

# Maryland District 2 Rules Presentation

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Chapter 6

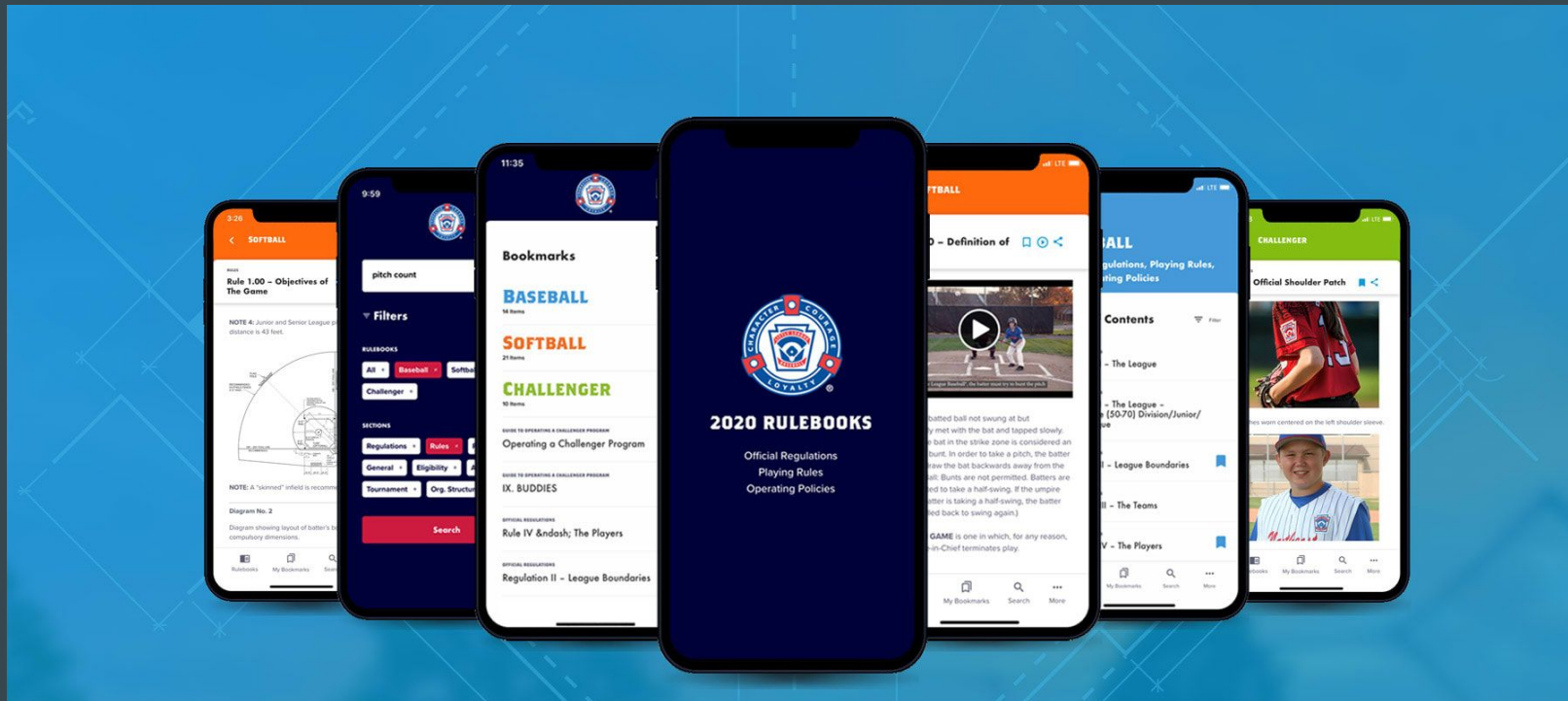
Rules will be printed in Gray

A.R. will marked as such

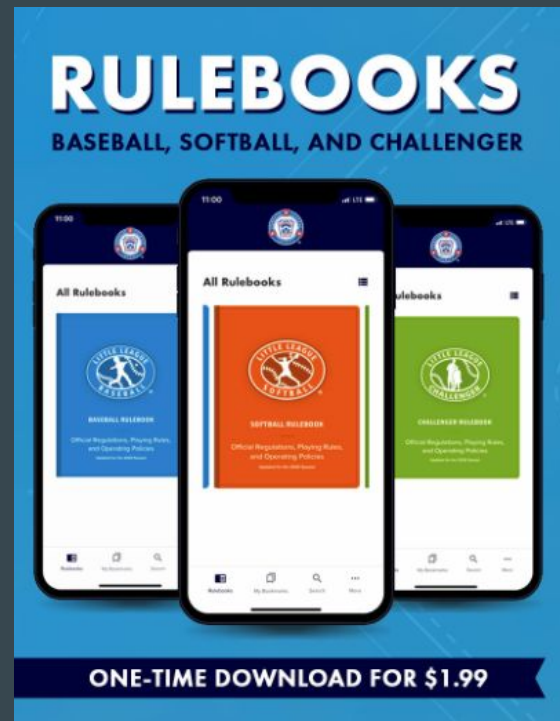
Important information will be in Yellow

Instructors Comments will be in Orange

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# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.02 - (b) The batter shall not leave that position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to Set Position or starts a windup.

**PENALTY:** If the pitcher pitches, the umpire shall call “Ball” or “Strike” as the case may be.

- Umpires will not call “Time” at the request of the batter or any member of his/her team once the pitcher has started his/her windup or has come to a set position even though the batter claims “dust in his/her eyes,” “steamed glasses,” “didn’t get the sign” or for any other reason.
- If after the pitcher starts his/her windup or comes to a “set position” with a runner on, and he/she does not go through with his/her pitch because the batter has stepped out of the box, it shall not be called a balk or illegal pitch as the batter induced the pitcher’s violation. The umpire shall call “Time” and both the pitcher and the batter will start the pitch sequence over.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.02 - (c) Local League Option: After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

## **Exceptions:**

1. On a swing, slap, or check swing.
2. When forced out of the box by a pitch.
3. When the batter attempts a "drag bunt."
4. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.
5. When a play has been attempted.
6. When time has been called.
7. When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
8. On a three-ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.02 - (c) Local League Option: After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

**PENALTY:** If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter.

**Minor/Major Division:** No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** No pitch has to be thrown and ball is live.

**NOTE:** The batter may return to their position in the batter's box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(a) a fair or foul fly ball (other than a foul tip) is legally caught by a fielder;

A.R. - A fielder may reach into, but not step into, a dugout to make a catch, and if he/she holds the ball, the catch shall be allowed. A fielder, in order to make a catch on a fly ball nearing a dugout or other dead ball area (such as the stands), must have one or both feet on or over the playing surface and neither foot on the ground inside the dugout or in any other dead ball area. Ball is in play, unless the fielder, after making a legal catch, falls into a dugout or other dead ball area, in which case the ball is dead.



# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

## (b) Little League (Majors/Intermediate(50-70)Division/Junior/Senior League)

1. a third strike is legally caught by the catcher;
  2. a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out. **Minor League and Tee Ball:** A third strike is caught or not caught by the catcher. **Option:** A local league may elect to apply the Minor and Tee Ball rule for the Little League (Major Division) for the regular season.
- After an initially caught third strike, if the Umpire judges that a Batter's follow through hits the Catcher or causes the Pitch to be knocked out of the Catcher's mitt, the Batter is Out. The ball is immediately dead and neither the Batter or any runner may advance.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(b)...

A.R. - When a batter becomes a runner on a third strike that is not caught, and starts for the bench or his/her position, that batter may advance to first base at any time before entering the dugout or any other dead ball area. To put the batter out, the defense must tag the batter or first base before the batter touches first base.

- ... runners may advance on a third strike that is not legally caught in flight by the catcher.
- “Legally caught,” means in the catcher’s mitt/glove before the ball touches the ground. It is not legal if the ball lodges in his/her clothing or paraphernalia or if it touches the umpire and is caught by the catcher on the rebound.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(c) bunting foul on a third strike;

(d) an Infield Fly is declared;

(e) that batter attempts to hit a third strike and is touched by the ball;

→ Hands are not part of the bat, they are part of the body.

(f) a fair ball touches said batter before touching a fielder;

→ When this happens it is almost always as a batter leaves the batter's box. Make sure the batter is entirely out of the batter's box when you call this, otherwise, call "foul".

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(g) after hitting or bunting a fair ball, the bat hits the ball a second time in fair territory. The ball is dead, and no runner may advance. If the batter-runner drops the bat and the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory and, in the umpire's judgment there was no intention to interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is live and in play;

A.R. - If a bat is thrown into fair or foul territory and interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play, interference shall be called, whether intentional or not.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(g)...

- ➔ In cases where the batting helmet is accidentally hit, in fair territory, with a batted or thrown ball, the ball remains in play the same as if it has not hit the helmet.
- ➔ If a batted ball strikes a batting helmet or any other object foreign to the natural ground while on foul territory, it is a foul ball and the ball is dead.
- ➔ If, in the umpire's judgment, there is intent on the part of a base runner to interfere with a batted or thrown ball by dropping the helmet or throwing it at the ball, then the runner would be out, the ball dead and runners would return to last base legally touched.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(h) after hitting or bunting a foul ball, the batter-runner intentionally deflects the course of the ball in any manner while running to first base. The ball is dead, and no runners may advance;

→ Notice that intent only applies to a batted ball in foul territory. If the batter unintentionally deflects a foul ball, he/she is not out, but the ball is dead (foul ball).

(i) after hitting a fair ball, the batter-runner or first base is tagged before said batter-runner touches first base; or after a third strike as defined in Rule 6.09(b), the batter-runner or first base is tagged before said batter-runner touches first base;

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(j) in running the last half of the distance from home base to first base, while the ball is being fielded to first base, the batter-runner runs outside (to the right of) the runner's lane, or inside (to the left of) the foul line, and in the umpire's judgment in so doing interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base;

A.R. - The lines marking the runner's lane are a part of that lane and a batter-runner is required to have both feet within the runner's lane or on the lines marking the lane.

- The batter-runner is permitted to exit the runner's lane by means of a step, stride, reach or slide in the immediate vicinity of first base for the sole purpose of touching first base.
- It's always interference if the catcher's or pitcher's quality throw hits the batter-runner when he/she is not in the "lane".
- The ball must be thrown.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(k) an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive, with first, first and second, first and third, or first, second and third bases occupied before two are out. The ball is dead, and runner or runners shall return to their original base or bases;

A.R. - In this situation, the batter is not out if the infielder permits the ball to drop untouched to the ground, except when the Infield Fly rule applies.

(l) a preceding runner shall, in the umpire's judgment, intentionally interfere with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or to throw a ball in an attempt to complete a play.



# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.05 - A batter is out when -

(m) **BASEBALL: Intermediate(50-70)Division/Junior/Senior League:** With two out, a runner on third base, and two strikes on the batter, the runner attempts to steal home base on a legal pitch and the ball touches the runner in the batter's strike zone. The umpire shall call "Strike Three," the batter is out, and the run shall not count; before two are out, the umpire shall call "Strike Three," the ball is dead, and the run counts.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.06 - A batter is out for illegal action when -

(a) hitting the ball with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box;

→ The batter is NOT out for hitting the ball while part of their foot is touching Home Plate, unless no part of that foot is touching the line of the batter's box.

(b) stepping from one batter's box to the other while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch;

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.06 - A batter is out for illegal action when -

(c) interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:

1. stepping out of the batter's box, or;
2. making any other movement that hinders the catcher's actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner, or;
3. failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate and there is time for the batter to move away.

**EXCEPTION:** Batter is not out if any runner attempting to advance is put out, or if runner trying to score is called out for batter's interference.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.06 - A batter is out for illegal action when -

(c)...

- Notice that there is no mention of intentional. Again, umpire's judgment.
- If the batter interferes with the catcher, the plate umpire shall call "interference." The batter is out and the ball dead. No player may advance on such interference and all runners must return to the last base that was, in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference.
- If a batter strikes at a ball and misses and swings so hard he/she carries the bat all the way around and, in the umpire's judgment, unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball in back of him/her on his/her follow-through it shall be called a strike only (not interference). The ball will be dead, however, and no runner shall advance on the play.
- Contact is NOT necessary for interference to be called.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.06 - A batter is out for illegal action when -

(d) The batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat (see bat specifications Rule 1.10) or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. The ball is dead. Runners must return if they advanced on the play.

**NOTE:** If the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat:

- (1) The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.
- (2) For the first violation, the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.
- (3) For the second violation, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game. Any subsequent violation will result in the newly designated manager being ejected.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

## 6.07 - BATTING OUT OF TURN

(a) A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when failing to bat in his/her proper turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in place of the proper batter.

(1) The proper batter may take a position in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat.

(b) When an improper batter becomes a runner, or is put out, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter of either team, or before any play or attempted play, the umpire shall

(1) declare the proper batter out; and

(2) nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter or because of the improper batter's advance to first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

## 6.07 - BATTING OUT OF TURN

(c) When the improper batter becomes a runner, or is put out, and a pitch is made to the next batter of either team before an appeal is made, the improper batter thereby becomes the proper batter, and the results of such time at bat become legal.

(d) (1) When the proper batter is called out for failing to bat in turn, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter thus called out;  
(2) When an improper batter becomes a proper batter because no appeal is made before the next pitch, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of such legalized improper batter. The instant an improper batter's actions are legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized improper batter.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER



## BATTING OUT OF ORDER



At Bat	On Base and Before Next Pitch	After Pitch
If appeal is made before improper batter completes time at bat	If appeal is made after improper batter completes time at bat, but before next pitch or play	If appeal made after next pitch or play
Proper batter can take place in batter's box and assume count	Proper batter is called out	Improper batter and his/her actions are legal
All base runners' advances are legal	Base runners' advances due to actions of improper batter are nullified; other advances are legal	All base runners' advances are legal
	Next batter is one whose name follows that of the proper batter who was called out	Batting order continues with batter following legalized improper batter



# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

## 6.07 - BATTING OUT OF TURN

Identify the last two batters who received a pitch.

If they are consecutive, there is no batting out of order.

If they are not consecutive, there is batting out of order and the proper batter is out.

Put the next proper batter in the box and continue play.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.08 - The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when -

- (a) (1) four “balls” have been called by the umpire; the ball is live and in play. Base runners may advance;
- (2) **BASEBALL: Minor/Major Division:** prior to a pitch being thrown, the defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire.

**NOTE 1:** Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The manager must request and be granted “time” by the umpire, and then inform the umpire of the defense’s intent to walk the batter.

**NOTE 2:** The ball is dead, and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. Four (4) pitches will be added to the pitch count.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.08 - The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when -

(b) the batter is touched by a pitched ball which the batter is not attempting to hit unless

- (1) The ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or
- (2) the batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball;

**NOTE:** If the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a strike, whether or not the batter tries to avoid the ball. If the ball is outside the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a ball if that batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.08 - The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when -

(c) the catcher or any fielder interferes with the batter. If a play follows the interference, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the interference penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batsman, or otherwise, and all runners advance at least one base, the play proceeds without reference to the interference;

(d) a fair ball touches an umpire or a runner on fair territory before touching a fielder.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.09 - The batter becomes a runner when -

- (b) **Little League Majors (BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL)/Intermediate (50-70) Division (BASEBALL) Junior/Senior League (BASEBALL/SOFTBALL):** the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing
- (1) first base is unoccupied or
  - (2) first base is occupied with two out;

**NOTE:** A batter forfeits his/her opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or other dead ball area.

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.09 - The batter becomes a runner when -

(c) A fair ball, after having passed a fielder other than the pitcher, or after having been touched by a fielder, including the pitcher, shall touch an umpire or runner in fair territory;

(d) A fair fly ball passes over a fence or into the stands at a distance from home base of 165 feet (**Intermediate 200 feet; Junior/Senior Baseball 250 feet**) or more. Such hit entitles the batter to a home run when all bases have been legally touched. A fair fly ball that passes out of the playing field at a point less than 165 feet (**Intermediate 200 feet; Junior/Senior Baseball 250 feet**) from home base shall entitle the batter to advance to second base only;

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.09 - The batter becomes a runner when -

(e) a fair ball, after touching the ground, bounds into the stands; passes through, over, or under a fence; through or under a scoreboard; or through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence...

(f) any fair ball which, either before or after touching the ground, passes through or under a fence, through or under a scoreboard, through any opening in the fence or scoreboard, through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence, or which sticks in a fence or scoreboard...

(g) any bounding fair ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over or under a fence on fair or foul territory, in which case the batter and all runners shall be entitled to advance two bases;

**(timing is based on when ball goes out of play or gets stuck)**

# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER

6.09 - The batter becomes a runner when -

(h) any fair fly ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over the fence into foul territory, in which case the batter shall be entitled to advance to second base; but if deflected into the stands or over the fence in fair territory, the batter shall be entitled to a home run.

However, should such a fairfly be deflected at a pointless than 165 feet (**Intermediate 200 feet; Junior/Senior Baseball 250 feet**) from home plate, the batter shall be entitled to two bases only.



# RULE 6.00 – THE BATTER



## Chapter 6