

**Session 1: Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

**Q: Can individual leagues have their own rule that allows no Infield Fly rule in Minors Division?**

A: Rule 2.00 Infield Fly: Note 2

Note 2: The Infield Fly Rule does not apply in Tee Ball.

For all other divisions a rules waiver request will need to be submitted upward to the District Administrator (DA). The DA will initiate a process to have the rule waiver request reviewed and ruled upon by the Rules Committee at Little League.

**Q: Are runners protected if hit with ball on an infield fly situation while standing on base?**

A: Rule 7.08 (f): Exception and Note 1.

EXCEPTION: If a runner is touching a base when touched by an Infield Fly, that runner is not out, although the batter is out.

NOTE 1: If a runner is touched by an Infield Fly when not touching a base, both runner and batter are out.

**Q: For a play at home plate during an at-bat who is ruled out, batter or runner, on offensive (batter's) interference?**

A: Rules 6.06 (c): Exception and 7.09 (c).

6.06 (c) interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:

EXCEPTION: Batter is not out if any runner attempting to advance is retired, or if runner trying to score is called out for batter's interference.

7.09 (c) before two are out and a runner on third base, the batter hinders a fielder in making a play at home base; the runner is out.

**Q: Is the batter or runner out on coach's interference?**

A: Rule 7.09 (h).

(h) in the judgment of the umpire, the base coach at third base or first base, by touching or holding the runner, physically assists that runner in returning to or leaving third base or first base;

A.R. – When a play is being made on the assisted runner, the runner is out and all runners return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference (dead ball). If no play is being made on the assisted runner, the runner is out and play continues (delayed dead ball).

**Q: Can a force play be removed?**

A: Rule 7.08 (e)

(e) failing to reach the next base before a fielder tags said runner or the base after that runner has been forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner. **However, if a following runner is retired on a force play, the force is removed and the runner must be tagged to be put out. The force is removed as soon as the runner touches the base to which that runner is forced to advance, and if oversliding or overrunning the base, the runner must be tagged to be put out.** However, if the forced runner, after touching the next base, retreats for any reason towards the base last occupied, the force play is reinstated and the runner can again be put out if the defense tags the base to which the runner is forced;

Example: Runner on 1<sup>st</sup> 1 out. Ground ball is hit to the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman. 1<sup>st</sup> baseman steps on 1<sup>st</sup> for the out on the batter. The runner on 1<sup>st</sup> must then be tagged to record an out. The force was removed with the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman recording the out on the batter as his 1<sup>st</sup> play.

## 2021 DISTRICT 33 LITTLE LEAGUE VIRTUAL RULES CLINIC Q & A

### **Q: For umpire interference with the catcher, does the catcher have to throw the ball?**

**A:** Rule 5.09 (b)

(b) the plate umpire interferes with the catcher's act of throwing (when the throw is in an attempt to retire a runner), runners return. If the catcher's throw gets the runner out, the out stands. No umpire interference;

Some key factors:

1. A throw to retire a runner must be attempted.
2. Contact must be made with the plate umpire.
3. Remember this rule assumes the catcher first catches the pitched ball cleanly. If the catcher fumbles, bobbles, drops, etc. the rule no longer applies and any interaction with the umpire would be incidental.

### **Session 2: Thursday, February 25, 2021**

### **Q: Is there a rule about a fielder stopping ball with their foot or any other part of their body?**

**A:** There is no rule limiting how a fielder can field a batted or thrown ball using their body. Uniform or detached equipment cannot be used. Rule 2.00 – Catch does provide limitations of how a catch can be controlled. Rule 7.05 covers the various base awards if a fielder uses detached equipment or uniform elements.

*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.*

### **Q: For this example is the base award made according to “Time of Pitch” or “Time of Throw?”**

Runner at 1<sup>st</sup> with 1 out. Batter hits ball hit to shortstop. Shortstop fields ball cleanly and throws ball to 2<sup>nd</sup> base for 1st out. 2nd baseman throws ball out of play in an attempt to retire batter-runner at 1<sup>st</sup> base. Batter-runner had not reached first base when the ball went out of play. Award bases for the batter-runner.

**A:** Rule 7.05 (g) – Time of Throw should be used.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman’s throw was the second play by an infielder. With the batter-runner not acquiring 1<sup>st</sup> base at the time of throw they would be awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base. If they had reached 1<sup>st</sup> base when the throw was made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman the award would be to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

*(g) - two bases when, with no spectators on the playing field, a thrown ball goes into the stands; into a bench (whether or not the ball rebounds into the field); over, under, or through a field fence; on a slanting part of the screen above the backstop; or remains in the meshes of a wire screen protecting spectators. The ball is dead. When such wild throw is the first play by an infielder, the umpire, in awarding such bases, shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched; in all other cases the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made;*

*A.R. – If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first play after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the runners when the wild throw was made.*

### **Q: Where can I find a summary of the 2021 Little League® Rulebook Significant Changes?**

**A:** A link to the rule changes is located on the District 33 webpage under the “Links” tab.

District website is at <https://www.cadistrict33.org>

### **Q: Does the pitcher have to receive the type of pitch from the catcher?**

**A:** Rule 8.01 - Legal pitching delivery. There are two legal pitching positions, the Windup Position and the Set Position, and either position may be used at any time. *Pitchers shall take signs from the catcher while standing on the pitcher’s plate.*

This requirement is intended to prevent a pitcher from being off the pitcher’s plate while receiving the sign and then quickly stepping on the plate and delivering a quick pitch. Quick Pitch Rule 8.05 (e).

At times, some teams will have the sign delivered by other means i.e. Manager or coach from the dugout. There is no penalty against this practice. Rule 8.05 provides the rulings for a pitcher unnecessarily delaying the game and a Quick Pitch.

## 2021 DISTRICT 33 LITTLE LEAGUE VIRTUAL RULES CLINIC Q & A

### **Session 3: Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

**Q: Is Continuous Batting Order (CBO) used for ALL divisions, i.e. minors/majors/juniors/seniors?**

**A:** Per Rule 4.04 each League can adopt Continuous Batting Order (CBO). Historically in District 33, each of the Leagues have adopted 4.04. For each of the District tournaments CBO is adopted.

**Q: Can a coach protest a call/game under Rule 4.19?**

**A:** Only the manager or acting manager can protest a call/game per Rule 4.19.

**Q: Is the game protestable if an announcer, scorekeeper or umpire announces a violation of Rule 6.07 "Batting Out Of Turn"?**

**A:** Scorekeepers announcers and umpires should never call attention to either team that a player is batting out of turn. It is an appeal play that must be discovered by the opposing team. This rule is designed to require managers and coaches from both teams to pay attention to who should bat and who is batting. The game cannot be protested if the scorekeeper, announcer or umpire says something. Each should, however, be counseled as to his/her responsibilities.

**Q: Is a religious bracelet or necklace considered jewelry per Rule 1.11 (j)?**

**A:** All jewelry such as, but not limited to, rings, watches, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, nor any hard cosmetic/decorative items including religious items. Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible.