

Appeals

Rule 2.00: An APPEAL is an act of a fielder in claiming a violation of the rules by the offensive team.

Appeals are an act by the defense to appeal a violation of the rules by the offense. Failure to touch a base, failure to tag-up after a catch, or batting out of order are violations that can be appealed. See rule 6.07 for how batting out of order is handled.

Know how to properly make an appeal.

Do not request TIME before making a missed base or tagup appeal. These appeals must be made while play is live. Since the ball is live, runners may advance during the appeal.

To appeal a batting out of order, first request TIME, and when granted, approach the plate umpire to make your appeal.

To make a proper appeal, a deliberate appeal action must be taken by the defensive team while the ball is live for tagups or missed base appeals. Merely stepping on a base with ball in hand or glove does not constitute an appeal. A physical or verbal gesture must be made by the fielder to the umpire responsible for that base. Usually, it will be the field umpire for appeals at first and second, and the plate umpire for appeals at third or home.

The appeal must be made before the next pitch to a batter OF EITHER TEAM.

Umpires: The plate and base umpires are responsible for observing all touches and tagups at their respective bases. If a violation is observed, make a mental note but do not in any way indicate a violation has occurred. You will only act when a proper appeal is made. When a proper appeal is made, give the safe (you observed no violation) or out (you observed the violation) signal as appropriate. Do not call attention to batting out of order situations. It is the responsibility of the defensive team to ensure the batting order is followed for the offensive team. Scorekeepers similarly should remain neutral on this.

If an appeal needs to be made after time is out, make sure the proper procedure is followed.

- With the pitcher on the pitching plate and the catcher in a position to receive a pitch, the plate umpire will put the ball in play.
- The pitcher may do any one of the following:
 - **BASEBALL**

- **Baseball:** Step directly towards the base in question and throw the ball to the fielder at that base.
 - **Baseball:** Step directly towards the base in which the violating runner is currently located and throw the ball to the fielder at that base.
 - **Baseball:** Step off the plate with the pivot foot (right foot for right handed pitcher) and throw or walk the ball to the fielder at the base at which the violation occurred.
 - **Baseball:** Step off the plate with the pivot foot (right foot for right handed pitcher) and throw or walk the ball to the fielder at the base at which the violating runner is currently located.
 - **Baseball:** Failure to step directly towards the base while on the plate, or stepping off with the free foot (left foot for a right handed pitcher) is an illegal pitch and a ball will be awarded to the batter if runners are on base (and the pitcher's pitch count is incremented). Since this violation is considered a pitch, the team also loses any chance to make the appeal.
- **SOFTBALL**
- **Softball:** With the hands separated, step off the plate with either foot and throw or walk the ball to the fielder at the base at which the violation occurred.
 - **Softball:** If the hands have been brought together (i.e. in the "set" position), step off the plate with the pivot foot (right foot for right handed pitcher) and throw or walk the ball to the fielder at the base at which the violating runner is currently located.
 - **Softball:** With the hands separated, step off the plate with either foot and throw or walk the ball to the fielder at the base at which the violating runner is currently located.
 - **Softball:** If the hands have been brought together (i.e. in the "set" position), step off the plate with the pivot foot (right foot for right handed pitcher) and throw or walk the ball to the fielder at the base at which the violating runner is currently located.
 - **Softball:** With the hands separated, failure to step off with either foot is an illegal pitch and a ball will be awarded to the batter. Since this violation is considered a pitch, the team also loses any chance to make the appeal.
 - **Softball:** If the hands have been brought together (i.e. in the "set" position), failure to step off with the pivot foot is an illegal pitch and a ball will be awarded to the batter. Since this violation is considered a pitch, the team also loses any chance to make the appeal.

- The bag or offending runner is tagged by the fielder and the fielder announces the violation.
- The responsible umpire will render a decision and take action to correct the situation, if necessary.
- Appeals on multiple runners (i.e. two runners failed to tag up correctly) can be made in any order.