Dead Ball

For PIAA Baseball

"Dead Ball"

Tonight we will discuss;
* What does "Dead Ball" mean?
* What initiates a "Dead Ball"?
* What are the mechanics the umpire must use?
* What is a "Delayed Dead Ball" ?
The information provided comes from our
Dead Ball Table in the NFHS Rule Book.

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

1.0 What is a "Dead Ball"?
(From Rule 5-2-2)

1.1   Play ceases. No action by the defense can cause a player to be put out (unless it is a dead ball appeal).

1.2   Nor can any base runners advance unless they are granted base awards by the umpires.

1.3   The ball remains dead until the UIC returns to live ball by calling "PLAY". (See Rule 5-1-4)

1.4 In most cases, the umpire initiates dead ball by calling "Time" or "Foul", or in the case of offensive interference, the umpire shall call "Time - That's Interference".

(Demonstrate the mechanic for these calls.)

1.5 Sometimes, dead ball occurs automatically when a foul ball is hit out of play, or a batter hits a pitched ball over the fence for a home run, or a fielder throws a live ball out of play.

2.0   Foul Ball (From Rule 5-1-1d)
A ball becomes dead immediately when:

2.1   A foul ball touches any object other than the ground or any person other than a fielder; OR

2.2   A foul ball goes directly from the bat to the catcher's protector, mask or person without first touching the catcher's glove or hand; OR

2.3   A foul ball that is uncaught or is hit beyond the playing field.

OUTCOME: In all cases above, we have a foul ball. Either umpire can make the call as appropriate. The mechanic is "Foul"   (demonstrate).

3.0   Other "Dead Ball" situations involving <u>the batter</u>:

A ball becomes dead immediately when:

3.1   The batter is struck by a pitched ball, even if the pitched ball bounces before it hits the batter.

OUTCOME: Either umpire shall call "Time". It must be determined if the batter was attempting to swing at the pitch, in which case he is charged with a strike; or was he attempting to avoid being hit by the pitch, in which case he is awarded first base. If the batter was doing neither, the UIC shall call the pitch as he saw it, and no runners can advance, unless forced, since the ball is dead and the batter remains at bat unless strike three or ball four was called. (See Rule 8-1-1d)

3.2 The batter hits a fair ball that first touches a runner or an umpire before <u>any</u> fielder other than the pitcher has an opportunity to make a play on the ball.

OUTCOME: Either umpire shall call "Time". If the batted ball first touches a runner, the runner is to be called out. The batter is awarded first base, and no other runners can advance on the play unless forced. **(See Rule 8-4-2k)**
If the batted ball first hits an umpire, call "Time" and award the batter first base. Base runners can only advance if forced. AND, go check on your partner and see if he is OK.
(See Rule 5-1-1f1 and Rule 8-1-2b)

3.3 With at least first base occupied with less than two outs, the batter hits a line drive or pop up to an infielder who, in the umpire's judgment, intentionally drops the ball.

OUTCOME: Either umpire shall call "Time" and call the batter out. No runners can advance on this play. (See Rule 8-4-1c)

NOTE: This rule does not apply if the infield fly rule is in effect.

3.4   The batter hits a fair ball that becomes <u>wedged</u> or <u>lodged</u> in a fence or barrier on the playing field, or bounces beyond the playing field. PIAA defines <u>wedged</u> or <u>lodged</u> when a pitched, thrown, or batted ball impacts something - stops abruptly and does not fall or roll out *immediately*.

OUTCOME: When it is apparent to the umpire the ball is lodged or has gone out of play, call "Time" and grant the batter and runners two bases from time of pitch.
 (See Rule 8-3-3c; also see PIAA's "Base Hits", 2010 edition, pg 12)

3.5 A batter hits a long fly ball that would have otherwise been a Home Run had it not been for spectator interference, or prevented by detached player's equipment.

OUTCOME: The umpire shall call time and award the batter a Home Run.
(See Rule 8-3-3a)

3.6 The batter strikes the ball illegally with one foot or knee <u>on the ground</u> totally outside the batter's box.

OUTCOME: Call "Time". Cite the infraction and call the batter "Out".   All runners must return to their base at the time of pitch. (See Rule 7-3-2)

3.7 The batter intentionally strikes the ball a second time.

OUTCOME: The UIC shall call "Time" and call the batter "Out". No runners can advance on this play. **(See Rule 8-4-1d)**

3.8   The batter steps into the batter's box and is detected using an illegal bat.

OUTCOME: The UIC shall call "Time" and call the batter "Out".
(See Rule 7-4-1a; For definition of an illegal bat, see Rule 1-3-5)

4.0 Other "Dead Ball" situations involving <u>the pitcher</u>:
A ball becomes dead immediately when:

4.1 The pitcher is directed to intentionally walk the batter.

OUTCOME: The UIC shall call "Time" and award the batter first base. Other base runners do not advance unless forced. (See Rule 5-1-3)

4.2   A "BALK" is called on the pitcher by an umpire.

OUTCOME: Either umpire shall call "Time-That's a Balk". All base runners are awarded one base from the time of infraction.
(See Rule 5-1-1k)

4.3 The pitcher is charged by an umpire with delivering an illegal pitch.

OUTCOME: The batter shall be awarded a "Ball" and/or the pitcher may even be subject to ejection. **(See Rule 6-2-1&2)**

4.4 A pitched ball becomes lodged in the fence or backstop, or in the catcher's or umpire's equipment, or leaves the playing field without the batter striking the ball.

OUTCOME: The UIC shall call the pitch for what it was, then call "Time". If there were base runners at the time of the pitch, they shall each be awarded one base from time of pitch.   (See Rule 8-3-3d)

5.0 Other "Dead Ball" situations involving <u>the base runner</u>:

A ball becomes dead immediately when:

5.1 The runner does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder.

OUTCOME: The umpire is to call "Time - That's Interference". On a force play slide with less than two outs, the runner is declared out as well as the batter-runner. Other runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. With two outs, the runner is declared out.
(See Rule 8-4-2:b thru f)

5.2 **A runner intentionally interferes with a throw or a thrown ball, or hinders a fielder on his initial attempt to field a batted ball.**

OUTCOME: The umpire is to call "Time - That's Interference". The runner shall be called out AND if in the umpire's judgment the interference possibly prevented a double play anywhere, then two shall be called out. (See Rule 8-4-2g)

5.3 The runner interferes with a fielder who is attempting to catch a foul fly ball.

OUTCOME: The umpire is to call "Time - That's Interference" and call the runner out. NOTE: This rule was changed this year (2010). Previously, the batter was to be called out.   (See Rule 7-4-1f)

5.4   A runner initiates malicious contact.

OUTCOME: The umpire shall call "Time - That's Malicious Contact". The runner shall be called out, unless he had already scored. <u>He shall be ejected from the game</u>. Be sure to learn the player's number and name and file a "Disqualification Report" with PIAA. (See Rule 3-3-1n and Penalty)

5.5   When a pitch strikes a runner.

OUTCOME: This play can happen when a runner on third breaks for home and is struck by the pitched ball, and the batter is not guilty of interference.   The ball is to be called dead at the moment the pitch strikes the runner. The umpire shall rule the pitch as a strike or a ball. Any other base runners will also be awarded one base. (see Rule 8-3-1a)

5.6   The runner is first touched while he is on his base by a batted ball with the infield fly rule called.

OUTCOME: The umpire is to call "Time - the batter is out". The runner that is struck by the batted infield fly (rule) while standing on his base shall NOT be called out. No other runners can advance on this play. (see Rule 8-4-2k)

6.0 Other "Dead Ball" situations:

A ball becomes dead immediately when:

6.1   A fielder throws a live ball out of play.

OUTCOME: The umpires will award the base runners two bases from where they were judged at the time of release of the throw UNLESS the throw was the first play by an infielder on a batted ball. In this case, the runners will be awarded two bases from the TIME OF PITCH.
(See Rule 8-3-3c)

6.2   **A fielder who has caught a batted or thrown live ball and then steps out of play with <u>both feet</u> or <u>full body</u>.**

OUTCOME: The umpire shall call "Time" and may award bases depending on the situation. (See Rule 8-3-3d)

6.3   A base coach is judged to have intentionally interfered with a thrown live ball.

OUTCOME: The umpire must judge first if the base coach <u>intentionally</u> interfered with the thrown ball. If that is his judgment, he is to call "Time - That's Interference" and call the runner out. Other runners must be returned to the last base they touched at the time the interference was called. (See Rule 3-2-3)

6.4   A spectator interferes with a batted or thrown live ball.

OUTCOME: The umpire shall call "Time" and award the batter and/or base runners base awards as per rule or as per his judgment at the time of the infraction. (See Rule 7-4-1d and Rule 8-3-3e)

6.5 **A live thrown ball becomes lodged in a fence or barrier or leaves the field of play.**

OUTCOME: The umpire shall call "Time" and determine where the batter and /or runners shall be placed depending on the origin of the play. (See Rule 8-3-3c)

6.6   An umpire inadvertently handles a live ball, or calls "Time" or "Foul " or gives the <u>Do Not Pitch</u> signal.

OUTCOME: The ball is dead in all these cases. Place batter and runners as appropriate. (See Rule 5-1-1h)

7.0 What is a "Delayed Dead Ball"?

7.1 In spite of an infraction, play is allowed to continue until the result of the play is known. At the end of the play, the umpire shall call "Time" and impose penalty or base awards as provided by rule.

7.2 There is interference by the batter when the catcher is attempting a play on a runner.

OUTCOME: If the runner is called "OUT", the result of the play stands and the ball remains live and in play. If an out does not result, the batter shall be called out for interference, and all base runners shall be returned to their base at the time of pitch. However if the pitch was strike three, the umpire may also judge the runner out if the interference prevented a possible double play.
If the play is at home plate and the runner is tagged out, the ball remains in play and batter's interference is ignored. Otherwise, the ball is dead and the runner shall be called "Out". When there are two outs, the batter shall be called out.
(See Rule 7-3-5)

7.3 The UIC interferes with the catcher's throw while attempting a play on a runner.

OUTCOME: : If the runner is called "OUT", the result of the play stands. Otherwise, the ball is called dead and all runners shall return to their base at time of pitch.
(See Rule 5-1-2c)

7.4   When a runner is obstructed while advancing or returning to a base.

OUTCOME: When the umpire observes obstruction on a runner, he shall give the "Delayed Dead Ball" signal, and call "That's Obstruction".   He shall allow play to continue and if the obstructed base runner is successful in achieving the next base (from the base he last legally touched prior to the obstruction), or the base the umpire judged he would have reached without being put out; the penalty for the obstruction is removed, along with the Delayed Dead Ball signal. Otherwise, the umpire shall award the obstructed runner a minimum of one base, and each other   runner affected by the obstruction the   bases, <u>in his judgment,</u> they would have reached.
(See Rule 8-3-2)

7.5 A Delayed Dead Ball may occur as a result of "catcher's interference" or as our rule book calls it "obstruction".

OUTCOME: If the batter puts the ball in play, the UIC shall give the "Delayed Dead Ball" signal and shall allow play continue until all play ceases. The offensive team coach is then offered the choice of accepting the result of the play, or having his batter awarded first base. If other base runners were attempting to advance on the play, the umpire shall awarded the bases they were attempting. **NOTE:** If the batter and all runners successfully advance at least one base, the obstruction is IGNORED. (See Rule 8-1-1e)

7.6 **A player uses detached or illegal equipment to stop a batted or thrown ball.**

OUTCOME: The umpires shall allow play to continue until all play has stopped. IF the detached equipment is judged to have contacted the batted or thrown ball, then the umpires shall call time and issue base awards dependent on the infraction cited. However, if each runner advances beyond the base which he would have reached as a result of the award, than the infraction shall be ignored.
(See Rules 8-3-3a,b&c1 and Rule 8-3-4)

7.7   A base coach is judged to have physically assisted his player.

OUTCOME: If the runner is called "OUT", the result of the play stands and the ball remains live and in play. If an out does not result, the runner shall be called out and all base runners shall be returned to their base at the time of the infraction.
(See Rule 3-2-2)

7.8 A coach, player, or other team personnel call "Time" or use any command or commit any act to induce a Balk or disrupt the live play.

OUTCOME: The umpires shall await the result of the play and then call "TIME". The offender is to be EJECTED from the game. The umpires can also decide other penalties and/or base awards are appropriate.
(See Rule 3-3-1o and Penalty)

QUESTIONS?

REVIEW:

8.1 We have discussed the situations that create "Dead Ball" and "Delayed Dead Ball". Plays initiated by;

8.1.1 the batter

8.1.2 the pitcher

8.1.3 the catcher

8.1.4 the umpire

8.1.5 the runner

8.1.6 a fielder

8.1.7 the base coach

8.1.8 a spectator

8.2 We have discussed associated mechanics, audibles, and signals the umpires must use.

8.3 We have discussed the associated base awards and penalties for each situation.

POST TEST for DEAD BALL & DELAYED DEAD BALL

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

5.1.1G (Pg 43): B1 hits a ground ball to left field. F7 throws the ball to the infield where it hits an umpire or a base runner. Is the ball dead?

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Ruling: Not unless it is ruled interference on the base runner. Such ruling would be made if the runner deliberately allowed the ball to hit him.

8.1.1E (Pg 64): R1 is on second. F2 obstructs B3 but he hits and reaches first safely but R1, who was not moving on the pitch, is thrown out at home plate.

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Ruling: Obstruction is ignored since R1 advanced one base and B3 reached first base safely. R1's advance past third was at his own risk and he is out. (see 5-1-2b and 8-3-3d)

8.3.2A (Pg 70): R1 and R2 are on second and first, respectively, when B3 beats out an infield hit. R1 advances to and past third toward home. In a rundown, F5 obstructs R1. However, R1 gets back to third safely and finds R2 there. F5 tags R2 with the ball.

8.3.2A (Pg 70): R1 and R2 are on second and first, respectively, when B3 beats out an infield hit. R1 advances to and past third toward home. In a rundown, F5 obstructs R1. However, R1 gets back to third safely and finds R2 there. F5 tags R2 with the ball.

Ruling: Umpire should signal a delayed dead ball when the infraction by F5 occurs. At the conclusion of playing action, he declares the ball dead, then awards home to R1 and allows R2 to remain at third. When a runner is obstructed , the obstructed runner is awarded a minimum of one base beyond his position on base when the obstruction occurred.

8.4.1G (Pg 78): With the bases loaded and one out, B5 bunts a ball in the air. F3 uses the back of his glove to gently knock the ball to the ground where he picks it up and throws to F2 who touches the plate and then throws out B5 at first.

8.4.1G (Pg 78): With the bases loaded and one out, B5 bunts a ball in the air. F3 uses the back of his glove to gently knock the ball to the ground where he picks it up and throws to F2 who touches the plate and then throws out B5 at first.

Ruling: The ball is dead. B5 is out and the runners return. Manipulating the ball to the ground is prohibited. Allowing the ball to drop to the ground untouched is not considered an intentionally dropped ball.

8.4.2L (Pg 80): With R1 on third and R2 on first with no one out, R2 attempts to steal second base. The pitch to the batter is strike three. As F2 attempts to throw out R2, the batter interferes. The ball goes into the outfield and R1 scores.

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Ruling: The batter is out because of strike three. R2 is out because of the batter's interference. R1 will return to third base because that is the base occupied at the time of the interference.

THE END

Thank you for your attention.