



Section 2

Rule 2 Definitions



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Rule 2-STRIKE

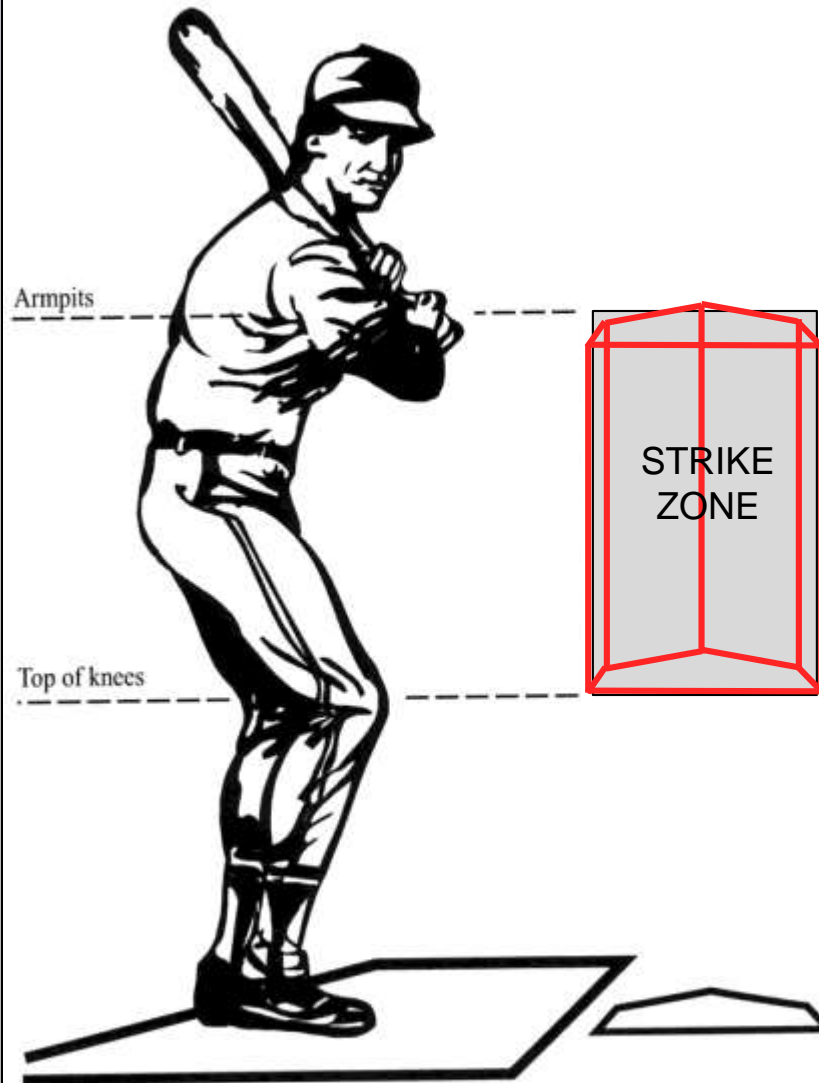
It's a strike if the ball is (any of the following):

- Swung at and missed.
- Not swung at, but any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone.
- Fouled off (with less than 2 strikes)
- Bunted foul (the batter is out and the ball is dead on the 3rd strike)





The Little League Strike Zone



The **STRIKE ZONE** is that space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance. The umpire shall determine the strike zone according to the batter's usual stance when that batter swings at a pitch. (Rule 2.00)

Strike Zone

- The strike zone extends from the batter's armpits to the knees **WHILE IN THE NORMAL BATTING STANCE** (not crouching, for example)
- The strike zone is the region **OVER HOME PLATE**, it does not matter how far forward or how far back in the box the batter is standing
- It is a strike if **IN THE UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT** it passes through the strike zone in flight





Rule 2-STRIKE

BATTER HIT BY PITCH



It's a strike if:

- It touches the batter as the batter strikes at it – his/her body, shirt, hands, shoes, anywhere
- It touches the batter in flight **in the strike zone** even if he/she doesn't strike at it (usually when a batter is crowding the plate with hands way out over it)
- In either case it's a strike, and a dead ball, **AND if Strike 3, batter is out!**



Hit on the Hands



- The batter is offering at the pitch
- The batter is hit by the pitch
- It's a strike AND it's a dead ball EVEN if it goes fair!
- Runners cannot advance





Hit on the Hands



- “But, Blue, he fisted it fair!”
- “The hands are part of the bat!”

The hands are not part of the bat. The hands are part of the arm. If you buy a bat it does NOT come with a pair of hands!



NOPE!



Rule 6.05 (b)



Uncaught 3rd strike

A batter is out on the third strike IF the third strike is legally caught by the catcher

(Little League Majors/50-70/JR/SR)

If the third strike is not legally caught the batter may run with liability to put out, just like a batted ball

(note it does not say “dropped”, it says “not legally caught” – a ball in the dirt IS an uncaught third strike if the batter swings and misses - even if it bounces in front of the plate!)

EXCEPTION: If first base is occupied (before the pitch) and there are less than two out, the batter is still out



Rule 2-BUNT

- A batted ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly.
- If the pitch is outside the strike zone, it shall be called a “ball” if the batter does not attempt to make contact.
- There is NO need to pull the bat back.
- The batter may also go back to a normal stance before the ball arrives and swing the bat or take the pitch if desired





Rule 2-FOUL TIP

- A batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher's hand or glove and is legally caught.
- Any foul tip is a strike and the ball is live and in play, runners may run.
- It is not a catch if it FIRST strikes any part of the catcher EXCEPT his hand or glove.





Rule 2 - BASE ON BALLS

A BASE ON BALLS is an award of first base to batters who, during their time at bat, receive four pitches outside the strike zone

- 7.08(c) Approved Ruling 1- may over run/walk 1st base without being in peril.
- 7.08(j)- if you show intent toward 2nd base you're in peril to be put out.
- Are free to advance to other bases, again at peril of being put out





RULE 6.08(a)

Intentional Walk



The defense may elect to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request may be made prior to or during the at-bat.

- Request 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.
- Because **the ball is dead**, no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award.
- The appropriate number of “balls” will be added to the pitch count to total 4 for the at-bat.
- **New this year - no player may be walked in this manner (by announcement) more than once per game (but any batter can be intentionally walked more than once by actually throwing four balls to him/her)**



Rule 2 CATCH

- The act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the HAND or GLOVE of a ball in flight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground.
- Runners can leave base as soon as the ball is touched by the fielder





Rule 2 CATCH



- It is NOT a catch if he/she fails to maintain control of the ball following a collision with another player or wall, or falling to the ground, and as a result of the collision or falling, drops the ball.

The catch in the video IS a legal catch because the right fielder regained control before the ball touched the ground





Rule 2 CATCH

- A catch is legal even if it is touched by a defensive player and caught by another defensive player before it touches the ground.





Rule 2 CATCH



- It is a catch if he/she drops the ball in the act of making a throw.
- He/she must show complete control of the ball and that release is voluntary and intentional.

When the 2nd baseman drops the ball at his feet, it is probably not a catch; if it goes flying away on the transfer, probably a catch





Rule 2 FAIR BALL

A FAIR BALL is a batted ball that

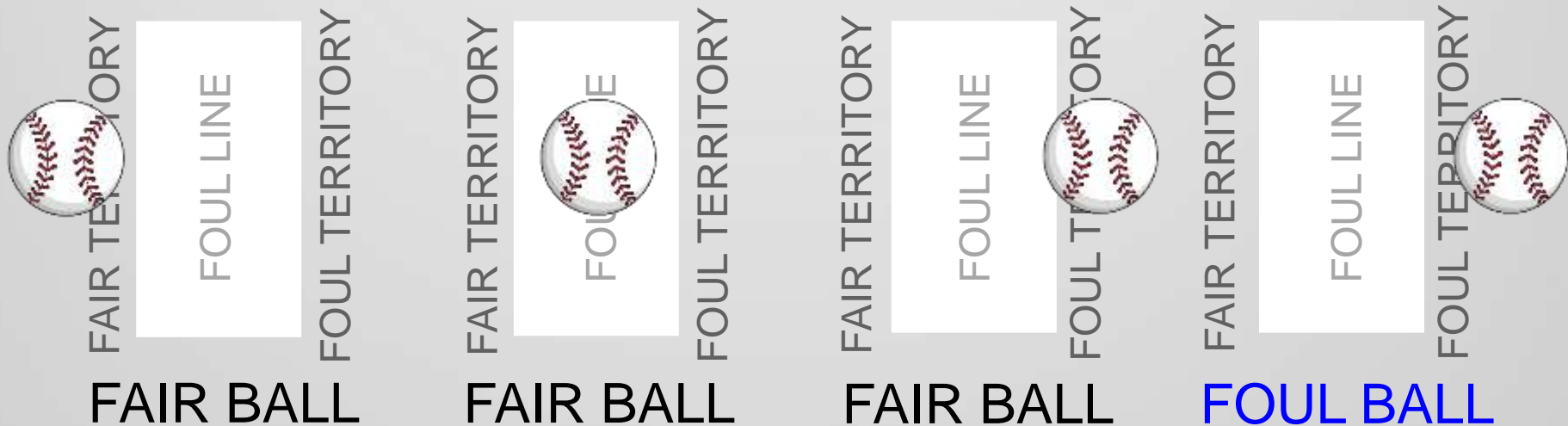
- settles on FAIR ground between home and first base, or between home and third base
- or that is on or over FAIR territory when bounding to the outfield past first or third base
- or that touches first, second or third base (Remember, the bases are entirely in fair territory)
- Or that first falls on FAIR territory on or beyond first base or third base
- Or that, while on or over FAIR territory touches the person of an umpire or player





Rule 2 FAIR BALL

If any part of the ball is in fair territory it is a FAIR BALL



Note that the “foul line” is entirely in fair territory... it should be called the “fair line” (and the foul pole should be called the “fair pole”)





Rule 2 FAIR BALL

A ball shall be judged based on its relative position and the foul line ... NOT the position of the fielder ... when it is touched.





Fair or Foul?



Although his feet are fair, fair/foul is judged by the position of the ball when it is touched.




So, foul ball



Fair or Foul?



 Although one foot is in foul territory, fair/foul is judged by the position of the ball when it is touched.

 So, fair ball

Fair or Foul?



Ball rolling down the line. Fielder is in fair territory. But the ball is entirely in foul territory when it is touched.



So, foul ball





Rule 2 INFIELD FLY

A fair fly ball (not a bunt or line drive) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when 1st & 2nd bases OR 1st, 2nd & 3rd bases are occupied **with less than 2 out.**





Rule 2 INFIELD FLY

You heard “Infield Fly” – so is the batter out?
Not always.

- If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched in FAIR territory and rolls FOUL, it is a FOUL BALL.
- If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched in FOUL territory and rolls FAIR, it is an INFIELD FLY.
- If an Infield Fly was called illegally (conditions not correct for Infield Fly), it is NOT an Infield Fly
- Runners must know the rule, and are obligated to run if Infield Fly called incorrectly





Rule 2 INFIELD FLY

If a coach calls time and wants the ump to call that last play an infield fly...

- ... it is usually the *defensive* coach ... because his team failed to make the catch ... thus pretty much proving it couldn't be caught with ordinary effort.
- The rule is there to protect the *offense*, not to give the *defense* a free out!





Section 2

Rule 2 Definitions



End of Section 2