June 2024 Plays and Clarifications

Seems like yesterday we were encouraging you to check your equipment and refresh your knowledge on rules and mechanics for the upcoming season, and in the blink of an eye we have reached the Championship portion of our season with many qualifiers, Local Association and National Championships being played across the country. We encourage everyone working the Championships whether local or National to prepare for these events. That preparation goes beyond equipment and rules. Physical preparation is very important. The temperatures around the country are already reaching record highs and we haven’t officially reached summer yet. Please prepare and hydrate prior to your assignments throughout the summer.

**Fast Pitch Advanced Camp**

We will be having our USA Softball Fast Pitch Advanced Camp this fall. It will be October 17-20 in Burlington, NC. The camp consists of lectures, drills and games. The cost of the camp is $400. Registration for the camp can be made by contacting Alan Riggs at [alanriggs@yahoo.com](mailto:alanriggs@yahoo.com) and more information can be found in the National Umpire Schools section of our Umpire tab on this website.

**PLAYS**

**Play:** Team A is the home team batting in the bottom of the 6th inning with two out. B6 is due up but B10 is batting. B10 strikes out for the third out. In the bottom of the 7th inning B1 leads off the inning and gets a base hit. The manager of Team B comes out and appeals batting out of order on B1. What would be the proper result of the appeal?

**Result:** The ruling on the appeal would be to leave B1 on the base and B2 is the next batter. In the 6th inning B10 batted incorrectly for B6, but their at bat was allowed to stand as it was not appealed by Team B. Without an appeal of B10 in the 6th inning, B1, who is the next legal batter following B10 would be the correct batter. ***(Rule 7-2D -3 & Effect)***

**Play:** R1 is on 2B and R2 is on 1B with two out. B3 gets a base hit and R1 attempts to score. The throw from the outfield is going to 3B, and R2 is staying at 2B. As R1 reaches the plate F2 is in the baseline and blocking the plate. R1 lowers their shoulder and runs over F2 with great force. The plate umpire calls an immediate dead ball and calls R1 out and ejects them for malicious contact with F2. Is this the correct ruling?

**Result:** No. The ejection of R1 was justified because it was ruled a flagrant and unsporting act and was worthy of ejection. However, R1 could not be ruled out on that play, it was merely obstruction by F2 since they did not have the ball and unless there was a play made on R1 the ball and play would have remained live. The ejection should have occurred after the play was complete. ***(Rules 8-5B & 8-7Q & Effect)***

**Play:** (FP) B1 is batting with one out, no runners on base, and has a 2-2 count. On the next pitch B1 takes a pitch down the middle of the plate and the plate umpire rules the pitch a ball. F2, thinking that B1 just struck out throws the ball to F5 immediately. As the ball is being thrown around the infield the plate umpire gives the count of 3-2. Is this the correct procedure?

**Result:** No. With no runners on base F2 should return the ball directly to the pitcher after every pitch unless there is a strikeout. Since this wasn’t a strikeout, the pitch was ruled ball three, and the penalty for F2 not returning the ball directly to the pitcher is a ball on the batter which would be ball four. On ball four B1 is awarded first base. ***(Rule 7-5G)***

**Play:** R1 is on 3B with two out. B4 hits a ground ball to F6 who makes a wild overthrow to F3 and the ball goes over by the fence. B4 runs through 1B and in (1) misses 1B and is tagged on a live ball appeal for missing 1B before they return to 1B and in (2) after touching 1B makes a quick attempt to go to 2B but changes their mind and is tagged prior to returning to 1B. In both instances R1 scored prior to the appeal. Does R1’s run scored count?

**Result:** In (1) R1’s run doesn’t count because the proper appeal ruled B4 out before they reached 1B safely and no runs can score if the third out occurs before the batter reaches 1B safely. ***(Rule 5-5B-1)*** In (2) R1’s run does count because B4 did reach 1B safely but overran it and was tagged out on a proper appeal. Once R1 reached 1B safely R1’s run would be the result of a timing play. ***(Rule 5-5B-1)***