

SRI Bulletin

Spring break Edition March 2019

Umpires;

With spring break upon us and league already right around the corner I want to talk about Baserunning, the second largest section in the rulebook. We will be looking at some NFHS test questions that I think deserve some attention based on the percentage of you that missed certain questions.

- **Runs Scoring on Third Out**

If a runner leaves a base too soon on a caught fly ball and returns in an attempt to retag, this is considered a time play and not a force out. If the appeal is the third out, all runs scored by runners in advance of the appealed runner and scored ahead of the legal appeal would count. (8-2-6h)

If a baserunning infraction is the third out, runs scored by the following runner(s) *would not count*. With two outs, if the base is missed was the first to which the batter or runner was forced to advance, *no runs would score*. When a runner is legally returning after a fly ball has been caught, he can be out by being tagged with the ball by a defensive player or merely by the defensive player with the ball touching the base occupied by the runner at the time of the pitch. (8-26k)

A run can never score if the third out was made by the batter- runner *failing to reach first base* or any other runner before reaching the base to which he was forced.

- **Baserunner Leaves Baseline**

Any runner is out when he runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases to **avoid being tagged out** or to hinder a fielder while the runner is advancing or returning to a base(8-4-2-a-2). This is not an infraction if a fielder attempting to field a batted ball is in the runner's proper path and if the runner runs behind the fielder to avoid interfering

with him. (8-4-2a-1). When a play is being made on a runner or batter runner, he establishes his baseline as *directly between his position and the base to which he is moving*. (8-4-2a-2).

- **Coach Physically Assisting a Runner**

No coach shall physically assist a runner during playing action. The runner shall be called out immediately (3-2-2, 8-4-2s). In simple terms to be considered a “physical assist,” the coach must have helped (or attempted to help) a runner gain an advantage. The act of touching a runner does not necessarily constitute physical assistance.

- **Test Questions**

Kris Welch put together a list and breakdown of the most missed question on the 2019 Nfhs baseball test. I would like to address a couple of the missed questions.

20 “To intentionally” give a batter a base on balls. 54.9 % of you missed this question. Over half of you!

1. The pitcher must throw four pitches out of the strike zone.
2. The catcher or coach must request to award before the first pitch to batter.
3. The catcher or coach must request to award on any ball strike count.
4. Both B and C

The answer is C. Over half of you answered both B and C. Remember, anytime coach or catcher request the award on any ball strike count.

48 The base umpire declares “Foul” on a fly ball that is caught by the right fielder in fair ground and thrown to second base to double up a runner who left early.

1. It is a foul and immediately dead.
2. It is a fair ball and the catch stands but the ball is immediately dead.
3. The ball stays live and in play, and the catch is recorded along with the out at second base.
4. The offensive team coach gets to decide which out will stand.

The answer is C (5-1-1h) 46.49% of us missed this question. Please review the rule and understand why this ball remains live.

Its finally spring and the first run of games have been played. Continue working hard staying focused and keep getting better every game.

See you at the yard!!!!

Tad Cockerill SRI