

SECTION 1 – Definitions

Altered Bat

A legal bat that has been structurally changed to enhance bat performance.

Appeal

A play on which the umpire does not make a ruling until requested by a coach or player.

Backstop

A barrier behind home plate to stop a ball from going too far outside the playing area.

Ball

The sphere that is pitched, thrown, struck, etc. A ball also refers to a pitch that does not enter the strike zone and is not struck at by the batter.

Base

One of four points which have to be touched by a runner in order to score a run.

Base Coaches

The two representatives of the team at bat who are stationed in the first or third base coaches' boxes to direct the offense. No more than one representative may be in each box.

Base Path

The traditional path traveled by a runner who is attempting to advance to the next base. It is defined by a direct line between the bases and 3 feet on either side of that line; unless a fielder has the ball in her possession and she is within 3 feet of the runner and prepared to apply a tag. A base runner that attempts to avoid a tag by running more than 3 feet to either side of a fielder with the ball in her possession shall be declared out.

Base Runner

A base runner is an offensive player that is advancing, touching or returning to a base.

Batted Ball

Any pitch that comes in contact with the bat. Contact may result in a fair or foul ball and need not be intentional.

Batter

The offensive player whose turn it is to take a position in either batter's box to receive a pitch.

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Batter's Box

The area to which the batter is restricted when batting.

Batter-Runner

The offensive player who started in the batter's box but has left it in an attempt to reach base safely.

Batting Order

The official list of starting offensive players presented in the order in which they are to bat and recorded on a lineup card.

Batting Out of Order

Failing to bat in proper sequence as listed on the official lineup card.

Blocked Ball

A live batted or thrown ball that: (1) contacts non-game personnel, game personnel in unauthorized areas, loose equipment or an object that is neither official game equipment nor part of the official playing area; or (2) crosses into dead-ball territory.

Bunt

A legally batted ball not swung at but intentionally tapped with the bat.

Bunt Attempt

Any non-swinging movement of the bat intended to tap the ball into play. Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered a bunt attempt. In order to take a pitch, the bat must be withdrawn – pulled backward and away from the ball.

Called Game

A game that is ended by order of the umpire.

Catch

The act of a fielder who, with their hand(s) and/or glove/mitt, securely gains possession of a batted, pitched or thrown ball. In establishing the validity of the catch, the fielder must hold the ball long enough to prove that they have control of the ball and that their release of the ball is (or could have been) voluntary and intentional. If the fielder has made the catch but drops the ball either in transferring it to the throwing hand or in making a throw, the ball shall be ruled caught. For a legal catch, a fielder must catch and have secure possession of the ball before stepping, touching or falling into a dead-ball area. A fielder who falls over or through the fence after making a catch shall be credited with the catch. A fielder who catches a ball while contacting or stepping on a collapsible fence while the

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fence is vertical is credited with a catch. A catch shall not be credited if:

- a. A fielder catches a batted, pitched or thrown ball with anything other than her hand(s) or glove/mitt in its proper place.
- b. Immediately following a catch, the fielder collides with another player, umpire or fence or falls to the ground and fails to maintain possession of the ball.
- c. The fielder uses any equipment or part of the uniform that is displaced from its proper position.
- d. An entire foot is touching dead-ball territory at the time of the catch.
- e. The ball strikes anything or anyone other than a defensive player while it is in flight.

NOTE: In this case, the ball is ruled a ground ball.

- f. A collapsible fence is falling to or on the ground when the fielder contacts the ball. *NOTE: In the case, batter is awarded a home run.*
- g. The fielder traps the ball. A batted fly ball or line drive is considered trapped if it hits the ground or a fence on a short hop before being caught. A thrown ball is considered trapped if it is caught but the ball is on the ground and the glove/mitt is over, rather than under, it. A pitched ball is considered trapped if it is a strike but touches the ground on a short hop before being caught by the catcher. A ball prevented from hitting the ground by a player's equipment (providing it is in its proper place) of body shall not be ruled caught until the ball is securely held in the player's hand(s) or glove/mitt.

Catcher

The defensive player to whom the pitcher throws when pitching to a batter. The catcher must be in the catcher's box in order to receive a pitch and, as such, is the only player who can and must be positioned in foul territory at the time of the pitch.

Catcher's Box

The area to which the catcher is restricted from the time the pitcher steps on the pitcher's plate until she releases the pitch.

Checked Swing

The restraining action taken by a batter to stop an attempted hit/slap/bunt.

Chin Strap

A part of the helmet that must be worn (mandatory) when used on offensive, or defense. (*exception — are not required as part of the catcher's mask*).

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Coaches' Boxes

The area to which the two base coaches (one per box) are restricted prior to release of the pitch.

Conferences

A charged offensive conference is a meeting that takes place anytime an offensive team representative delays the game or requests a suspension of play for any reason and delivers a message (by any means) to any offensive player, coach and/or representative.

A defensive conference is a meeting that takes place anytime a defensive team representative delays the game or requests a suspension of play for any reason and delivers a message (by any means) to any defensive player.

Courtesy Runner

Player allowed to run for pitcher or catcher when the courtesy runner rule is being used. Runner is not considered a substitute.

Crow Hop

An illegal act in which the pitcher's rear foot leaves the pitcher's plate and re-contacts the ground before the release of the pitch.

Dead Ball

A ball that is not in play and does not become live again until the pitcher holds it on the pitcher's plate and the umpire calls/signals "Play/Play ball."

Dead-Ball Territory

That area beyond any real playing field boundary such as a fence, backstop, rope, chalk line, bleachers, dugouts or any imaginary boundary line as determined in the pre-game conference.

Defense

A player or team in the field attempting to prevent the offensive team from scoring runs.

Delayed Dead Ball

A situation in which a violation of a rule occurs and is recognized by the umpire with a delayed dead ball signal but in which the ball remains live until the conclusion of the play.

Double First Base

A safety base used at first base. The Batter-runner proceeds to the orange portion of the base, and the defense uses the white portion.

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Dislodged Base

A base displaced from its proper position.

Dugout (Bench)

The area reserved for team personnel engaged in the game.

Ejection

The exercise of an umpire's authority to remove a player and/or other team personnel from further participation in a game.

Extra Inning

The continuation of play beyond the regulation seven innings in an attempt to break a tie score.

Face Mask

A part of the helmet that protects the face, mandatory for offensive batters, and on deck batters.

Fair Ball

A legally batted ball that touches or bounds over a base, settles on or is touched on or over fair territory. A fair fly, line drive or grounder shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not with respect to the position of the fielder (on fair or foul ground) at the time the ball is contacted (See Rule 7.3).

Fair Territory

That part of the playing field within and including the foul lines from home plate to the bottom of the home run fence and perpendicularly upwards. Home plate, the foul lines and poles are considered part of fair territory.

Fake Tag

When a fielder, who neither possesses the ball nor is about to receive the ball, obstructs a runner by pretending to have the ball and simulating a tag, thereby causing the runner to slow down or stop.

Field of Play

The area within which the ball may be legally played and fielded.

Fielder

One of the nine players on the defensive team who takes a position on the field and attempts to stop the offensive team from scoring. It may be the pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, left fielder, center fielder or right fielder.

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Fly Ball

A batted ball, whether fair or foul, that rises into the air above the top of the batter's head.

FLEX

The abbreviation for “flexible player”, which refers to the player who begins the game in the defensive lineup but is not in the batting order.

Force Play

A play in which the base runner loses their right to occupy a base because the batter becomes a batter-runner who has not yet been put out.

Forfeited Game

A game declared ended and awarded to an offended team by the umpire.

Foul Ball

A legally batted ball that settles on or is touched on or over foul territory. A foul fly, line drive or grounder shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not with respect to the position of the fielder at the time the ball is contacted.

Foul Territory

That part of the playing field outside the first and third base lines from home plate to the bottom of the home run fence and perpendicularly upwards.

Ground Ball

A batted ball, whether fair or foul, that bounces along the ground.

Halted Game

A game that is temporarily suspended by the umpire with the intent that it will be continued at some later time or date. The game shall be resumed from the point of suspension.

Helmet

The protective headwear most commonly worn by an offensive player. Helmets are required while batting, running the bases or in the on-deck circle. Other defensive players may wear a helmet for safety reasons.

Home Team

The team that starts the game on defensive (in the field). The home team may be determined in a variety of ways (i.e., coin flip, mutual agreement, conference or tournament assignment, and custom).

Illegal Bat

A bat that does not meet acceptable specifications (i.e, particular weight,

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length, barrel diameter, material limits) as set forth in Rule 3-2 and Appendix A.

Illegal Pitch

Any pitch by the pitcher that is in violation of the pitching rules.

Illegal Player

A player who competes in the game but is not entitled to participate.

Illegal Re-entry

A violation of the substitution rules that occurs when an illegal player (one who is not entitled to play) is put back into the game or a legal player returns to the game, but not in their original position in the batting order.

Rostered Players (Championship Play)

No Player will be allowed to be on more than one roster participating in national play in any age or classification.

b) Regional Directors will have the digression regarding rostered players in qualifying tournaments leading to national play within their region.

Illegally Batted Ball

A pitch contacted by the batter: (1) with an altered bat, (2) with a illegal bat, (3) when any part of either foot is in contact with the plate at the time of bat-ball contact, or (4) when one or both feet are on the ground and entirely outside the lines of the batter's box at the time of bat-ball contact.

In Flight

Any batted thrown or pitched ball that has not touched the ground, an object or a person other than a player.

In Jeopardy

The term indicating that the ball is live, and an offensive player may be put out.

Infield

That portion of the field in fair territory that is normally skinned and covered by the pitcher and infielders.

Infield Fly Rule

A fair fly ball (not a line drive or an attempted bunt) that can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when either all three bases are occupied or runners are on first and second and before there are two outs in the inning. Any defensive player positioned in the infield at the time of the pitch shall be considered an infielder for the purpose of this rule. The ball is live, the batter is out and runners may advance at their own risk. If a declared infield fly becomes foul, it is treated as a foul ball, not an infield fly. The run-

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ner may tag up and advance as soon as a fielder touches the batted ball.

Infielders

Fielders (usually four) who defend the skinned portion of the field. They are the first baseman, second baseman, third baseman and short stop.

Inning

- a. That portion of the game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three putouts for each team.
- b. Half inning. Each team's respective time at bat or in the field. The interval during which one team is on offense and the other is on defense. A half inning ends when there is a third out or when, in the last inning the winning run is scored.
- c. Extra inning. One that extends the game in an attempt to break a tie score.

Interference, Offensive

The act of an offensive player, coach, umpire or spectator that denies the fielder a reasonable opportunity to play the ball. The act may be intentional or unintentional and the ball must have been playable.

Leap

An illegal act in which the pitcher becomes airborne on her initial movement and push from the pitcher's plate.

Line Drive

A fair or foul batted ball that travels parallel to the ground, neither rising into the air nor dropping to the ground. If caught, it is scored an out.

Lineup Card

The card that contains the first and last names, uniform numbers and positions of all starting players, listed in the order in which they are to bat and the first and last names and uniform numbers of all eligible substitutes.

Media Coverage

Media authorized by Tournament Director, may be on the playing field, but, must not use tripods. All media personnel, must be able to move to avoid being hit by an overthrown, or batted ball. Should they accidentally be hit, the ball remains alive. No equipment can be left on the ground.

Offense

Player or team at bat attempting to score runs.

On-Deck Batter

The offensive player who is next in line to bat.

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Out

A declaration by the umpire indicating a batter or base runner has been retired. Each team is entitled to three outs per inning.

Outfield

That portion of fair territory that is grass or an artificial grass surface and normally covered by the outfielders.

Outfielder

Fielders (usually three) who defend the grass portion of the field between the skinned infield and home run fence. They are the left fielder, center fielder and right fielder.

Overslide

The act of a base runner who, when sliding, loses contact with a base or passes it.

Overthrow

A thrown ball that goes beyond its intended target. The ball is live unless it enters dead-ball territory or becomes a blocked ball.

Penalty

A punishment imposed on a player or team for a rule infraction.

Pinch Hitter

A player who is inserted into the lineup in the place of the batter. The pinch hitter will stay in the lineup until she is replaced by the player for whom she batted or another substitute.

Pinch Runner

A player who is inserted into the lineup in the place of a base runner. The pinch runner will stay in the lineup until replaced by the player for whom they ran or another substitute.

Pitch

A live ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher with a legal underhand motion.

Pitcher

The defensive player designated to deliver pitches to batters.

Pitcher's Drag Foot

The pitcher's foot (right foot of a right-handed pitcher and left foot of a left-handed pitcher) that must maintain contact with the pitcher's plate as the stride foot extends forward on the step. It also is referred to as the pivot or rear foot.

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Pitcher's Pivot Foot

The pitcher's foot (right foot of a right-handed pitcher and left foot of a left-handed pitcher) that maintains contact with the pitcher's plate, absorbs the body's weight and pushes off against the plate during the initial "step" phase of the pitch. This same foot drags along the ground during the final phase of the pitch and is then referred to as the drag or rear foot.

Pitcher's Stride Foot

The pitcher's foot (left foot of right-handed pitcher and right foot of a left-handed pitcher) that extends forward toward home plate as she steps to deliver the pitch to the batter. It also is referred to as the lead foot.

"Play or "Play Ball"

The order given by the umpire to begin the game or to resume play. It also is the instruction given by the umpire to indicate that the defensive players are in position, the batter is ready to bat and the pitcher may now deliver the pitch.

Protest

The formal, written inquiry into the decision of an umpire.

Quick Pitch

A pitch delivered with the obvious intention of catching the batter off balance or otherwise unprepared to bat.

Run

The act of an offensive player legally advancing to and touching home plate without being put out.

Rundown

The act of the defense attempting to put out a base runner who is caught off base between two or more defensive players and who may either attempt to advance or return to the previous base.

Safe

A declaration by the umpire indicating that a runner has successfully taken possession of a base and is no longer in jeopardy.

Slap Hit

A batted ball that has been struck with a short, chopping motion rather than with a full swing. The two most common types of slap hits are (1) those in which the batter takes a stance as if to bunt but then either drives the ball into the ground with a quick, short swing or punches it over the infield, and (2) those in which the batter takes running steps (within the bat-

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ter's box) toward the pitcher before making contact with the pitch.

Starter

The first nine or 10 players (if a designated player is used) listed on the lineup card submitted to the umpire before the start of the game. Each starter is entitled to be replaced and to re-enter one time as long as she assumes her original position in the batting order.

Strike

Any pitch that either enters the strike zone without first touching the ground or is swung at by the batter and missed. A strike also may be called by the umpire for the batter's failure to enter the batter's box when so directed.

Strike Zone

The area above home plate between the batter's forward armpit and the top of her knees when she assumes her natural batting stance. Any part of the ball passing through any part of the strike zone is a strike unless the ball touches the ground before reaching home plate.

Substitute

A player not listed on the lineup and as a starter but who may legally replace one of the first 9 or 10 players (if a designated player is used) listed on the lineup card submitted to the umpire before the start of the game.

Tag

The act of a defensive player who puts out a runner by touching her with the ball held in either the hand or glove/mitt.

"Time" or "Timeout"

A term used by the umpire to temporarily suspend play. The ball is dead, until the umpire indicates a resumption of play.

Turn at Bat

The act of entering the batter's box until being put out, becoming a batter-runner or being substituted for while at bat.

Umpires

The persons hired to rule on the plays in the game. They are a plate umpire and one, two or three base umpires.

Unreported Player

A player who has a legal right to enter or re-enter the game but has not been reported to the umpire prior to her participation.

Visiting Team

The team that starts the game on offense (at bat).