



April 10, 2023

NFHS Softball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Situation 1: With R1 on first base with no outs, B2 hits a deep fly ball to centerfield. R1 concerned it might be caught is standing just a few steps off first base when B2 rounds first base as the ball clears the outfield fence in flight. B2 passes R1 as R1 is still watching the ball. The umpire rules that since B2 did not pass R1 until after the ball cleared the outfield fence that B2 is not out for passing R1 since the ball is dead once it cleared the outfield fence in flight. **RULING:** Incorrect ruling. All bases must be run legally including awarded bases. Even though the ball is dead on the home run, R1 and B2 must legally run the bases. **B2 should be ruled out once they pass R1**, and R1 is allowed to continue legally running the bases and score. (8-3-11, 8-6-4)

Situation 2: With one out, R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B4 hits a high fly ball. R1 is on second base waiting to tag and R2 is almost to second base when F9 catches the ball. As R2 is returning to first base, F9 throws the ball over F3's head and it enters dead ball territory. The umpire awards R1 home and R2 third base. R2 misses second base as they are advancing to third base. After R1 has touched home and R2 is standing on third base, F4 appeals that R2 missed second base. The umpire rules that R2 is out for missing second base for the third out of the inning, but R1's run scores since it occurred prior to the appeal of R2 missing second base. **RULING:** Correct ruling. All bases must be legally touched or runners will be called out if properly appealed. This appeal is a timing play and since R1 had scored prior to the appeal for the third out their run would score. (2-1-1a, 2-1-3b, 8-3-11, 8-6-7, 9-1-1)

Situation 3: With two outs and R1 on second base, B4 hits a home run. As R1 is rounding third base they are celebrating and missed the base. The third base coach reaches out and grabs R1 by the arm pulling them back to touch third base. The umpire rules R1 out for being physically assisted by the base coach, since this is the third out of the inning neither R1 nor B4's runs count. **RULING:** Correct ruling. Once R1 is physically assisted, they are called out and since the third out of the inning occurred prior to anyone touching home no runs can score. (8-6-5, 9-1-1 EXCEPTION f)

Situation 4: With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a high fly ball that F8 is under waiting for the ball to come down. R1 is a few steps off first base returning back toward the base as B2 rounds first base passing R1. F8 then loses the ball in the sun and it falls to the ground uncaught, allowing R1 to advance to second base. The umpire rules B2 out for passing R1 but allows R1 to stay at second base. **RULING:** Correct ruling. B2 is out when they pass R1, the ball remains live and although R1 is no longer forced, they are allowed to advance at their own risk. (2-24-2, 8-6-4)