



SPOKANE BASEBALL UMPIRES™

COMMON MYTHS OF BASEBALL

SBU Training Library

A comprehensive study of the bigger rule's myths of baseball

For information on becoming an umpire with SBU please
visit

SpokaneBaseballUmpires.com

COMMON MYTHS OF BASEBALL

THE MYTH	REALITY	RESPONSES	RULE REFERENCE
<p>“The hands are part of the bat”</p>	<p>Obviously, bats do not come with a pair of hands attached to the handle. If the batter is hit in the hand(s) the ball is dead and the batter is awarded 1st base. If the batter was attempting to hit the baseball it is a dead-ball strike.</p>	<p>Check w/partner to see if batter swung and/or attempted to hit ball. If you’re unsure if the batter was hit in the hand(s) ask him to remove his batting glove and look for a mark.</p> <p>“Hands are not part of the bat. Hands are a part of the arm”.</p> <p>“Even if the batter was attempting to get out of the way, he still swung/attempted to hit the ball”</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>OBR/NFHS: See definitions “person” “touch” and “strike(e)” OBR: 5.09(a)</p> <p>NFHS Dead ball strike: Rule 5.1.1(e)</p> </div>
<p>“If a batted ball hits home plate it is a foul ball”</p>	<p>Home plate IS fair territory the point of which is the start of fair territory.</p>	<p>“Home plate is fair territory”</p>	<p>OBR Rule 2 “Fair Territory”</p>
<p>“The ball is dead on a foul-tip”</p>	<p>A “foul-tip” is not a foul ball. It is a strike, the ball remains live; therefore, runners may advance.</p>	<p>See “Reality”</p>	<p>OBR Rule 2 “Foul Tip” “Foul Ball”</p>
<p>“If the batter “breaks his wrists” on a check swing it is a strike”</p>	<p>Did the batter attempt to hit the baseball? If the answer is yes, then it is a strike.</p>	<p>“The batter attempted to hit the baseball which by definition is a “strike” (or the opposite on successful check swing).</p>	<p>OBR Rule 2 “Strike”</p>
<p>“If the batter doesn’t pull the bat out of the strike zone while in the bunting position, it’s an automatic strike”</p>	<p>By definition, for a strike to be called the batter must attempt to contact the baseball; in other words, “offer at the pitch”.</p>	<p>“The batter did not attempt to strike the baseball”.</p>	<p>OBR Rule 2 “Strike”</p>

THE MYTH	REALITY	RESPONSES	RULE REFERENCE
<p>“The batter is out if he hits the baseball with his foot touching the plate”</p> <p>*Be Careful* Difference between OBR and NFHS on this rule.</p>	<p>“A batter is out for illegal action when (OBR Rule) “He hits a ball with one or both feet on the ground ENTIRELY OUTSIDE THE BATTERS BOX”.</p> <p>NFHS Rule – “Hits the ball while either foot or knee is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter’s box OR <i>touching home plate</i>”</p>	<p>“The entire foot must be outside the batter’s box”</p>	<p>OBR Rule 6.06(a) NFHS Rule 7 Sec 3 Art 2</p>
<p>“The batter is out if a ball that is struck bounces back up and hits the bat again while the batter is still holding the bat”</p>	<p>Nope – this is a foul ball. However, if the batter has 1 or both feet completely outside the batter’s box he is out.</p>	<p>“After hitting or bunting a fair ball, the bat hits the ball a second time in fair territory the ball is immediately dead and no runners may advance.</p>	<p>OBR Rule 6.05(h)</p>
<p>“The batter doesn’t get 1st base if he is hit by a pitch that bounced first”</p>	<p>Hit by pitch is hit by pitch so long as he doesn’t intentionally allow himself to be hit or attempted to hit the baseball.</p>	<p>See “REALITY”</p>	<p>OBR 6.08(b)</p>
<p>“The batter can’t be called out for interference if he’s in the batter’s box”</p>	<p>The batter’s box isn’t a “no call zone”. Interference is “anything that interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses”. It is true both inside and outside the batter’s box.</p>	<p>“By definition Interference can occur outside or inside the batter’s box”</p>	<p>OBR Rule 2 “Interference”</p>

THE MYTH	REALITY	RESPONSES	RULE REFERENCE
“The batter that bats out of order is called out when properly appealed”	“the umpire shall (1) declare the proper batter out & (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 1 st base on a hit, error, base on balls, hit batter, or otherwise”	See “Reality”	OBR Rule 6.07 “Batting out of Turn”
“Tie goes to the runner”	Sandlot rule. The runner must beat the ball to the bag. There are no ties in baseball.	“The ball beat the runner”	OBR Rule 7.01
“The B/R must veer to the right when overrunning 1 st base”	The B/R may veer in any direction provided he does not feint toward 2 nd base.	“Official Baseball Rules do not indicate a runner “must veer in a particular direction”.	OBR: 7.08(d)
“On a thrown ball that goes out of play the batter and runners get “one plus one”.	This is never the case. Base awards are determined based on the location of the batter/runner and runner(s) at the “time of the pitch” or the “time of the throw”. The most common is the overthrow at 1 st base on an infield hit. The batter/runner in this case receives 2 bases from the time of the pitch.	“Base awards are determined either at time of pitch or time of throw”.	OBR Rule 7.05(g) NFHS “Base running Awards Table”

THE MYTH	REALITY	RESPONSES	RULE REFERENCE
“Runners may not advance on an “infield fly”.	The batter is out (whether the ball is caught or not). The intent of rule is to protect the runners. In all other aspects this is an ordinary fly ball, runners must tag if the ball is caught. If the ball is not caught, they may advance without tagging up.	“By rule, runners may advance at their own peril when an infield fly is determined”.	OBR Rule 2 “Definitions” – “Infield Fly”
“If the fielder’s feet are in fair territory when he touches the batted ball it is fair”.	This isn’t football. Fair/foul is determined by the position of the ball in respect to the foul line when touched by the fielder, never by the position of the fielder.	See “Reality”	OBR Definitions “Fair” “Foul”
“A runner is out if he runs out of the baseline to avoid a fielder in the act of fielding a batted ball”	The runner is only out for running more than 3 feet out of the basepath when attempting to <u>avoid a tag</u> . The runner is required to avoid making contact with a fielder in the act of making a play.	“It is an out only when the runner runs more than 3 feet out of the basepath to avoid a tag . The runner is required by rule to avoid a fielder in the act of making a play”.	OBR 7.09(j) 7.08(a)(1)
“The pitcher must come set before making a pick-off attempt”	The pitcher is required to come set (complete stop) only when delivering a pitch.	See “Reality”	OBR 8.01
“A player has to report to the umpire as a substitute or he is out”	Total myth	“Sub shall be considered official when: 1). If pitcher, takes place on pitcher’s plate. 2). If batter, takes place in batter’s box. 3). If a fielder, he reaches position usually occupied by fielder he replaced. 4. If a runner, he takes place of runner he replaced. Note: Any play made by, or on, any of the above mentioned unannounced substitutes shall be legal.	

--	--	--	--