

The Batter

Pre-Class Homework

Following are situations relative to OBR Rule 6 and other related citations:

1. A delivery by the pitcher hits the ground in front of the plate and the umpire calls out "Ball." But the pitch skips over the plate and the batter slams it over the right field wall. Is this a homer?
2. After beating out a grounder, the batter overruns first base by about 20 feet. He comes to a stop in fair territory, turns in the direction of second base and leisurely returns to first base. Is he liable to be put out?
3. With two strikes, a weak-hitting pitcher is trying to sacrifice. When the pitcher attempts to bunt an inside pitch, the ball strikes his hand holding the lower part of the bat. The ball goes fair and the pitcher picks up the ball and fires it over the first baseman's head while the batter and the other runners advance two bases. You make the call!
4. Nobody on, nobody out. Count no balls and 2 strikes. The batter swings for strike three on a pitch in the dirt. The catcher manages to get the bounding ball into his glove, but then, almost simultaneously, the batter's backswing strikes the catcher's helmet. Oddly enough, the catcher doesn't drop the ball. What would be the correct call?
 - a. Batter-runner must be thrown out at first base (or be tagged)
 - b. Ignore this unless the batter's backswing affects the catcher's throw. In that case, the batter is out
 - c. Dead ball. The batter-runner is out, even though the ball was not legally caught
 - d. Catcher's interference; batter is awarded first base
 - e. None of the above is correct
5. With a runner on first base and no one out, the batter strikes out, but the catcher drops the ball. The batter runs to first base and the runner on first base heads toward second base. The catcher recovers the ball and throws wildly past first base. The runner from first base scores and the batter winds up at third base. What is the ruling?
6. With a 3-2 count on the batter, the base runner takes off from second base and steals third. The pitch, high and inside, nicks the batter's helmet and bounds to the backstop, so the runner from second base races home while the batter goes to second base. What's the call?
7. With two out, the bases loaded, and a 3-2 count on the batter, all runners break with the pitch. The batter strikes out, but the ball sails past the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask. Before the ball is extracted, three runners score. Do the runs count?
8. There are two outs and a 3-1 count on the batter when the stupid runner on third base tries to steal home. The pitch is low and inside and he is tagged out. What about the batter?
9. The leadoff batter walks. After ball four, the catcher returns the ball to the pitcher who starts walking around the mound in disgust. Meanwhile the runner reaches first base and, walking off the base a few steps, bends to pull up his socks. The pitcher then fires to the first baseman who tags the runner. Is the runner out?
10. Runner on second and third base, 2 outs with a count of no balls and 2 strikes. The batter swings at the pitched ball, but misses. The ball bounces off the catcher's shin guards and into the umpire's ball bag! As a result, the umpire's brush falls out of his bag and onto the ground. The quick-thinking catcher picks up the brush and tags the batter-runner with the

brush even before he's got a chance of leaving the box. The other runners are laughing their asses off, and don't move a step from their bases. What about this?

- a. Obstruction. Batter is awarded first.
 - b. Dead ball. Batter is out. Runners stay at 2nd and 3rd.
 - c. Dead ball. Batter is awarded first. Runners stay at second and third.
 - d. Dead ball. Batter is awarded first. Runners advance one base.
 - e. Live ball. Batter not out (yet).
 - f. Live ball. Batter is out.
 - g. None of the above is correct.
11. The batter hits a pop fly behind to second base with runners at first and third base with one out. The second baseman camps under the ball then steps aside and deliberately allows it to fall untouched. The batter, assuming he would be an easy out, does not run on the play. The second baseman picks up the ball and fires it to the first baseman who tags the runner on first, then the bag. How many are out?
12. The batter has a 3-2 count with runners on first and second base and no outs. On the next delivery, he swings hard but misses. Both runners are off with the pitch and the batter, seeing the catcher drop the ball, runs to first base. Retrieving the ball, the catcher tosses to the third baseman who touches the bag. Is this a force out?
13. Runner on first base, no outs. While the runner is attempting to steal second base, the batter hits a diving line drive towards the second baseman and the base umpire! These events take place in order: (1) The umpire ducks and steps aside, and the ball misses him by a couple of inches, (2) The runner stops, and turns around, anticipating a catch by the second baseman, (3) The second baseman quickly runs towards the infield grass in order to catch the ball. He stabs at it, but the ball bounces off his glove towards the umpire, (4) The runner dashes back to first, (5) The batter-runner is on his way to first base and is only 10 feet away from the bag now, (6) The ball now bounces off the umpire's back, and back towards the second baseman, who catches the ball before it touches the ground, (7) The batter-runner now reaches first base and slows down beyond the bag, (8) The second baseman fires the ball to first base, where the first baseman catches the ball and touches his bag, just before the returning runner can re-touch it. It is obvious to everybody, including the umpires, that he is appealing that the runner left the bag too early, and (9) Everyone watches the umpires, waiting for some calls. No further action takes place. As usual, it's your call! What should be the status of the batter-runner (BR) and the runner (R1) at this very moment?
- a. Both are "safe" at first base (at least, nobody is out)
 - b. BR is safe, R1 is out
 - c. BR is out for passing R1 (BR is beyond the bag, R1 is standing on the base), R1 is safe
 - d. Both BR and R1 are out
 - e. None of the above is correct
14. Runner on third base, one out, count 2 balls and 1 strike. On the next pitch, a wonderful change up, the batter's mighty swing is far too early and way in front of the ball. In fact, his timing was so bad (and his swing so forceful) that the ball hits his bat on the follow-through (backswing), before it reaches the catcher, and rolls into fair territory. A couple of seconds later, the pitcher picks the ball up and makes an easy throw to first base (the batter is still standing in the box, looking confused), while our speedy runner from third scores on the play. Make your call. Now!
- a. The play stands: batter is out and runner scores

- b. Interference. The batter is out and the runner returns
 - c. Interference. Both the batter and the runner are out
 - d. Illegal batting. The batter is out and the runner returns
 - e. The batter is awarded first, the runner returns
 - f. Strike and dead ball, the runner returns
 - g. None of the above is correct
15. Runner at second base, 1 out, count 3-1. The next pitch is called a "ball" so the right-handed batter turns to his third base dugout, tosses his bat to the bat boy, and starts trotting towards first. Just when he makes his first step out of the box, he collides with the catcher, who was about to throw to second base for a pick-off. It is obvious that the batter didn't see the catcher come forward, but also, that this collision probably took away a great chance for the defense to nail the runner. Instead, the ball sails into center field. As a result, the runner from second comes around and even beats the center fielder's throw to home plate. On that throw, the batter-runner reaches second. You're the plate umpire. Call it!
- a. Everything is fine.
 - b. Batter out, runner returns to second
 - c. Runner is out, batter awarded first
 - d. Both batter and runner are out
 - e. Dead ball. Batter is awarded first, runner returns to second
 - f. Dead ball. Batter is awarded first, runner returns to third
 - g. None of the above is correct
16. There is a runner on third base with one out and the score tied in the last half of the ninth. As the batter swings, his bat tips the catcher's glove, but he still manages to loft a deep fly to right center. After the catch, the runner on third scores easily, but the defensive team claims the interference nullifies the sacrifice fly. Is this claim correct?
17. First and second base are occupied with one out. While the runners are attempting a double steal, the batter accidentally interferes with the catcher. Despite the interference, the catcher pegs out the runner at second base while the other man goes to third base. You make the call.