

Rules 5.09(f) and 7.08(f): Runner/Umpire Hit by Batted Ball

5.09

The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases, without liability to be put out, when –

(f) A fair ball touches a runner or an umpire on fair territory before it touches an infielder including the pitcher, or touches an umpire before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher; runners advance, if forced. If a fair ball goes through, or by, an infielder, no other infielder has a chance to make a play on the ball and the ball touches a runner immediately behind the infielder that the ball went through, or by, the ball is in play and the umpire shall not declare the runner out. If a fair ball touches a runner after being deflected by an infielder, the ball is in play and the umpire shall not declare the runner out;

7.08

Any runner is out when –

(f) He is touched by a fair ball in fair territory before the ball has touched or passed an infielder. The ball is dead and no runner may score, nor runners advance, except runners forced to advance. EXCEPTION: If a runner is touching his base when touched by an Infield Fly, he is not out, although the batter is out;

Key Points:

- If the ball touches a runner, the runner is out and the BR gets 1B. Other runners only advance if forced.
- If the ball touches an umpire, the ball is dead, the BR gets 1B. Other runners only advance if forced.
- The base is not a safe haven. A runner contacted by a fair ball on the base is out unless the infield fly rule is in effect.
- If the ball touches a fielder and then a runner, the runner is safe unless the contact was intentional.

Sample Plays:

- R1, R3, 1 out. Ground ball hits R1 between 1B and 2B.
The ball is dead, R1 is out, R3 stays at third, the BR gets 1B.
- R2. Ground ball hit to F6. Ball goes through his legs and hits R2 directly behind the fielder. No other fielders had a chance to make a play.
R2 is not out and the ball is in play if the contact was not intentional.
- R3. Ground ball hits the umpire stationed in the middle of the infield before it hits another fielder
The ball is dead, R3 stays at 3B and the BR gets 1B.
- R2. Ground ball hits off F1's glove and hits the runner.
The ball is in play unless the contact is intentional.
- R1, R2. Ground ball hits R2 who is standing on 2B.
The ball is dead, R2 is out, the BR gets 1B and R1 advances due to being forced.
If the ball was an infield fly, R2 would not be out, but the BR would be.

