcher, catcher or coach** may do so by notifying the plate umpire who shall award the batter first base. ~~The pitcher's~~ The notification to the umpire shall be considered a pitch.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The Coach is the head decision maker he should be able to notify, the catcher calls the game, the pitcher can decide the intentional walk and the pitcher can notify.

RULE 6, SECTION 12

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 6 sec 12 effect (addition)

If the Illegal Pitcher has returned and thrown one pitch, either legal or illegal, he is ejected from the game. If he is discovered prior to the next pitch, the manager of the offensive team has the option of

1. Taking the result of the play, or
2. Having the play nullified, with runners returning to the last base held at the time of the play.

Exception to Effect Sec 12 (2):

If the play was the result of the completion of the batter's turn at bat **and the option is taken to nullify the play**, that batter resumes batting, assuming the ball and strike count he had prior ~~to the discovery of the Illegal Pitcher, with each runner returning~~ **completing his turn at bat, and runners are returned** to the bases held at the time of the pitch.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Clarifies what happens to batter and runners if option 2 is taken. Merely states what is now the practice.

RULE 8, SECTION 1, LETTER c,
NUMBER 4 Exception

DESCRIPTION:

Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. **That choice having been made, by entering the batters box or reaching first base, she may not change her mind.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

This is to clarify that, having opted to bat, the female batter may not, having received one or more pitches, then decide to walk.

RULE 8, SECTION 2, LETTER g,
NUMBER 7

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 8 Section 2 g 7 (New)

The Batter Runner is out

7. After contacting the ball, throws his bat in such a manner as to cause interference with a fielder's opportunity to make an out.

Note Sec 2 g (1-7): If this interference is, in the umpire's judgement, an obvious attempt to prevent a double play, the runner closest to home plate at the time of the interference shall also be called out.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Throwing the bat in the direction of a fielder after contact should be ruled as interference.

RULE 8, SECTION 2, LETTER k

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 8 Section 2 k

Rule 8 Sec. 2. THE BATTER IS OUT.

- k. When a **non-playing** member of the team at bat interferes with a player attempting to field a batted foul fly ball, **or with a foul fly ball that a fielder is attempting to catch.**

~~If a runner creates the interference, then the runner is out.~~

EXCEPTION: If this interference occurs while there are runners on base, then the runner closest to home at the time of the interference is out.

NOTE: In ~~both exceptions~~ **this case** the batter-runner will return to bat with an additional strike on the foul ball, provided the count prior to hitting the ball was less than two strikes.

- (a) (FPONLY) If this interference is the third out, the batter-runner will return to bat as the

lead off batter in the next inning, with the original ball and strike count cancelled.

- (b) (SP ONLY) If this is the third strike, the batter-runner is also out, unless the third out of the inning was the runner interference call, in which case the batter-runner shall be deemed to have completed his turn at bat.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

When this rule change was original proposed it was intended to deal with interference caused by a non-playing team member. When written into the rule book, the reference to the non-playing member was inadvertently omitted. Interference by runners, batters, batter runners and on-deck batters are already covered under the rules.

RULE 8, SECTION 9, LETTER a-d & e

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 8 Sec 9 a-d and e

~~EFFECT – Sec. 9a-d:~~

~~The ball remains in play.~~

Rule 8 Sec 9 e

The runner is out

When anyone, other than another runner, physically assists him while the ball is in play **or when the ball is dead after a home run or award of bases.**

NOTE: If a fly ball is caught on the play, the batter-runner will also be out.

EFFECT – Sec. 9a-e: The ball remains in play.

Exception Sec 9e: When the runner is assisted after a home run or award of bases the ball remains dead.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Situation of assisting a runner on a dead ball such as a home run or award of bases is not covered by the current rules.

RULE 8, SECTION 9, LETTER f

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 8 Section 9 f

9 THE RUNNER IS OUT

- f. When he physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been called out.

Effect – Section 9f

The ball remains in play

EXCEPTION: When the runner passes a preceding runner during a dead ball play the ball will remain dead. **If the ball becomes a dead foul ball, the runner who passed is not out.**

REASON FOR CHANGE:

We as a practice do not call a runner out if passing occurs on dead foul ball. Think of the batter-runner rounding first on a fly ball to the outfield with R-1 coming back to tag up or hold the base. If the ball becomes a uncaught foul ball, we do not normally call the batter-runner out for passing. We cannot do this on any dead ball as a home run once it passes out of the park is a dead ball but runners continue to round the bases. Umpires should mentally (verbally?) note the passing but not call the out until the status of the ball, whether a dead foul ball is determined.

**RULE 8, SECTION 9, LETTER n
DESCRIPTION:**

Rule 8 Sec 9. THE RUNNER IS OUT.

- n. When he interferes with a fielder attempting to catch a foul fly ball, or with a foul fly ball that a fielder is attempting to catch, in which case the batter-runner will return to bat with an additional strike on the foul ball, provided the count prior to hitting the ball was less than two strikes.
 - i) (FPONLY) If this interference is the third out, the batter-runner will return to bat as the lead off batter in the next inning, with the original ball and strike count cancelled.
 - ii) (SP ONLY) If this is the third strike, the batter-runner is also out, unless the third out of the inning was the runner interference call, in which case the batter-runner shall be deemed to have completed his turn at bat.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Clarifies what happens if the runner causes interference on a foul fly ball.

**RULE 8, SECTION 9, LETTER s
DESCRIPTION:**

Rule 8 Sec 9s

When he runs bases in reverse order, **or off the base line while not attempting to advance, in an attempt to** either confuse the fielders or to make a travesty of the game.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Runner 1 (R1) on third base, Runner 2 (R2) on first base. On the pitch R2 sprints toward Right Field (F9) and remains at right field, the catcher throws the ball to short stop (F6) for the tag on the perceived steal to second base. F6 confused moves toward F9, at this point R1 steals for home. This action is not in the spirit of the game; deception is not part of the game of softball. This tactic was

being taught at a recent international coach's clinic and was used in a National Championship.

RULE 8, SECTION 9, LETTER z

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 8 Section 9 z

- z. When runners switch positions on the bases. Effect 9 z

This is an appeal play. When properly appealed, each runner discovered to have switched positions on the bases will be declared out and the Head Coach shall be ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

NOTE: **The appeal** can be made any time until all runners who switched positions are in the dugout or the inning is over. If one of the runners who switched bases is on base, both he and all other runners who switched bases will be out, even if they had scored, and any run(s) scored by any of the runners who switched bases will be nullified.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Changes to cover all situations where a switch could take place.

Play is clearly referred to as being an appeal play.

**RULE 8, SECTION 10, LETTER o
DESCRIPTION:**

The runner is not out.

When a fielder makes a play on a runner, while using an illegal glove.

NOTE to Sec 10o:

A pitch by the pitcher is not considered making a play.

EFFECT - Sec 10o:

The manager of the offended team has the option of

1. Taking the result of the play, or
2. Having the entire play nullified, with runners returning to the last base held at the time of the play.

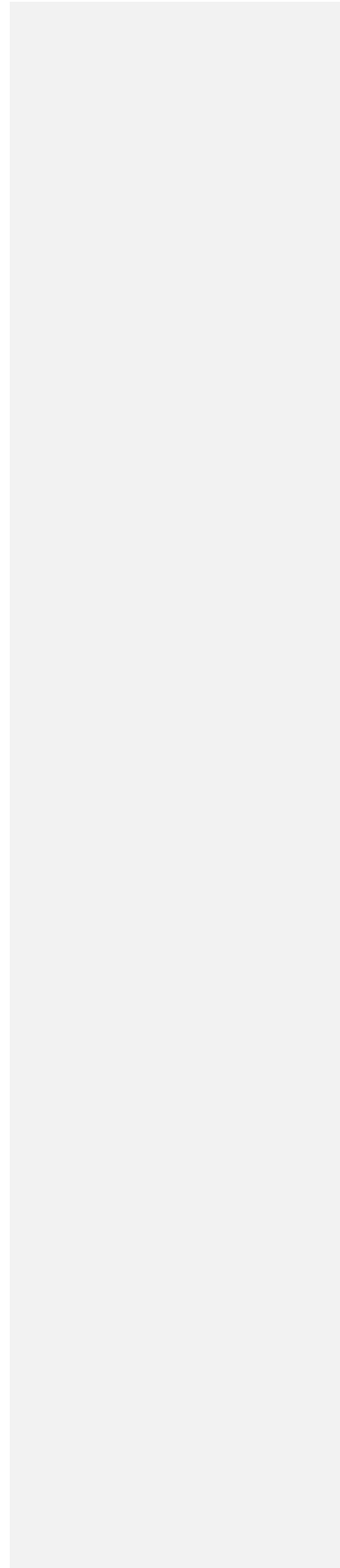
EXCEPTION to Effect Sec 10o (2):

If the play was the result of the completion of the batter's turn at bat **and the option is taken to nullify the play**, that batter resumes batting, assuming the ball and strike count he had prior to completing his turn at bat, and runners are returned to the bases held at the time of the pitch.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The current exception to the effect says "If the play was the result of the completion of the batter's turn at bat, that player resumes batting, assuming the ball and strike count he had prior to completing his turn at

bat, and runners are returned to the bases held at the time of the pitch".



RULE 8, SECTION 10, LETTER p

DESCRIPTION:

Rule 8 Section 10 (new)

The runner is not out when

(p) A coach unintentionally interferes with a thrown ball while in the coaches box

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Clarifies the current situation

RULE 9, SECTION 1, LETTER n

DESCRIPTION:

When the ~~runner~~ ~~offensive team~~ runner runs bases in reverse order, **or off the baseline, while not attempting to advance, in an attempt to** either to confuse the fielders or to make a travesty of the game.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Adds that the deception created by not directly advancing to the next base by running off the base path results is a dead ball.

RULE 10, SECTION 1, LETTER m Note

DESCRIPTION:

NOTE: Unless appealed to, the umpire does not call the player out **or penalize him** for having failed to touch base, leaving a base too soon on a fly ball, batting out of order, being an unreported substitute, being an Illegal Re-Entry, the replacement player **or returning** withdrawn player **does** not report, or making an attempt to go to second after reaching first base, as provided in these rules.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The penalty for an illegal re-entry is the ejection of both the manager/coach (whose name appears on the line-up card) and the illegal substitute.

RULE 10, SECTION 1, LETTER l

DESCRIPTION:

5. Call an infield fly.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

Depending on the course of the fly ball and the position of the fielders, the base umpire can have a better angle than plate umpire to determine whether it is an infield fly or an outfield fly.