

SGSL Rules FAQ – 2017 Season

Version Feb 26, 2017

Dead Ball Territory

1. A ball is overthrown from the infield to first base and bounces off the fence and settles in foul territory between the fence and the first baseline. Is this an “overthrow”?
No, the ball remains live, no bases are automatically granted to any base runners.
2. A batted ball makes contact in fair territory before first base, bounces over the white bag of first base, and then rolls out of the field of play (past the fence line parallel to the first base line). What should be called?
Dead ball is called and each base runner is awarded 2 bases from the time of the pitch. [ASA-R8-S5-I]
3. The ball is thrown from third base to first base in an attempt to put out the batter-runner and is overthrown and rolls out of the field of play (past the fence line parallel to the first base line). What should be called?
Dead ball is called and each base runner is awarded 2 bases from the time the ball left the fielder’s hand. [ASA-R8-S5-G]
4. Ball is thrown by pitcher to third base to tag a runner. In the ensuing collision, the third baseman loses possession of the ball which rolls past the fence line parallel to the third base line. What should be called?
Dead ball is called and each base runner is awarded only 1 base from the last base touched at the time the ball entered the dead ball area. Basically in most cases 2 bases should be awarded from the start of the play, unless it is the result of someone losing possession in the course of a play, and not a throw. [ASA-R8-S5-G-1]

Fair and Foul

1. Is play live or dead once a hit ball is declared foul?
Play is dead and base runners must return to their original bases.
2. The ball is hit and crosses the foul line before first or third base. How is this called?
The ball is foul, play is dead. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-A]
3. The ball is hit and rolls fair until it hits first or third base and bounces foul. How is this called?
Fair ball. A ball is considered fair if it hits the first, second or third base. [ASA-R8-S2-M1]
4. The ball is hit and crosses the foul line after first or third base. How is this called?
**Fair ball as long as the ball makes contact with the ground prior to first or third base. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-A]
If first contact with the ground is in foul territory, it is a foul ball. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-E]**
5. The batter hits a line drive into right field past first base, it hits in fair territory past first base, and then bounces foul. Is this a fair or foul ball?
This is a fair ball. Any ball that is touched, or contacts the ground in fair territory past first, second, or third base is a fair ball. [ASA-R1-FAIR BALL-F][ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-E]

6. A pop fly ball is caught in foul territory. Does play remain live or is it dead?
A ball CAUGHT in foul territory is a live ball. Runners must tag up but then may advance at their own risk. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-A] [ASA-R8-S2-C]
7. A pop fly is attempted to be caught in foul territory and is dropped. Does play remain live or is it dead?
It is a foul ball, play is dead and runners must return to their original bases. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-AC]
8. The batter swings at a ball, makes a glancing contact, and the ball hits the backstop. Is this a foul tip?
No. It is a foul ball and counts as a strike unless there are already two strikes. A foul tip goes directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt. Play is called dead. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-ACG]
9. If the ball is hit by the batter and goes directly into the catcher's mitt, what is that called? Does play remain live or is it dead?
This is a foul tip and always counts as a strike. The ball remains in play and runners may advance at their own risk. [ASA-R1-FOUL TIP] [ASA-R7-S4-E]

Batting

1. A pitch comes in with an arc, above the batters shoulders as it starts to pass home plate, passes through the strike zone, and is below the batters knees as it passes over home plate. The batter does not swing. Is this a strike?
This is a strike. If the ball passes through any part of the strike zone, it is considered a strike. [ASA-R7-S4-A]
2. If the ball rolls to the plate and the batter hits it, what happens?
It is a valid hit as long as the batter stays in the batters box . The batter is allowed to swing at any pitch, regardless whether it strikes the ground first or not. If the batter has one foot out of the batters box or a foot touching home plate the batter is called out. [ASA-R7-S6-DE]
3. The pitch comes in and hits home plate. Is this a strike?
It is only a strike if the batter swings. If the ball touches the ground before home plate or hits home plate, it is a ball. [ASA-R7-S5-A].
4. The pitch crosses the plate at the player's shoulders. Is this a strike?
This is called a ball. By ASA rules the strike zone is between the armpits and the top of the knees while in a natural batting stance. The shoulders would be too high. [ASA-R1-STRIKE ZONE] [ASA-R7-S4-A]
5. The pitch crosses the plate at the player's knees. Is this a strike?
Yes, if at the top of the knees. [ASA-R1-STRIKE ZONE] [ASA-R7-S4-A]
6. If the ball hits the batter (including hands or clothing), what happens?
If this occurs while the ball is in the strike zone, then it is a strike [ASA-R7-S4-H].
Otherwise if the batter attempts to avoid the pitch, see local rules.
If the batter does not attempt to avoid the ball, it is called ball. [ASA-R8-S1-F]
7. If the ball hits the batter's hand, what happens?
If this occurs while the ball is in the strike zone, then it is a strike [ASA-R7-S4-H]. Otherwise if the batter attempts to avoid the pitch, see local rules. If the batter does not attempt to avoid the ball, it is called ball. [ASA-R8-S1-F]

8. The batter starts to swing, but pulls the bat back in. Is a strike called?
If the ball passes through the strike zone, it is a strike. If the ball did not pass through the strike zone, it is up to the plate umpire with assistance from the base umpire to determine if the batter started to swing or not (checked swing). This is usually determined by whether the batter “broke” her wrists in the motion.
9. If the batter does not pull the bat back for a bunt, is a strike called?
If the ball is not in the strike zone, and the batter does not retract the bat prior to the ball passing over home plate, it is called a strike. Batter must pull a bunt attempt back in or it will be a called strike. This is a SGSL local rule. [SGSL-LOCAL]
10. If the ball hits the bat, then hits home plate, what happens?
If the ball settles fair, it is a fair ball. If the ball settles foul, it is a foul ball. There is no special case for the ball hitting home plate, other than home plate is considered fair territory. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL]
11. If the ball hits the bat, then hits the ground, and hits the bat again while the batter is in the batters box, what happens?
If the batter is holding the bat in the batters box, foul ball is called and play is dead. The batter is assigned one strike if there are less than 2 strikes. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL] [ASA-R7-S6-M1]
If the batter is outside of the batters box then the batter is called out [ASA-R7-S6-M1]
12. If the batter hits the ball and drops the bat, and the ball makes contact with the bat on the ground, what happens?
If in the judgment of the umpire there was no intent to interfere with the ball, the ball is live. If the umpire believes there was intent to interfere with the ball, it is a dead ball, the batter is called out, and runners must return to their last base. [ASA-R7-S6-M]
13. If the ball hits the bat, then hits the batter while in the batters box, what happens?
Dead ball, counted as a strike unless the batter already has two strikes.[ASA-R7-S4-I]
14. If the ball hits the bat, then hits an umpire in fair territory, what happens?
Dead ball, batter is awarded first base. [ASA-R8-S1-E7]
15. The ball is hit, bounces off the plate umpire and lands fair. How is that called?
Foul ball. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-C]
16. If the ball hits the bat, then hits the coach pitcher, then what happens?
This is a dead ball. Players return to their bases, and the previous strike count restored. [SGSL-LOCAL]
17. If the ball goes directly from the bat to the glove of the catcher, how is that called?
This is a foul tip and always counts as a strike. The ball remains in play and runners may advance at their own risk. [ASA-R1-FOUL TIP] [ASA-R7-S4-E]
18. If the ball is popped up from the bat, and the catcher catches it in foul territory, how is that called?
A ball CAUGHT in foul territory is a live ball. Runners must tag up but then may advance at their own risk. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL-A] [ASA-R8-S2-C]

Base Running

1. The base runner leaves the plate before the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. How is this called?
The runner is called out. [ASA-R8-S7-S] [ASA-R8-S4-A]

2. After crossing first base, the runner turns left to return to first base. The first baseman tags the base runner . How is this called?
The base runner is free to turn left or right to return directly to first base. The base runner is safe. [ASA-8-8-I] [ASA-8-7-H]
3. After crossing first base, the runner turns right to return to first base, but upon seeing an overthrow, advances to second. How is this called?
The base runner is safe. See previous example. [ASA-8-8-I] [ASA-8-7-H]
4. While running to first base, the runner leaves the running lane to avoid a tag. How is this called?
If the base runner deviates more than 3 feet from the base path, the base runner is called out. [ASA-R8-S7-A]
5. While running to second base, the runner deviates more than 3 ft from the base path between first and second to avoid a tag. How is this called?
The base runner is called out. [ASA-R8-S7-A]
6. While running to second base, the runner exits the direct path from first to second to avoid a defensive player fielding the ball. How is this called?
The base runner is called safe. The base runner is attempting to avoid interference of the defensive player. [ASA-R8-8-A] [ASA-R8-9-A].
7. A line drive is hit with base runners on first and second. The base runners advance, but the ball is caught by the shortstop and thrown to the second baseman who tags the second base before the base runner can return, and then tags the advancing runner from first base. How many outs have occurred?
Three outs have occurred. The batter is out by the caught line drive, the base runner at second is out because second base was tagged before the baserunner could return, and the base runner advancing from first is out by the applied tag.
8. With a base runner on first, the base runner takes a lead once the pitch leaves the pitchers hand. It is a called ball, and the catcher throws the ball to the first baseman who tags the bag before the base runner can return. Is this an out?
The base runner is safe, the first baseman must tag the base runner to register an out. NOTE: by 10U SGSL local rules the base runner is not at risk to return to base on coach pitch.
9. Ball four is called on a pitch and a runner on second base steals third base, while the batter is awarded first base. Is the runner allowed to steal third?
Yes, ball four is a live ball. [ASA-R8-S1-C1]
10. Ball four is called on a wild pitch (passed ball), the catcher scrambles for the ball, and the runner on third steals home, while the batter is awarded first base. Is the runner allowed to steal home?
Yes, ball four is a live ball. [ASA-R8-S1-C1]. Note that 10U SGSL local rules prohibit stealing home on a passed ball or throw back to the pitcher unless the pitcher or catcher makes a move on the base runner.
11. With a runner on third base, the batter makes contact with the ball and it rolls past the catcher. The catcher scrambles to get the ball. The runner on third advances and slides into home beating the tag from the catcher. How is this called?
This is a foul ball and play is dead. The base runner must return to third base. [ASA-R1-FOUL BALL]

Look Back Rule and First Base

1. With runner on first, ball is hit and pitcher fields the ball and steps into the pitching circle without making any motion or gesture towards the batter or base runner. Base runner reaches second base, stops. Batter crosses first base. Then base runner at second takes two steps towards third base, pauses, and returns to second base. How is this called?

Base runner is out at second. By the Look Back rule, if a runner is stopped on a base while the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitching circle once the batter-runner crosses first base, they cannot leave the base. [ASA-R8-S7-T2]

2. With base runner on second, ball is hit and fielded by the pitcher in the circle. Base runner at second reaches and stops at third base. Pitcher does not attempt to throw out the batter, who after crossing first base continues to second. Anticipating a throw from the pitcher to put out the batter, the base runner at third steps off the base before the pitcher makes any gesture towards the batter.

Immediate dead ball, base runner at third is called out, batter is returned to first base. [ASA-R8-S7-T2]

3. Ball four is a passed ball and the base runner at third steals home. Meanwhile the base runner crosses first base, turns to second and pauses to see what is going on and sees the pitcher is running back towards the pitching circle. She then takes off for, and reaches second base. How is this ruled?

Base runner is safe at second. There are no restrictions on the base runner so long as the pitcher is not in the pitching circle with control of the ball.

4. With a base runner on third base, the pitcher delivers ball four and the ball is returned to the pitcher in the circle with the base runner off third base. The batter runs towards first base, and the base runner on third does not immediately return to third or head towards home, and only does so once the batter has crossed first base. Should the base runner on third be called out for a Look Back violation?

No, the Look Back rule does not take effect until the batter-runner has either crossed first base or been declared out. [ASA-R8-S7-T]

5. On ball four, the ball is returned to the pitcher, and the base runner rounds first base towards second, stops, and then continues running to second base. Isn't the base runner out because of the "Hesitation" or "Continuation" rule?

The base runner is safe, there is no "hesitation" or "continuation" rule, only the Look Back rule. By the ASA Lookback rule, a base runner that rounds first while the pitcher is in possession of the ball is allowed to stop once, but then must decide to either continue to second or return to first. [ASA-R8-S7-T3a]

6. On ball four, the ball is returned to the pitcher, and the base runner rounds first base towards second, stops, and then runs back to first base. How is this ruled?

The base runner is safe. By the ASA Lookback rule, the base runner is allowed to stop once, but then must decide to either continue to second or return to first. [ASA-R8-S7-T3a]

7. On ball four, the ball is returned to the pitcher, and the base runner overruns first base, turns right, and then runs to second base. How is this called?

The runner at first base is out. While the Lookback Rule is in effect, if you turn right, you must return to first base. [ASA-R8-S7-T3e]

8. On ball four, the ball is returned to the pitcher, and the base runner stops on first base, then steps off and runs to second base. How is this called?

The runner at first base is out. While the Lookback Rule is in effect, once you stop on a base, you cannot leave. [ASA-R8-S7-T3b]

Scoring

1. There are 2 outs with a base runner at third base. The batter hits the ball, it is fielded by the second baseman, and the batter is put out at first base. The base runner crosses home before the out at first. Has a run scored?

No. Runs are not scored if the third out is a force play. [ASA-R5-S5-B1]

2. There are 2 outs with a base runner at third base. The batter hits a bounding ball to the outfield. The advancing base runner crosses home plate. The batter is tagged attempting to stretch the single into a double. Has a run scored?

Yes. The third out is not the result of a force play. [ASA-R5-S5-B1]

Obstruction

1. The ball is hit to the gap between second and third. The base runner advances from first to second, but runs into a defensive player and both fall. The ball arrives to second base before the runner arrives. How is this called?

This is obstruction by the defense (defensive player in the collision was not fielding the ball) and the base runner is awarded second base. [ASA-R8-S5-B]

2. There is a hit to gap between first and second. A defensive player covers second base in such a way that the base runner cannot advance to second without stepping around or into the defensive player. While the base runner hesitates, the ball is fielded by the pitcher and arrives at second base before the base runner can tag the bag. How is this called?

This is obstruction by the second baseman (the base runner must be given a clear path to the base) and the base runner is awarded the base. [ASA-R8-S5-B]

Plays at First Base

1. There is a hit to the second baseman, but her throw to first base is to the right of the first baseman and the first baseman is forced to reach into foul territory in the running lane to catch the ball before the batter crosses first base. How is this called?

This may be obstruction by the first baseman if the catch affected the batter's ability to safely reach first base. [ASA-R8-S5-B]

2. There is a hit to the second baseman, who throws to first base before the base runner arrives, however the first baseman is in contact with the orange safety bag. How is this called?

Base runner is safe. This is a rule violation by the first baseman, who must use the white bag for a play originating in fair territory. [ASA-R8-S2-N-3]

3. On a pick off play at first base, the base runner dives back and contacts the orange safety bag before the tag. How is this called?

Base runner is safe. On an attempted pick off play the base runner may return to either the white or the safety bag [ASA-R8-S2-N-9]

4. On a dropped third strike the catcher picks up the ball in foul territory. The first baseman sets up on the orange bag and receives the ball before the batter reaches first. How is this called?
Base runner is out. If the play originates from foul territory, the first baseman and base runner can use either the white or the orange bag [ASA-R8-S2-N-4]
5. On a force play at first with the ball hit to the pitcher, the batter crosses first base before the throw, but contacts only the white bag. The defense appeals before the base runner returns to first base. How is this called?
Batter is out. Batter must use the safety bag, but the defense must appeal before the batter returns to first base. [ASA-R8-S2-N-3]

Interference

1. The ball is hit to the gap between first and second. The second baseman positions herself to field the hit but is run into by the advancing base runner from first just before the ball arrives. Both players fall, the ball bounces past and into the outfield. The runner advances to second before the ball arrives at second base. How is this called?
This is interference by the base runner who reached second and the base runner is called out. All other base runners must return to the last base touched prior to interference. [ASA-R8-S7-J1]
2. There is a pop fly to left infield, the shortstop backs up to make the play but is run into by the advancing base runner on second and drops the ball. The base runner proceeds to third. How is this called?
This is interference and the base runner is called out. [ASA-R8-S7-J1]
3. Batter hits the ball which the shortstop attempts to field but goes under her glove and hits the base runner advancing from second to third. The base runner is able to safely reach third without being tagged. How is this called?
By ASA rules the base runner is safe at third because she was hit by a ball after it passed a defensive player who could have made a play on the ball. [ASA-R8-S7-K]. However by SGSL local rules at 2A and 3A, the base runner is out because she touched a batted ball and the batter is awarded first base.
4. Batter hits the ball between first and second and it hits base runner advancing from first to second. The base runner is able to safely reach second without being tagged. How is this called?
The base runner is out at second because she was hit by a ball before it passed a defensive player who could have made a play on the ball. [ASA-R8-S7-K]

Infield Fly Rule (4A and above)

1. With one out and base runner on first base, batter hits a high pop fly which the shortstop attempts to field, but drops.
This is not an infield fly situation and result of the play stands. There must be fewer than two outs, and a force play at third base (first and second, or first second and third must be occupied). [ASA-R1-Infield Fly]
2. With one out and bases loaded, batter hits a high pop fly which the shortstop attempts to field, but drops. Ball is thrown to catcher who tags home plate and base runner at home is called out on the force. The umpire does not signal infield fly by pointing to the sky, and after the play the defensive manager appeals.

This is an infield fly case, and the defense can appeal infield fly even if not signaled at the time. The base runner at first is called out on Infield Fly, and the run scores because there is no longer a force and the catcher must tag the runner. [ASA-MAY-2010-R8-S21]

3. With runner on first and second, batter hits a high pop fly, umpire signals infield fly, base runner on second leaves for third, and shortstop makes the catch. Baserunner continues to third, and short stop throws to second base.

This is a double play. The batter is called out on Infield Fly, and the base runner who ran to third is called out because they did not tag up after the catch by the shortstop. Base runner at first remains safe at first base. [ASA-R1-Infield Fly]

Dropped Third Strike (4A and above)

1. On the third strike (either by swing, or called strike) with first base unoccupied, the catcher drops the ball. The base runner has already entered foul territory before realizing she may advance and starts to run. How is this called?

If the other conditions (first base unoccupied with less than 2 outs, or there are 2 outs) are met, the base runner may still attempt to reach first base even after leaving the running lane for the dugout. The umpire should be careful to call strike three, but not batter out until the batter is put out.[ASA R8-S1-B]

2. With two outs and runner on first base, the batter swings and misses on strike three. The catcher secures the ball, however it hit home plate before being secured by the catcher. The batter walks towards the dugout, but then sprints and runs to first base while holding her bat.

The base runner is safe. This is a dropped third strike (the ball must go directly to the catcher's glove on strike three or it is dropped third strike) [ASA R8-S1-B], and the batter is allowed to run with the bat as long as it does not interfere with play. The umpire should be careful to call strike three, but not batter out until the batter is put out.

3. On a dropped third strike with first base unoccupied, the catcher throws to first base who receives the ball before the base runner arrives. How is this called?

This is an out. There is no need to tag the runner. The umpire should be careful to call strike three, but not batter out until the batter is put out.

Pitching

For 2A and 3A illegal pitches are not enforced until the tournament. Umpires should inform the manager of the infraction so the pitcher can correct her motion.

1. The pitcher stands on the mound with her hands together. Then separates them. Then puts them together again and pitches. How is that called?

This is an illegal pitch. During the preliminaries the pitcher is only allowed to bring her hands together once prior to the pitch (for no less than 1 second and no more than 10) [ASA-R6-S1-E].

2. The pitcher starts her motion with no feet in contact with the rubber. How is that called?

This is an illegal pitch. Both feet must be in contact with the rubber at the start of the motion. [ASA-R6-S1-E2]

If all base runners are safe as a result of the play, the illegal pitch is nullified. Otherwise the coach

may either accept the result of the play, or assign a ball to batter and advance all base runners one base. [ASA-R6-S1-EFFECT]

3. The pitcher starts her motion with only one foot in contact with the rubber. How is that called?
Same as prior question. Illegal pitch is called. [ASA-R6-S1-E2]
4. The pitcher (right handed) starts with both feet on the rubber, but steps back with her left (non-pivot) foot to start her motion. How is that called?
Illegal pitch, the pitcher must keep both feet in contact with the plate prior to the forward motion [ASA-R6-S1-E2]
5. The pitcher (right handed) lifts her right foot (pivot foot) off the ground during her delivery. How is that called?
This is an illegal pitch. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the ground through the entire pitch. If there is a hole in the ground, her foot cannot rise above the level of the surrounding dirt [ASA-R6-S3-I] [ASA-R6-S3-K]
6. The pitcher does not perform a windmill action prior to delivery. How is that called?
This is a legal pitch. The ASA rules only prohibit more than one full rotation during the windmill but do not require at least one. [ASA-R6-S3-D]
7. The pitcher performs more than one windmill action prior to delivery. How is that called?
This is an illegal pitch. The pitching motion may only include one windmill. [ASA-R6-S3-D]
8. The pitcher brings her hands together to start her motion, separates them, and brings them together again prior to delivery. How is that called?
This is an illegal pitch. Once the hands are brought together and separated, they may not be brought together again. [ASA-R6-S3-B]

Appeals

1. If the base runner misses a base and advances to another base, and it is appealed, how is that called?
The base runner is called out on appeal. If the base missed was required as part of a forced play, the out counts as a forced out.[ASA-R8-S7-G]
2. If a base runner misses a base, how can the opposing team get that runner out?
This is an appeal play, and after play has ceased, the opposing team can ask the umpire to call the runner out for missing a base. [ASA-R8-S7-G]