

## RULE REFRESHERS:

Rule 1.08 reminder that only "the first batter will be permitted outside the dugout between half-innings". This is a rule that is often violated in our league. This rule addresses players only - not managers and coaches..

Rule 4.05 addresses base coaches and the requirement for at least one adult to be in the dugout at all times during a game. This rule is also often violated in our league. The rule states base "coaches shall not leave their respective dugouts until the pitcher has completed his/her preparatory pitches to the catcher". As is commonly practiced, as long as one adult remains in the dugout, the other managers/coaches may be outside and in front of their dugout between innings. After the last warm-up pitch, the bases coaches can then proceed to their respective boxes.

## BASE AWARDS SCENARIO:

Scenario: Runner on 1st base. Zero outs. Pitcher pitches to the batter. The pitched ball hits the ground in front of catcher's glove, bounces off the catcher's glove and then ends up lodged BEHIND backstop padding.

Question: What bases, if any should be awarded?

Answer: Rule 7:05(h): ONE BASE. If a ball, pitched to the batter, or thrown by the pitcher from the position on the pitcher's plate to a base to catch a runner, goes into a stand or bench, or over or through a field fence or backstop, the ball is dead and runners shall advance one base. In this case R1 is advanced to 2nd base.

Analysis: The key here is that it was a ball PITCHED or THROWN by the PITCHER while in position on the pitcher's plate. It is irrelevant as to whether or not the pitched ball was a ball or strike. The base award to the runner is based on his/her location at the time of the pitch. Once the ball became lodged/stuck, the ball became dead.

If the ball had been thrown by the pitcher while NOT in contact with the pitcher's plate or by any other infielder, Rule 7:05(g) would apply. In this case, it would be a two base award. If it was the first play by an infielder, the base award shall be based on the position of the runner at the time of the pitch for that play; in all other cases, the base award shall be governed by the position of the runner at the time of throw.

Easiest way to remember this rule: One base if the ball comes from the pitcher's plate; two bases if the ball comes from anywhere else on a wild throw or stuck ball. Also, if first play following the pitch - position of runner at time of pitch; in all other situations position of runner at time of throw.