

# **Base Awards**

**For PIAA Baseball**

# "Base Awards"

Tonight we will discuss;

- How many bases should be awarded?
- What base awards occur following Dead Ball (DB).
- What base awards occur following Delayed Dead Ball (DDB).
- At what point are base awards determined?
- The information provided comes from our Base Awards Table in the NFHS Rule Book. (Rule 8, pg 49)

**Measurables:**

You will be able to correctly answer the plays named from the 2010 NFHS Case Book relevant to the material presented.

# 1.0 RULE 8-3-5:

- 1.1 If an award is the penalty for an infraction such as a balk, use of detached equipment, or an illegal glove/mitt, the award is from the base occupied at the time of infraction (**@INF**).
- 1.2 If any pitch (batted or unbatted) is followed by a dead ball before the pitcher is in position for the next pitch and before there is any throw by the fielding team, any award is from the base occupied at the time of the pitch (**@TOP**).
- 1.3 **“Time of pitch” is when the pitcher has committed himself to delivering the pitch to the batter. (see Rule 2-28-3)**

## 2.0 The Batter is awarded First Base when:

- 2.1 He receives ball four. **(Live Ball)**
- 2.2 The pitch is ball four, but goes out of play. **(DB)**
- 2.3 The pitch is ball four, but becomes lodged in the catcher's or umpire's equipment, or lodged in the fence, or is touched by a spectator. **(DB)**
- 2.4 He is intentionally walked by the defense. **(DB)**
- 2.5 He is hit by a pitched ball. **(DB)**

- 2.6 A batted fair ball touches an umpire before an infielder had a play on the ball. **(DB, @TOP)** Other runners do not advance unless forced.
- 2.7 A batted fair ball touches a base runner before an infielder had a play on the ball. **(DB, @TOP)** The runner is out. Other runners do not advance unless forced.
- 2.8 Catcher's obstruction is called AND IF the batter and all base runners were not successful in advancing one base during the play when the obstruction occurred. The manager of the team on offense is to be given the choice of awarding his batter first base OR accept the result of the play with NO base awards. **(DDB)**  
[see Rule 8-1-1e]

### 3.0 With Runners on base, each runner shall be awarded One Base when:

- 3.1 He is forced to advance as a result of an award to the batter.  
(dependent on the situation, see Section 2 above)
- 3.2 The pitcher is called for a Balk. **(DB, @INF)**
- 3.3 A pitch (from the pitcher's plate) goes out of play.  
**(DB, @TOP)**
- 3.4 A pitch (from the pitcher's plate) becomes lodged in the catcher's or umpire's equipment, in the fence, or is touched by a spectator. **(DB, @TOP)**  
**[see Rule 8-3-3d]**

- 3.5 A throw from the pitcher's plate goes out of play.  
**(DB, @TOP)**  
e.g. The pitcher, while on the pitcher's plate, attempts to pick off the runner on first base, but in so doing, throws the ball out of play.
- 3.6 When a fielder unintentionally catches a batted ball with less than two outs and carries it out of play. **(DB, @TOP)** The operative word in this rule is "unintentional", and this is a judgment call for the umpire. It is possible for a quick thinking fielder to intentionally carry the ball out of play so that it would deny a base runner the opportunity to return to his base when he had left early and touched the next base. **[see Rule 8-3-3d]**

3.7 He was attempting to advance to the next base during the same pitch that catcher's obstruction was called, even if he is NOT FORCED during that play. **(DDB, @TOP)** [see Rule 8-1-1e1]

3.8 When a pitched ball strikes a runner.

**(DB, @TOP)**

e.g. The runner from third base is stealing home. He and the pitched ball arrive at home plate at the same time, and it touches him. The ball must be called DEAD at that instant. All other base runners are awarded one base from the base they were on at the time of pitch, regardless if they were also attempting to advance or not. The umpire must also rule the pitch as a ball or strike. If the pitch was strike three with two outs, the inning is over and the run does not count.



4.0 With Runners on base, each runner shall be awarded One Base or More based on Umpire's Judgment when:

- 4.1 Obstruction occurs on a base runner. **(DDB,@INF)**  
It is the umpire's judgment that determines the bases that could have been reached had it not been for the obstruction on the runner and each other runner affected. The obstructed runner is to be awarded a minimum of one base beyond the last base he legally touched, regardless of the direction he was running when the obstruction occurred. However, once the base runner achieves the base he was attempting to reach, the obstruction is ignored, and the umpire shall remove his delayed dead ball signal. Any further advancement by the runner on this same play is by his own risk. **[see Rule 8-3-2]**

With Runners on base, each runner shall be awarded One Base or More based on Umpire's Judgment when:

- 4.2 Malicious contact occurs on the runner. **(DB, @INF)** Defensive malicious contact supersedes obstruction. Runner(s) will be awarded appropriate base(s) per umpire judgment. And, of course, we have a mandatory ejection of the player who is guilty of the malicious contact. [see Rule 8-3-2]
- 4.3 A spectator interferes with a batted or thrown ball. **(DB, @INF)** The umpire will award bases that, in his judgment, will nullify the spectator interference. [see Rule 8-3-3e]

5.0 The batter and each runner shall be awarded Two Bases when:

5.1 A fair batted ball bounces over, through, goes under, or lodges in or under a fence, or otherwise goes out of play. **(DB, @TOP)**

5.2 A fair batted ball lodges in a defensive player's or umpire's uniform or equipment. **(DB, @TOP)**

5.3 A fielder intentionally catches and carries a batted ball out of play for the purpose of preventing the base runner the opportunity of returning to the base from where he started. **(DB, @TOP)** It must be judged by the umpire that the catch and carry was intentional. This is the converse of 3.6 above. Of course, the batter would be out because of the catch. [see Rule 8-3-3d]

5.4 A first throw by an infielder and the ball goes out of play or becomes lodged in the fence. **(DB, @TOP)** There is the rare exception when the batter has already achieved first base when the fielder makes his first throw. In that case, by rule, we should award the batter third base. Be careful with this one. [see Rule 8-3-5, next to last sentence of the rule]

5.5 A subsequent throw by an infielder, or any throw by an outfielder where the ball goes out of play or becomes lodged in the fence.  
**(DB, @throw)**

NOTE: A runner who is returning after a batted ball has been caught, and is prevented from doing so because a thrown live ball has become dead; his award shall be from the base he occupied at the time of the pitch.

**[see Rule 8-3-5]**

- 5.6 A live thrown ball or a pitch is touched by an illegal glove/mitt or detached players equipment. **(DDB, @INF)**
- The operative words here are "thrown ball" and "touched". This is a delayed dead ball situation. If base runners achieve the bases they would have been awarded, then further advance is done at their own risk. If the ball is NOT touched, then we have nothing, the ball remains live, and base awards will not apply.
- [see Rule 8-3-4]

6.0 The batter and each runner shall be awarded Three Bases when:

6.1 A fair batted ball or a pitch is touched by an illegal glove/mitt or detached players equipment. **(DDB, @INF)** The operative words here are "fair batted ball" and "touched". This is a delayed dead ball situation also. If base runners achieve the bases they would have been awarded, then further advance is done at their own risk. If the ball is NOT touched, then we have nothing, the ball remains live, and base awards will not apply.

[see Rule 8-3-4]

7.0 The batter and each runner shall be awarded Four Bases when:

- 7.1 A fair batted ball goes over the fence in flight or hits the foul pole above the fence line in flight. This, of course, is a Home Run.  
**(DB, @TOP)**
- 7.2 A fair batted ball is prevented from going over the fence because it was touched by a spectator.  
**(DB, @TOP)**
- 7.3 A fair batted ball was prevented from going over the fence because of contact with detached player's equipment or use of an illegal glove/mitt.  
**(DDB, @TOP)**



**QUESTIONS?**

## REVIEW:

- We discussed all the situations that create "Base Awards" and their magnitude.
- We differentiated when they are awarded following Dead Ball (**DB**) or Delayed Dead Ball (**DDB**).
- We also differentiated if the award is determined at the time of pitch (**@TOP**) or at the time of the infraction (**@INF**) or at the time of throw (**@throw**).
- We also discussed plays where the base awards are a result of umpire's judgment (**without a pre-determined limit**).

## **TEST for BASE AWARDS**

**The following are Case Plays from the 2010 NFHS Case Book:**

**8.3.1B** (Pg 70) R1 is on third and R2 is on second. R1 breaks from third in an attempted suicide squeeze play. As B3 attempts to bunt, F2 touches tip of bat or steps across home plate, catches the ball and tags R1. R2 remains on second.

**8.3.2B** (Pg 71) While (a) B1 is moving toward second base on a hit to right-center field, F6, who does not have the ball in his possession, fakes a tag on B1 or (b) B1 is returning to first base and F3, who does not have the ball, fakes a tag on B1.

**8.3.3C** (Pg 73) R1 is on second and R2 is on first when B3 hits a ground ball to F6. F6 fields the ball, steps on second for a force on R2 advancing from first, then throws wildly to F3. F3 tosses his glove into the air, intentionally hitting the ball.

**8.3.3E** (Pg 73) With runners on first and third bases, the pitcher assumes his position on the pitcher's plate in the set position with the ball in both hands in front of his body. R1 makes a break towards the plate. F1 steps clearly backward off the pitcher's plate. F1 then runs several steps towards home plate and throws the ball to the catcher while R1 continues to advance. The throw bounces away from F2 and into the stands. How far should R2, who is on first, be allowed to advance?

**8.3.3I (Pg 74)** R1 is on third and R2 is on first with one out. B4 hits a fly ball that is caught in right-center field. Both runners tag and advance. R1 legally tags and scores after the catch. R2 stays on first as the batter-runner rounds first and makes a break toward second. F8 throws wildly to F4 who deflects the ball into dead-ball territory.

**8.3.3J (Pg 74)** B1 singles to right field, (a) the ball rolls to a stop and F9, attempting to pick it up, kicks the ball into dead-ball territory or (b) the bouncing ball strikes F9 on the leg and deflects into dead-ball territory.

**8.3.3K (Pg 74)** F1 throws a pitch that strikes F2 on the shinguard and rolls away. The ball (a) has stopped moving and F2, attempting to pick it up, kicks it into dead-ball territory, or (b) is rolling and deflects off F2's glove into dead-ball territory, or (c) F2 intentionally kicks the ball into dead-ball territory.

**8.3.3L** (Pg 74) With two outs and R1 on second, B4 strikes out, but the pitch gets by F2 and is rolling toward the backstop. F2 chases down the ball and stops it with his mask.

**8.3.5A** (Pg 75) With runners on bases, the ball becomes dead in a dugout resulting from a (a) throw by F9 on a base hit, (b) throw by F1 while in contact with the plate, (c) throw by F1 not preceded by a pitch while not in contact with the plate, (d) a pitch that caroms off shinguard of F2 or (e) F5 falling into the dugout following the catch of a batted fly ball. What are the awards and for what bases?

**8.3.5I** (Pg 76) R1 is at first when B2 hits to F6, who throws to second for one out. F4's relay to first goes into dead-ball territory. At the time of the throw, B2 has (a) not touched first or (b) touched first.

**8.3.5J (Pg 76)** R1 is at second when B2 hits to F6, who tries to tag R1 but misses. F6 then overthrows first into dead-ball area. R1 remains at second, but B2 has touched first at the time of the throw.

**8.3.5L (Pg 77)** B1 hits a slow roller to F5 who makes no play. The batter-runner feints an attempt to go to second and F5's subsequent throw goes into dead-ball territory.