

Oregon School Activities Association

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Have a Ball Out There

A game ball is typically in play until it goes out of play, is blocked or the umpire deems the ball unsuitable for play. But there are times when the pitcher must use a different ball or can request a different ball.

In **NFHS** the pitcher has a choice of balls at the beginning of each half inning unless one of the two game balls does not get put into play in the top of the first inning. ***In that case, the pitcher in to bottom of the first inning must throw the unused ball.*** In **NFHS (6-5-2)**, the pitcher may request the other ball before throwing a warm-up pitch by giving the ball in her possession to the plate umpire. ***In that case the pitcher has now made a choice and must pitch that ball until it goes out of play or is blocked.***

FAIR AND SQUARE

Whenever a ball is close to the line up to first or third base, the plate umpire should make a strong signal to let everyone know whether the ball is fair or foul.

- Once the ball touches a fielder inside the base line it is **fair**, no matter if the ball bounces into foul ground.
- If the ball bounds over the base or hits it, it is a **fair ball**.
- If a fly ball goes over the base and lands on foul ground, it is **foul**.

The plate umpire should try to quickly come out of their stance on a ball hit along the baseline, remove their mask, stand square to the base and use a strong mechanic to rule the ball fair or foul.

CASE PLAYS

Runner on Base Struck By Ball – Play: With R1 on third and R2 on second, the infielders are playing in front of the baselines. B3 smashes a ground ball up the middle that strikes R2, who is in contact with second base. **Ruling:** R2 is not out and the ball is ***live and in play.*** **NFHS 8-8-13**

Player Erases Chalk Line – Play: A player ***intentionally*** erases a field chalk line. **Ruling:** In **NFHS (3-6-17 Pen)**, a ***batter*** is charged with a ***strike*** if she ***intentionally*** erases a field chalk line. If a ***fielder*** erases a field line, the ***batter is awarded a ball.*** A ***team warning*** is issued and the ***next offense results in another strike or ball penalty with the offender and the head coach restricted to the dugout/bench.***

Runner Interferes with Fielder – Play: R1 is on third base and R2 is on first with no outs. B3 with a **1-1 count** hits a ***foul fly ball*** near the foul line about eight feet on the plate side of third base. As F5 settles under the ball, R1 bumps F5 causing her to drop the ball. ***Is R1 out for interference, or both R1 and R2?*** **Ruling:** In **NFHS**, R1 is ***out***, the ball is ***dead***, a ***foul*** ball is ruled and B3 remains at bat with a **1-2** count with R2 remaining at first base. **NFHS 8-6-10b Pen.**

Larry Harwood, OSAA State Rules Interpreter

larryharwood@comcast.net 541-463-1760