

SECTION 2-Official Interpretations/Clarifications ***latest posting on 4/20/01

Rule-section	Situation	Interpretation	Possible 2002 Action
1-53	The batter slaps a ball into the air above home plate. Although the ball does not go higher than the batter's head, the catcher is able to lunge forward and make the catch. Is this a foul tip or legal catch?	This is a legal catch. As a standard, if a batted ball which does not go higher than the batter's head is caught a) it is a foul tip <u>if the ball travels</u> directly to the catcher's hand/glove and b) it is a legal catch <u>if the catcher moves</u> to the ball.	Possible addition- "Note- if the catcher moves to the ball, it is not a foul tip. If caught, it is a legal catch and if not caught, it is foul ball."
1-48			Possible addition- "Whenever the first out of multiple outs is made by the batter, all forces are eliminated."
2-12	At a predetermined half inning, usually between the top and bottom of the fifth inning, the home team wishes to have their grounds crew re-groom (water, drag, line and replace the bases) the infield. The field work is done quickly but 3-5 minutes elapses during which the home team pitcher throws warm-up pitches in foul territory before taking the field for her five warm-up pitches from the mound. Is this game delay legal?	It was never the committee's intention to suspend a game to re-groom a field except in the event there is an set-up error (for example, playing at a park district and someone discovers the bases are in the 65 foot sleeves) or if conditions are dangerous (such as adding field amendment to a wet area). Of course, there is the recent addition to allow for the redrawing of lines but even that stipulates to avoid significantly delaying the game to do so. While the committee is grateful to the grounds crews which take such pride in their fields, their time on the field during the game should be limited to the repairs mentioned above and raking high traffic areas which can be done without interrupting either the normal flow of the game or between inning warm-up activities. Please note it is contrary to the spirit of the rule for the offensive team to delay coming out of the dugout in an effort to allow the grounds crew additional time on the field. In addition, if the raking of high traffic areas occurs, it should happen no more than once during a game.	Per rule 2, section 12, maintenance of the field before and <u>during</u> games shall be the responsibility of the home management. Possible rewrite- add in-game field maintenance shall be at the request of the umpire.
3-1	Clarify limit for .50 COR. Is the standard absolute (.5000) or rounded (.50999)?	The standard is rounded to two decimals so as long as the COR is less than .505, it would round to the maximum limit of .50.	
3-6	Does the restriction on electronic equipment apply to a) radar guns; and b) information from the official scorer whether or not she is using an electronic scorebook?	Scouting information gathered outside the dugout is to stay outside (i.e. not be given or relayed to team personnel) during the contest so relaying information from radar guns or pitching charts is not permissible. Verifying the accuracy of score keeping decisions with the official scorer however is legal. The distinction is that accurate scorekeeping (from any source whether it is scorepad or something electronic, from the official scorer or opposing scorekeeper) is information that is equitably shared with both teams and provides neither with a competitive disadvantage. Scouting information advantages one team over the other and may lead to the outcome of the game favoring the better-equipped team, not the better team on the field.	Possible revision- Note: Scoring and/or statistical information may be entered into electronic equipment in the dugout during the game. In addition, scoring decisions may be verified with opposing teams and/or the official scorer as long as the information is of a scoring (rather than scouting) nature.

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3-11b	Under foul weather wear, the book indicates foul weather garments may be worn if the weather warrants. Does this preclude a pitcher (who prefers keeping her arm sweaty) from wearing a coat while running the bases in warm weather? Can an individual player decide she is cold and wear a sweatshirt if the other players indicate they are warm enough to play without the extra clothing?	Players, coaches and umpires should be allowed to wear as many layers of allowable clothing as they need to participate comfortably. The participant should be allowed to interpret "if the weather warrants" for her own needs (which would include a pitcher who wishes to keep her arm extremely warm, even in the warmest of weather). The benefit of the doubt should go to the player in allowing her to add clothing as long as it is legal and does not pose a danger to her, her teammates or opponents. Note-if a batter wears a loose fitting garment that hangs into the strike zone, she should be instructed to tuck it in, roll it up or remove it.	Possible revision-delete "if the weather warrants".
3-11c	Can a player wear a bandana under her cap, helmet or catching helmet?	No, bandanas and handkerchiefs are not allowed even if worn under allowable headgear in as much as the allowable gear could be displaced during game action, thus exposing the bandana/handkerchiefs.	Possible revision: Plastic visors, bandanas and handkerchiefs are not allowable headgear even if covered or worn under a cap or helmet.
3-11d note	If jersey sleeves are tied OR taped as opposed to tied AND taped, are they legal?	No, as noted near the bottom of page 34, uniforms are to be worn properly. Any method of hiding the sleeve to simulate a sleeveless jersey is not permissible. Note- while this rule has little effect on the outcome of the game, its enforcement is important to the image of the game just as team jerseys replace eclectic t-shirts worn by some recreational teams.	Possible rewrite- Note-Fastening sleeves to simulate a sleeveless jersey is considered wearing the uniform improperly.
5-4a	Must an umpire inspect equipment for the second game of a double header or before each game of a tournament?	Yes, bats can become unusable or helmets cracked in any game and should not be allowed in subsequent ones.	
*** 6-1c and 12-24	Runners on second and third with two outs. The batter swings and misses strike three but the catcher does not catch the pitch. The runner from third scores. The catcher eventually recovers the ball and throws to the pitcher covering the plate who tags out the second runner also attempting to score (third out). The batter-runner, thinking the inning was over, advanced toward BUT did not touch first base before the pitcher realizes she has a play and throws to first. The throw beats the batter-runner but since there are three outs already, what is the effect?	The play at the plate is the apparent third out however the defense may appeal baserunning infractions in order to nullify the run. When properly appealed, a dropped third strike is a force out, therefore the apparent runs do not count.	

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*** 6-11a	Can a team gain a second defensive conference in an inning by sending a team representative out to be ejected but still have the opportunity to deliver a message?	Ideally as a team representative approaches the field for a second conference, the umpire will prevent the excessive conference and therefore not have to eject the offender. In the event preventative umpiring does not prevent the situation, the offender should be immediately ejected and every effort made to prevent delivery of any messages sent from the dugout to the field.	Possible rewrite- PENALTY - The umpire shall not permit more than one defensive conference per inning. The team representative(s), who defies an umpire by attempting to hold another charged conference, shall be immediately ejected (prior to delivering any messages to the field).
*** 6-11a	An assistant coach SPRINTS on the field for a 2nd conference in an inning, delivers the needed message to the pitcher and fielder(s). The umpire attempts to stop the coach but is avoided and therefore ejects the coach per 6-11a. Two batters later, the same thing happens with the same defensive team, another assistant coach SPRINTS out with the same results--delivered message and ejection. What recourse is there to prevent the defense from taking advantage of excess conferences?	Upon the ejection of the first assistant coach, warn the head coach that you will not tolerate the willful disregard for the rules. Under 15-2 you clearly have not only the authority to order a coach to do or refrain from doing an unsportsmanlike act such as this but also you are obligated to conduct the game under conditions conducive to fair play. At this point of warning, you also have several options...you can add that you will be writing the athletics director of this breach of the code of conduct (page 8) and abuse of the rules...you can inform the coach that should it happen again, the team will forfeit the game or you can simply issue a warning and not indicate what you will do if it occurs again. In any event, if it occurs again, you can invoke 6-19a5, that is "If, after warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game is willfully and persistently violated" a forfeit is declared. It would certainly be unfortunate for the players and spectators to be penalized for the unsportsmanlike conduct of a coaching staff but sometimes that is the only option to protect the integrity of the game.	The committee needs to consider if it is desirable to include the willful and persistent violation of a rule under rule 13, Misconduct. It could be included in section 1 as unprofessional behavior which draws an ejection and 2 game suspension. It could also be listed in section 2 with an automatic ejection for the first violation and a more stringent penalty for subsequent violations. In addition, the committee should consider reiterating the sections of 6-19 (forfeited game) which are examples of misconduct in rule 13.
6-11a	Situation: a coach uses the one allowable conference early in an inning and then later reports a defensive switch of the pitcher and right fielder to the umpire. The coach then goes to the mound and tells the pitcher to go to right field and signals for the right fielder to come pitch. a)does that trip to the mound to switch players count as a conference? b)if after throwing one pitch, may the coach switch the players back to their original positions and gain both warm-up pitches for the returning pitcher and a conference for making a pitching change?	a) No conference is charged since the substitution was given to the umpire and then the coach went to the mound to carry out the switch. b) The coach may switch the players back at any time however if the returning pitcher has already pitched in the inning, she may not be given warm-up pitches. In addition, the coach has not used the one additional conference gained from the initial switch of players so that one conference is still available even though the coach already spoke to the starting pitcher earlier in the inning. Note-a team can never have more than one conference available regardless of the number of pitching changes in an inning.	

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7-1a	Section 1a states an appeal is a play on which the umpire does not rule until requested by a coach or player however 7-1c indicates a dead ball appeal may be made by any infielder including the pitcher and catcher. Does the later preclude a coach from making an appeal in contradiction to 7-1a?	The intent is to have a just resolution to the play therefore, if a coach approaches an umpire with an appeal, he/she should be asked if he/she will be having an infielder make a dead ball appeal on the play in question. The coach can then take the cue to have the process proceed as described in the book. A similar precedent exists in the event the wrong umpire is asked for a decision when that umpire refers the question to the responsible umpire.	Possible rewrite of 7-1c to replace "any infielder (including the pitcher and catcher), with or without the ball, may ask..." to "a coach or any fielder (with or without the ball) may ask..."
7-1a1	Rule 7, section 1a1 specifies the penalties for submitting an inaccurate lineup card but the parallel penalties for batting out of order, an unreported substitute and an illegal player are listed in rule 11, section 11 and rule 8, sections 5d and e. They should all be referenced here as appeal plays.	Current text is accurate and complete however perhaps not in the best location. No immediate changes or clarifications needed.	Possible change 1a1 to: Participation by an improper player...see 8-new 4 and Appendix A chart. Delete current 7-1a2. Revise: 7-1a new 2 Missing a base...see 12-19 and 25b; 7-1a new 3 Leaving a base...see 12-2dd-f and 25b; 7-1a new 4 Attempting to advance... see 12-6a (reindex and amend 15-k)
*** 7-1a	Runners on first and third with one out. Batter singles to right plating the runner from third. The runner who started on first misses second but arrives safely at third. The batter-runner is thrown out at second trying to advance (second out). Defense appeals that the runner from first missed second (the third out). Does the run score since it occurred before the appeal?	No. Since the third out is a force play at second, not a timing play, the run does not score.	Consider adding as an approved ruling/example.
*** 7-1 1b	If the defensive team has inaccurately listed either their pitcher or catcher, when are they considered to have made a play? Does throwing or receiving a pitch constitute making a play?	Both throwing and receiving a pitch are considered having made a play. The coach of the offended team may bring the error to the attention of the umpire and request nullification of the results of the last pitch. Strategy might dictate waiting until the penalty will be more advantageous however the offending team also has the ability to correct its own mistake without penalty.	
7-1f 12-6c 12-25d 12-26b	Runner on first takes off on the hit and run. She hits second base and is on her way to third as the outfielder makes a diving catch for the first out of the inning. The outfielder jumps to her feet and overthrows the ball into the first base dugout (the runner is now half way between second and third as the ball leaves the fielder's hand). What is the proper call?	Initially, you have dead ball, the runner is awarded two bases (third base). BUT she never tagged up and according to rule 7, section 1f and rule 12, sections 25d and 26b, she cannot return to touch a base if she is on a base beyond the base she left too soon. So if the defensive coach appeals she never tagged up, you have an out.	Summer meeting to determine if this is the fair result since the runner is penalized for a mistake by the defender who threw the ball out of play. Committee to either change the rule or verify support for existing rule.

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*** 7-1f follow-up	During the dead ball or as the umpire awards the runner additional bases, if the runner attempts to return to tag up at first base, should the umpire stop the runner	Stopping the runner and pointing out she cannot return during the dead ball advantages the defense into making an appeal they might otherwise not have noticed. Notice the re-touch but let the appeal or lack thereof take its course without stopping the runner.	
7-1g	Runners on first and third with one out. The batter doubles but misses first base, the runner from first misses second on her way to third, and the runner on third scores. The defense appeals the two missed bases but does it matter in which order they appeal?	Yes. When the defense initially appeals the batter missed first base, that is the second out. The subsequent appeal for missing second is a timing play so if the runner from third has crossed the plate at the time of the appeal, the run scores. If the defense initially appeals the runner missed second base, that is the second out. The subsequent appeal for missing first is a force out, therefore the run does not score.	
7-2e	During the regular season, can a protest committee exist to facilitate protests in a tournament?	Technically the only time a protest committee has any authority is during an NCAA qualifying event (see 7-2f). However if there is a tournament umpire in chief and a protest is lodged on the field, the UIC may be consulted for his/her opinion to assist the umpires working the game in settling the dispute. The protesting coach retains the right to protest to the softball secretary rules editor if the on-field resolution is not satisfactory.	
8-2a	If the starting DP gets on base and is replaced by the DEFO to run the bases twice in a single game, the DP is then unable to play for its remainder (starter who has reentered). If that position (the one the DP originally occupied but the DEFO currently holds) in the batting order comes up again, may the coach substitute for the DP even though there has been no one in that position for some time or must he/she substitute for the DEFO?	Once the starting lineup is created with a DP and DEFO, those positions exist throughout the game even if one of them is temporarily vacant. The DEFO who entered the game to run for the DP is still the DEFO and retains all those rights. The DP position still exists and a substitute may be entered in that spot in the batting order. Some of the confusion regarding the DP and DEFO stems from using misnomers such as "temporary DP" or from equating the phrases "the number of <u>players</u> being reduced from 10 to 9 (text in the rule book)" with "the available positions decrease from 10 to 9 (which is not true)".	
8-2g3	Per the NCAA baseball rules... "If the pitcher is listed in the starting batting order, the pitcher automatically becomes the DH. In this case, the pitcher is considered as two players, both pitcher and DH, and can be substituted for as each." May a coach list a single player in both the DP and DEFO spot in the batting order for a softball game?	Unlike baseball's designated hitter and defensive player, the softball DP and DEFO are much more versatile positions. Therefore, a single player may not be listed in two spots in the starting lineup at the same time. Per rule 8-2g3, the same player may not be listed as the DP and DEFO on the lineup card	

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8-4 new	See 7-1a1 listed earlier		New heading: Improper Player a)batting out of order copied from 11-11; b)inaccurate lineup card deleted from 7-1a1; c)unreported sub deleted from 8-5d; d)illegal player deleted from 8-5e (re-index)
8-5b2	Following a pitching change, a relief pitcher may throw no more than 5 warm up pitches except if the pitching change is necessitated by an injury. NFHS does not allow the injured pitcher to reenter if her substitute uses more than 5 warm-up pitches. What about the NCAA?	The injured pitcher is not precluded from reentering as long as she can legally reenter (i.e. was not a substitute herself or as a starter, previously used her one allowable reentry).	
*** 8-5d and 5e	#10 is the runner at second, #12 is at first with no one out. The offensive coach announces to the umpire #14 will run for #10 and then uses a conference to talk to the batter, the substitute and the original two runners. When the offense breaks the huddle, #14 replaces the trailing runner #12 instead of lead runner #10 as reported. What is the remedy when appealed?	The remedy will depend on the question asked by the offended team. If the defense asks “is #10 supposed to be at second?” You have an unreported reentry. #14 was officially reported as a substitute for #10 however #10 can reenter for her own substitute (assuming she had not been out of the game already). Impose the penalty for unreported player. If the defense asks “is #14 supposed to be at first base?” #14 is an illegal player. She was not a starting player and was officially entered as a substitute for #10. She cannot enter the game a second time so impose the penalty for illegal player. If the defense asks “are both players incorrect?” impose both penalties.	

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Interference Intro (pg 85) or 9-13a4	<p>Runner on third base. Batter hits a foul fly ball that could be caught by the third baseman however the runner interferes with the play. The runner is out for interference but what is the effect on the batter? Rule 9, Section 13's penalty specifies the batter is awarded first base and credited with a base hit however awarding a batter a base hit for hitting a foul ball seems inappropriate.</p>	<p>Rule 9, Section 13's penalty does appear to conflict with the penalty for hitting a foul ball (Rule 11, Section 3c4) which charges the batter with a strike. Section 13a4 refers to a fair batted ball and a new statement needs to be added for a foul batted ball.</p> <p>The correct penalty would be the batter is charged with a strike and the offending runner is out.</p>	<p>Possible revision of last sentence- When a runner(s) is called out for interference, the batter-runner is awarded first base and credited with a base hit if the ball was fair.</p> <p>Possible rewrite-a4: Physical contact by the base runner with a fielder attempting to field a <u>fair</u> batted ball, whether intentional or unintentional, shall be interference, provided the fielder had a reasonable chance to make a play.</p> <p>New 5a- Physical contact by the base runner with a fielder attempting to field a <u>foul</u> batted ball, whether intentional or unintentional, shall be interference, provided the fielder had a reasonable chance to make a play.</p> <p>PENALTY- The ball is dead, a strike is charged to the batter and the offending runner is out. Each runner must return to the base touched at the time of the pitch.</p>

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<p>*** Int or Obs</p>	<p>Runners on first and second with no outs. A ground ball is hit into the pitcher's circle that the pitcher fields and throws to third for the force out. As the pitcher fields the ball, the shortstop (who is moving to field the ball near second base) and runner from second collide, causing the runner to fall to the ground and be retired at third base. Is there interference on the runner for running into a fielder as she moved to field the ball or is the shortstop guilty of obstructing the runner?</p>	<p>Per rule 9, section 13a4d, "If two fielders try to field a batted ball and the runner contacts one or both, the umpire shall decide which one is entitled to field the ball, and that fielder only is entitled to protection. Since the pitcher fielded the ball, only she is entitled to protection so there is no interference on the play. However it should be noted that had the pitcher missed the ball, it would be umpire's judgement as to if she had a reasonable chance to field the ball or if the first fielder with a chance to field it would be the shortstop.</p> <p>Per rule 9, section 13, section 18c1, "A fielder who is not in possession of the ball, not in the act of fielding a batted ball, or not about to receive a thrown ball, shall not impede the batter, batter-runner or runner." This too, relates to judgement. Since the pitcher was the protected player, the shortstop is guilty of obstruction and the runner should be awarded the base(s) she would have earned had obstruction not occurred.</p> <p>Remember too, there is the possibility of a no call for inadvertent contact. If the ball was clearly the pitcher's to field, the shortstop obstructed the runner. However if the ball was clearly the shortstop's to field (but the pitcher miraculously snagged it), do not penalize the runner.</p>	
<p>9-8b or 9-18b</p>	<p>What's the call if a batter, who is drawing her bat backward just prior to a pitch, contacts the catcher?</p>	<p>There are several possibilities here. Often times the umpire's holding the pitcher up until the batter has assumed her set position will prevent this situation. But assuming it did not...</p> <p>If the pitcher has not begun her motion, as soon as contact is made, the umpire should call no pitch and step out of the set position. Everyone then resets without penalty.</p> <p>If drawing the bat backward is an attempt to hinder the catcher, (as in showing bunt and then deliberately drawing the bat back to protect a base stealer) invoke the penalty for 9-8. That is, the batter is out; the ball is dead on the interference.</p> <p>If the contact impedes the batter's ability to contact the ball, enforce catcher obstruction (9-18b).</p>	
<p>9-8b or 9-18b</p>	<p>If a batter swings at a pitch so late that the ball is in the catcher's glove, is the call interference on the batter, catcher obstruction or no call?</p>	<p>This is a judgement call with an overriding principle of penalizing the offender. If the catcher anticipates the pitch and reaches forward to catch the ball over the plate, it is catcher obstruction. If the catcher catches the pitch well behind the plate and the purpose of the swing is to impede the catcher, that is batter interference. In the unlikely event both players are acting appropriately, it is generally a no call.</p>	

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9-8c note	The batter swings and does not make contact with the pitch however her swing is so forceful that on the follow through, her bat hits the catcher and hinders her throw on a runner who is stealing. NCAA baseball rule 6, section 2d specifies it is not interference but a strike, dead ball, and runners must return. Is this the correct call for NCAA softball?	In softball, it is interference. Although the batter is entitled to an unencumbered attempt to hit the ball, the catcher is also entitled to make a play without being hindered by the batter. In the situation you describe, the batter's attempt to hit the ball ended when ball/bat collision did not occur so the catcher must now be entitled to throw. Since the catcher was hindered by the batter, the penalty for 9-8b should be invoked.	
9-9b 9-13e	With the bases loaded and one out, the batter hits a high infield fly ball toward first base. The umpire invokes the infield fly rule however no infielder attempts to catch the ball. The ball lands in fair territory where the batter-runner contacts it. The first baseman subsequently fields the rebounded ball and tags the runner standing a step off first base. What rule applies?	As soon as the ball and runner collide, the ball is declared dead. Since the contact occurred in fair territory, the batter is out by application of the infield fly rule and runners are returned to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. Had the contact occurred in foul territory, the correct call would have been foul ball. Even though the batter-runner had been declared out on the infield fly and subsequent contact occurred, it is not batter-runner interference because no fielder was attempting to make a play at the time of the contact.	
*** 9-13a2	Runner on first with no one out. The first baseman is playing in for the bunt as the batter hits a screaming line drive past the first baseman that the second baseman has absolutely no chance of getting to. The ball hits off the runner's shoulder (who is off the base) and deflects into right field. Is interference called?	Per rule 9-13a2, "the baserunner may not contact an untouched, fair batted ball, after it passes an infielder if another fielder has a chance to make a play." If, in the umpire's judgement, the right fielder had a chance to make a play, rule interference. The rule is not intended to protect only the four infielders but any fielder, regardless of where she is positioned.	
*** 9-18c	With a runner on 2 nd and two outs, the batter singles to the outfield. The runner from 2 nd collides with the third baseman but eventually progresses home. As the throw comes into the infield, it is cut off near the mound and a play is made on the batter-runner attempting 2 nd . The third out is made at 2 nd before the obstructed runner scores. Does the run score?	On the obstruction call, the runner is awarded the base(s) she would have reached had there not been obstruction. If the umpire believes the runner would have scored before the third out was made, the run would count. If the umpire judges the runner would not have scored until after the tag at second, the run shall not score. Note-this is only possible on a timing play and would not be the case if the third out was a force out.	
10-2a4	If a pitcher is receiving a signal from the catcher, may she: a) roll the ball in her hand; b) roll the ball up her wrist and pin it against her leg?	Both would be legal. The rule specifies the ball must be held and remain in either the bare or gloved hand. Rolling (not tossing) is legal since the ball remains in contact with the hand. The heel of the hand constitutes the base of the wrist so contact is considered to be in the hand however rolling the ball past the wrist and up the forearm is not legal.	

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10-3	The start of pitch never references the batter so if the batter is partially in the box, may the pitcher initiate the sequence and "quick pitch" the batter?	No, the batter must be in position for the umpire to signal play. Then the pitch is initiated by the steps listed here.	Possible rewrite-The pitch officially begins when, with the batter in the box, the umpire signals play, the pitcher has taken (or simulated taking) a signal from the catcher, both hands have touched in view of the plate umpire, and the hands have separated.
10-16	No one on base with a 3 ball-1 strike count on the batter. Batter swings at strike 2 and runs to first base (perhaps thinking it was a dropped 3 rd strike). Catcher throws to first for which the penalty is the award of 1 ball. Therefore, the batter is awarded a base on balls by duping the defense. Is this really the correct effect?	Rule 10, section 16 specifies the catcher must return the ball directly to the pitcher except in the five situations noted. Since running to first in mid-count is not listed as an exception, award the batter a ball and therefore, a base on balls. While this might seem an injustice, it is not inconsistent with a base runner who jogs to the next base by duping the defense into believing she was forced by the batter being awarded first base.	Committee to either added a sixth exception and not award a ball in this case or verify support for existing rule.
11 Intro	Between innings, is the batter restricted to any particular space for her warm-up swings similar to the on-deck batter who is restricted to the on-deck circle?	Since fields differ significantly in the foul space available, other than she is prohibited from being in the batter's box, the batter may be anywhere in foul territory. The intent of keeping her out of the batter's box is to facilitate the pitcher's warm-up. Having the on-deck batter in her circle should facilitate movement of umpires and coaches with only having to navigate around the first batter.	
11-2 new e	May a batter take a stride position at the front of the batter's box and, as the pitch is delivered, move the rear foot backward toward the catcher (to reclaim the batter's box from a catcher who has legally moved forward) and therefore be compensated for catcher obstruction if contact occurs?	No, since the only possible reason for moving backward is to hinder the catcher, this action is inconsistent with the spirit of the game and should not result in rewarding the offender. Note- the catcher may not obstruct, hinder or prevent the batter's <u>legitimate</u> attempt to make contact with a pitch so movement by the batter that enhances her ability to contact the pitch is protected by catcher obstruction's penalty. The benefit of the doubt must go to the batter.	Possible addition: A stride, if taken, must be forward toward the pitcher. If the stride is backward and contact with the catcher occurs, there is no obstruction. (Change old e to new f/ re-index)
11-5d	Runner on first, batter attempts to bunt but the ball goes directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt, then rebounds into the air to the pitcher who catches the ball on the fly as the runner attempts to advance. Effect?	Because the ball goes directly from the bat to the catcher (whether on a bunt attempt or a swing), the options are foul tip or foul ball. It is not a foul tip because it was not caught by the catcher. At the moment it contacts the catcher but is not caught by her, it becomes a foul ball (strike) and therefore dead ball, runner returns to first.	

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Rule-section	Situation	Interpretation	Possible 2002 Action
11-11c	No one out. Batter one doubles; batter three (improper batter) singles to outfield and is safe at second. Runner who started on second advances to home but misses third base. Note how the order of appeals impacts the outcome.	<p>If the defense appeals the runner from second missed third, she is out (first out) and if the defense then appeals the improper batter before the next pitch, batter two is declared out for failing to bat (second out) and advance by batter three is nullified. Batter three is now up to bat with 2 outs, no runners.</p> <p>If the defense appeals the improper batter before the next pitch, batter two is declared out (first out) for failing to bat and since all advances are nullified, the runner is returned to second. The next batter is the one who follows the player called out (that is, batter three) who now bats with one out, runner on second.</p>	Possible addition to approved rulings/examples.
11-14	With less than 2 out and first base occupied, the batter runner advances toward first base and draws a throw after a third strike not held by the catcher. The throw ricochets off the batter-runner (who was out on strikes) allowing the runner to advance to second base. Per ASA rules, the ball is dead and the runner returns to first. Since the batter-runner is already out, you can't have a double play on the same runner and exception 8-8p exempts the runner closest to home from being called out. What is the NCAA ruling?	<p>Rule 11, section 14 covers the general rule for dropped third strike. The ball is live and runners may advance. However since the batter-runner is already out on strikes, when she interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play, apply the penalty in rule 9, section 13e. That is, the ball is dead and the runner closest to home at the time of the interference shall be declared out. If there had been additional runners, they would be returned to the last base touched at the time of interference.</p>	
*** 12	With runners on 2 nd and 3 rd , the defense calls a conference. As the conference commences, the 3 rd base coach calls the runners over to talk. At the end of the defensive conference, the runners immediately return to 2 nd and 3 rd however the runners have switched bases. What should the umpire do if he/she notices the switch?	<p>The umpire should direct the baserunners to occupy the correct bases before play is resumed.</p> <p>At this time, there is no provision in the text for the opponent to appeal and seek restitution.</p>	<p>The committee needs to consider whether this preventative umpiring is desired or if the switch in runners should be treated the same as batting out of order.</p> <p>If the latter, the penalty could include returning the baserunners to the proper base with no other penalty if there has been no advance; calling the runners out following advance but before the first pitch to the next batter (other runners return) and applying no penalty following advance and a subsequent pitch.</p>

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12-10	If a batter believes she has been struck out and leaves the playing area (i.e. enters the dugout), do the same penalties apply as if she was a base runner who abandons her base or a batter-runner who fails to advance on a base award?	No, the batter may be summoned from off the field of play and return to complete her turn at bat without penalty. Personal observation... It does seem ironic that a batter's error is correctable but a batter-runner or base runner who abandons a base or an effort to run the bases is declared out.	Possible addition to summer meeting agenda. Committee to either change the rule or verify support for existing rule.
12-18	For the look-back rule to be in effect, the pitcher must have possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle. If a runner has retreated to her base as the ball is thrown to the pitcher in the circle, is she released if the pitcher subsequently puts her glove (with the ball in it) under her arm or between her knees in order to adjust her hair?	Yes, unless time has been called, the runners are free to advance. Possession is considered to include only the ball in the throwing hand or glove hand. The ball placed in a pocket, under the chin or other body part does not constitute possession.	Possible rewrite-The look-back rule is in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base, there are one or more runners, the pitcher has possession (that is, holds the ball in her hand or gloved hand) and control of the ball within the pitcher's circle.
12-23b	Runner on third. Batter receives a base on balls and trots down to first base. After she is half way and the running lane has started, the catcher throws to first in an attempt to keep her from continuing to second. 1) The throw hits the batter-runner who is in fair territory or 2) the throw hits a part of the runner's body which is over fair territory although her feet are both in the running lane. NFHS calls her out for interference in both cases even though the base on balls awards her the base without liability to be put out. Is the ball dead or live, may the runner advance and is it interference in NCAA play?	On the base award, the batter-runner cannot be put out solely as a result of a defender's action. However she can be put out for violating baserunning rules (see definition of without liability to be put out rule 1, section 117). In the first situation, the batter-runner has violated rule 12, section 23b which stipulates she shall not run outside the runner's lane and interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base. On the interference, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and each other runner returns to her base. In the second situation, there is no interference since the batter-runner's feet are within the runner's lane. The ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk. Note that in the second example, if the batter-runner, even though she is in the runner's lane, intentionally interferes by waving her hands, interference would be enforced.	

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Rule-section	Situation	Interpretation	Possible 2002 Action
<p>*** 12-26e 12-18a</p>	<p>Batter hits a deep fly to center which looks like it will be caught. Batter runs to 1st, head down, touches the base and turns and walks back down the line towards home and her dugout. The wind blows the ball down and the center fielder does not catch the ball. She picks it up and throws it into the infield where the pitcher picks it up while in the circle. The coach yells at the batter-runner to turn around and run back to 1st. The batter-runner stops her advancement to home looks at the pitcher, then breaks for 1st. The 1st base person tags the batter out. Is the batter-runner out when she stepped back towards home? If not, is she out for stopping and reversing her direction with the pitcher hold the ball motionless in the circle?</p>	<p>Although the batter-runner may not step back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag by the fielder, 12-26e does not apply because the steps back toward the plate were not to avoid or delay the tag.</p> <p>The look back rule allows for a runner who is in motion when the ball is returned to the pitcher within the circle, to continue in the direction she is going or immediately and directly go back in the other direction. Once she determines that direction, she cannot change (unless one of the circumstances in c occurs). Therefore, the batter-runner who is dejectedly moving along the foul line toward home as the ball reaches the pitcher in the circle may now choose to reverse her direction and attempt to return to first.</p>	
<p>15-1a</p>	<p>The umpire uniform includes a plain navy cap? May an umpire wear a cap with lettering identifying a conference, umpire association, or other playing group?</p>	<p>Yes, as long as the cap does NOT have the NCAA mark. Licensing rights have been granted only for use of NCAA caps at the regional and national tournaments. WPSL, AFA or other association marks are legal at the discretion of that governing association for their respective contests.</p>	<p>Possible rewrite-...and navy cap. The cap may be unlettered or bear athletic conference, umpire association or other association marks as applicable.</p>
<p>15-2</p>	<p>There is no rule citing which allows for a pitcher to be granted additional warm-up pitches in the event she is hit with a batted ball (unless she is replaced 10-19c) or for inclement weather (unless there was a substantial delay 10-19d). There is also no citing for an injured fielder to field balls, throw or receive throws following an injury to determine if they can remain in the game. If an umpire grants "warm-ups" under these conditions or additional warm-up pitches, is it protestable since there is no rule to reference?</p>	<p>No, it is not protestable in that the umpire has the authority to make decisions on any situations not specifically covered in the rules (Rule 15, Section 2). Ensuring the safety of the players is a responsibility of all game personnel and the umpire has the authority to make accommodations as needed.</p>	<p>Possible new n. The umpire shall use his/her authority to protect the well being of the participants by granting warm-up fielding and/or throwing to players following an injury or additional warm-up pitches in inclement weather.</p> <p>Committee needs to consider if this addition is wanted since the umpire has the authority to act on these issues even if it is not in the text.</p>