

Illegal Pitch
Case Plays

Illegal Pitch A.R. 10-7. With a base runner on first base, an illegal pitch is thrown which the batter hits for a double to the outfield. The base runner rounds third base and heads home, but she is thrown out at home plate. Since the batter-runner reaches second base safely and the base runner advances two bases before being thrown out, is the effect for the illegal pitch canceled?

RULING: The base runner advanced at least one base and the batter runner reached first base safely so the result of the play stands with no option given for the illegal pitch.

(Rule 10.8) A.R. 10-8. With two outs and no one on base, the pitcher throws an illegal pitch. The batter hits to the outfield and successfully gains second base.

RULE 10 / PITCHING However, the batter-runner missed first base and the defense makes a live ball appeal to get the third out. Does the offense have an option to take the result of the play or return the batter to the batter's box from the illegal pitch because the batter-runner never successfully attained first base or is the option negated because the batter-runner successfully attained second base (and the option is canceled once she reaches first base)?

RULING: The runner is considered to have possession of the base once she passes it so the option for an illegal pitch is no longer given and the runner is declared out when the defense properly appeals she has missed first base.

(Rule 10.8) A.R. 10-9. With no outs and a 3-0 count on the batter, the lone base runner at second base attempts a steal of third base. The pitcher delivers an illegal pitch. What option, if any, does the offense have in each of the following cases?

- (1) The base runner is safe at third and the pitch is a strike.
- (2) The base runner is safe at third and the pitch is a ball.
- (3) The base runner is out at third and the pitch is a strike.
- (4) The base runner is out at third and the pitch is a ball.

RULING: (1) Even though the base runner advanced one base, the batter did not reach first base safely. The ball remains live until the completion of the play, at which time a dead ball is called. The offensive coach may choose the result of the play (runner at third, 3-1 count to the batter) or the standard effect for an illegal pitch (ball awarded to the batter and the base runner(s) returns to the base(s) occupied at the time of the pitch). In this case, the effect would result in ball four to the batter, but since the runner at second was not forced to advance, she is returned to second, and there will be no outs, runners at first and second with a new batter due up.

(2) The pitch was called a ball and the batter is awarded first base on the walk, and since the only base runner advanced at least one base, the play stands and the illegal pitch is canceled. The ball remains live and runners may advance farther with liability to be put out.

(3) The ball is dead at the time of the put out at third. Since the batter did not reach first base safely, and the base runner did not advance at least one base, the offensive coach has the option of the result of

the play (one out, no runners on, 3-1 count to the batter) or the more obvious choice of the standard effect for an illegal pitch. A ball is awarded to the batter and the base runner is put back on second, since she was not forced to advance on ball four. There will be no outs, runners at first and second with a new batter due up.

(4) The pitch was called a ball and the batter is awarded first base on the walk. The ball will remain live until the batter-runner stops at a base with the ball in the pitcher's possession in the circle. Because the base runner did not advance at least one base, the offensive coach will be given an option when the ball is dead. One choice will be the

RULE 10 / PITCHING 63 result of the play, which will be one out from the caught stealing at third and wherever the batter-runner ends up. The second choice will be the standard effect for an illegal pitch. Ball four is awarded to the batter for the illegal pitch, she is awarded first base only and the base runner is put back on second, since she was not forced to advance on the walk. There will be no outs, runners at first and second with a new batter due up.

(Rule 10.8) A.R. 10-10. With no outs, a single base runner at second base, and a 1-0 count on the batter, the pitcher delivers an illegal pitch. The batter hits a long fly ball to the outfield, which is caught, and the runner legally tags and advances safely to third base. What option, if any, does the offense have?

RULING: Even though the base runner advanced one base, the batter did not reach first base safely. The ball remains live until the completion of the play, at which time a dead ball is called. The offensive coach may choose the result of the play (runner at third, one out, new batter due up) or the standard effect for an illegal pitch (ball awarded to the batter and the base runner(s) returns to the base(s) occupied at the time of the pitch). In the case of the effect for an illegal pitch, the result would be no outs, runner at second, and a 2-0 count on the batter.

(Rule 10.8) A.R. 10-11. With no outs and a 3-0 count on the batter, the pitcher delivers an illegal pitch and the ball is hit into play. With the runner configurations and results listed, what option, if any, does the offense have in each of the following cases?

- (1) A single base runner at first, forced out at second, and the batter-runner is safe at first.
- (2) A single base runner at second, tagged out at third, and the batter-runner is safe at first.
- (3) A single base runner at second, tagged out at third, and the batter-runner scores on an overthrow which goes deep into the right field corner.
- (4) A single base runner at second who remains there and the batter-runner is safe at first.
- (5) A single base runner at second who advances safely to third, but the batter-runner is out at first.

RULING: In (1) and (2) although the batter reached first base safely, the base runner did not advance at least one base. The ball remains live until the completion of the play, at which time a dead ball is called. The offensive coach may choose the result of the play (one out, runner at first, new batter) or the standard effect for an illegal pitch, which is that a ball is awarded to the batter and the base runner(s) returns to the base(s) occupied at the time of the pitch. In this case, the effect would result in ball four to the batter. In (1) the base runner is forced to advance, but in (2) she is not forced. Therefore, the effect 64 RULE 10 / PITCHING for the illegal pitch in both cases will result in no outs, runners at first and second with a new batter due up.

In (3) the ball remains live until the completion of the play. The batter reached first base safely, and then went on to score, but the base runner did not advance at least one base. When the batter-runner scores, a dead ball is called. The offensive coach may choose the result of the play (one out, one run, no runners, new batter) or the standard effect for an illegal pitch, which is that a ball is awarded to the batter and the base runner(s) returns to the base(s) occupied at the time of the pitch. Ball four is

awarded to the batter and the base runner is put back on second, since she was not forced to advance. There will be no outs, runners at first and second with a new batter due up.

In (4) the ball remains live until the completion of the play. The batter reached first base safely but the base runner did not advance at least one base. At the completion of the play a dead ball is called. The offensive coach may choose the result of the play or the standard effect for an illegal pitch, which in this case will have the same effect. Ball four is awarded to the batter and the base runner remains at second, since she was not forced to advance. There will be no outs, runners at first and second with a new batter due up.

In (5) the ball remains live until the completion of the play. The base runner did advance at least one base but the batter did not reach first base safely. At the completion of the play a dead ball is called. The offensive coach may choose the result of the play (one out, runner at third, new batter) or the standard effect for an illegal pitch. Ball four is awarded to the batter but the base runner is returned to second, since she was not forced to advance. There will be no outs, runners at first and second with a new batter due up. (Rule 10.8)