

HBP – When They Go Down and When Don't They?

Rule reference: 7-3-4 and 8-1-1-d

Any and all instances when the pitch hits the batter, the ball is dead and runners cannot advance, unless forced to by the batter being awarded first base.

Any pitch that is a strike is called a strike, ball is dead and runner stays at the plate. No runners can advance. On a strike three, batter is out and no advances can be made.

If the batter swings at the pitch and is hit by the pitch, the strike is recorded and the ball is dead, No runners, including the B/R, may advance. On the 3rd strike, the batter would be called out immediately.

If the pitch is over the plate, but high or low and the batter is hit, call the pitch a ball and keep the batter at the plate.

If the pitch is a ball, but not inside the vertical lines of the batter's box, the batter must make an attempt to get out of the way of the ball. It does not have to be early or successful, but an attempt must be made.

If the pitch is within the vertical lines of the batter's box, the pitcher has made a mistake and the bulk of the problem has now been caused by the pitcher. In this situation the batter will be awarded first, unless he has the opportunity to attempt to get out of the way and refuses to do so (i.e. a slow curve that he watches hit him). If the batter is frozen by a pitch he should be awarded first. If in doubt, award him first.

More and more batters are moving into the pitch to be awarded first.

- Moving elbow into the ball
- Moving knee into the ball
- Rolling shoulder into the ball

Rule 7 - SECTION 3 BATTING INFRACTIONS

ART. 7-3-4 . . . A BATTER SHALL NOT Permit a pitched ball to touch him.

PENALTY: For infraction of Art. 4, the batter remains at bat (pitch is a ball or strike), unless pitch was a third strike.

CB 7.3.4a Play: With R1 on first, B2 has two strikes. He swings at the next pitch, which touches him. R1 steals second.

Ruling: B2 is out. The ball becomes dead and R1 must return to first.

CB 7.3.4b Play: B1 is at bat with a three-ball, two-strike count. He swings at the next pitch and the ball hits his right fist and, without contacting the bat, goes into foul territory. F2 retrieves the ball and throws to F3 who is covering first base and tags B1 with the ball.

Ruling: As soon as the ball hit the batter it became dead. B1 is declared out on strike three. To have the play ruled a foul ball, the ball would have to have hit the bat of B1 before it touched his hand.

Rule 8 - SECTION 1 WHEN BATTER BECOMES A RUNNER

ART. 8-1-1 . . . A batter becomes a runner with the right to attempt to score by advancing to first, second, third and home base in the listed order when:

8-1-1d. ... a pitched ball hits his person or clothing, provided he does not strike at the ball; or

EXCEPTION: If he makes no effort to avoid being hit, or if the umpire calls the pitched ball a strike, the hitting of the batter is disregarded except that the ball is dead. It is a strike or ball depending on location of the pitch.

NOTE: If a batter's loose garment, such as a shirt that is not worn properly, is touched by a pitched ball, the batter is not entitled to first base.