

2012 IACO SOFTBALL OFFICIALS CLASS

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Introduction*

- Upon completion of this Module, the student should
 - Have a basic understanding of terms regarding offensive players
 - Understand the difference between Base Awards and Penalties
 - Comprehend the basic situations under which a Base Award should be made
 - Know the various instances under which a Penalty is warranted

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Definitions*

- Batter
 - Member of the team at bat who is entitled to enter one of two batter's boxes located on either side of home plate
 - Attempts to reach base by legally striking at a pitched ball with a bat in order to put the ball into play

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Definitions*

- Runner
 - A member of the team at bat who legally occupies first, second, or third base at the time of the pitch
 - Attempts to reach home plate by legally touching all bases in order

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Definitions*

- Batter-Runner
 - Designation given to the player during the interval between a batter's time at bat ending up until she is either put out, or playing action ends
 - This designation carries with it a few more rules than a runner

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Definitions*

- Retired Runner
 - A runner who has been put out and is still in the field of play, OR
 - A runner who has scored

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Definitions*

- ▣ Base Award
 - An umpire's ruling where a runner or batter-runner is permitted to advance to a base without liability be put out
 - With one exception, a base award occurs during a dead-ball interval
 - It is still required that all bases be legally touched in order

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Definitions*

- ▣ Penalty
 - An umpire's ruling where a runner or batter-runner is called out for committing a violation
 - Nearly all penalties result in the ball immediately becoming dead, with a few exceptions

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Becoming a Batter-Runner*

- ▣ A batter typically becomes a batter-runner under the following circumstances
 - A pitched ball becomes a fair-batted ball
 - The batter receives a third strike, which is not caught in flight, with EITHER
 - First base being unoccupied at the time of the pitch, OR
 - Two outs already being recorded in the half-inning
 - Commonly called a "Dropped Third Strike"
 - A base on balls being awarded

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- ▣ Base Awards – The Basics
 - When determining base awards, it is necessary to consider
 - From which point in time an award is to be granted
 - Which runner(s) and/or if the batter-runner will receive the award
 - The last based legally touched by any runner at the point in time from where the award is based
 - Reason: Two runners cannot legally occupy the same base

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- ▣ Base Awards – The Basics
 - If multiple runners are between two bases at the point in time from which an award is to be made
 - The award will be governed by the lead runner, with the trail runner being awarded the preceding base

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- ▣ Single-Base Awards
 - Base on Balls
 - The batter-runner is awarded first base
 - Any runners forced may advance without liability to be put out
 - This is the only live ball base award

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Single-Base Awards
 - Batter is Hit by Pitched Ball
 - The batter-runner is awarded first base and any runners forced may advance
 - EXCEPTION: If the pitch is a strike, either called or because the batter made an attempt to hit or bunt, then the pitch remains a dead-ball strike
 - IN OTHER WORDS: This can be strike three!!
 - EXCEPTION: If the batter made no attempt to avoid the pitch, or intentionally moved into the pitch in an unfair attempt to earn an award, then the pitch is a ball and remains dead

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Single-Base Awards
 - A pitched ball enters dead ball territory
 - All runners are awarded one base
 - Award is based from the time of the pitch

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Single-Base Awards
 - A fielder in possession of the ball enters dead ball territory
 - Commonly called a "Catch & Carry"
 - All runners and the batter-runner are awarded one base
 - Award is based from the last base legally touched at the time the fielder in possession of the ball entered dead-ball territory

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Single-Base Awards
 - Fielder loses possession of the ball (for example, while attempting to tag a runner), and the ball subsequently enters dead ball territory or becomes blocked
 - All runners and the batter-runner are awarded one base
 - Award is based from the last base legally touched from the time the fielder lost possession of the ball

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Single-Base Awards
 - Fielder illegally attempts to field a pitched ball using detached equipment
 - All runners and the batter-runner are awarded one base
 - Award is based from the time of the pitch

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Two-Base Awards
 - A fair-batted ground ball goes over, through, or under a fence or crosses a dead ball boundary and touches something in dead ball territory
 - Two bases for the batter-runner and all runners
 - Award is based from the time of the pitch

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Two-Base Awards
 - A fair-batted ball goes over a fence and enters dead ball territory in flight from foul territory
 - Two bases for the batter-runner and all runners
 - Award is based from the time of the pitch
 - *EXAMPLE: Batter B1 hits a ball toward the foul line in deep left field. Fielder F7 jumps in an attempt to make a play, and the batted ball strikes her glove over fair territory, but then bounds over the fence from foul territory, into dead-ball territory.*

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Two-Base Awards
 - A thrown ball enters dead ball territory
 - All runners and the batter-runner are awarded two bases
 - Award is based from the last base touched at the time the throw left the fielder's hand

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Two-Base Awards
 - A fielder **INTENTIONALLY** enters dead-ball territory while in possession of the ball
 - All runners and the batter-runner are awarded two bases
 - Award is based from the last base touched at the time the throw left the fielder's hand

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Two-Base Awards
 - A fielder illegally uses detached equipment in an attempt to field a thrown ball
 - All runners and the batter-runner are awarded two bases
 - Award is based from the last base touched at the time the fielder illegally attempted to field the thrown ball

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Three-Base Award
 - A fielder illegally attempts to field a fair-batted ball using detached equipment
 - All runners and the batter-runner are awarded three bases from the time of the pitch
 - This is a delayed dead ball award, with the head coach of the offended team receiving the option to either take the base award, or the result of the play

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- Four-Base Award/Homerun
 - A fair-batted ball goes over a fence or other boundary and enters dead ball territory in flight from fair territory, or hits the foul pole over the height of the fence
 - Four bases are awarded to the batter-runner and all runners
 - Award is based from the time of the pitch

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- ▣ Four-Base Award/Homerun
 - A fielder illegally attempts to field a fair-batted ball using detached equipment, AND, in the umpire's judgment, the ball would have entered dead-ball territory in flight had the illegal act not occurred
 - Four bases are awarded to the batter-runner and all runners
 - Award is based from the time of the pitch

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Base Awards*

- ▣ Base Awards—Other
 - There are several other awards, which will be covered in specific detail later:
 - Illegal Pitch
 - Obstruction
 - Catcher's Obstruction

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties—The Basics
 - When administering a Penalty
 - Unless otherwise noted, all offensive violations result in the ball becoming dead immediately
 - The batter-runner (if applicable) is awarded first base, unless the batter-runner is the violator,
 - All runners must return to the previous base established at the time of the violation, unless otherwise noted

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties
 - If a runner touches a fair batted ball
 - The runner/batter-runner is out
 - EXCEPTION: The runner is not out and ball remains in play if:
 - The ball has touched an infielder, including the pitcher AND
 - The ball has passed an infielder and no other infielder is in position to make a play

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties
 - Batter-runner runs outside the running lane on her way to first base and
 - Is hit by the throw, OR
 - In the umpire's judgment, affects the fielder's throw to first base
 - The batter-runner is out
 - A throw MUST be made in order to administer a penalty

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties
 - If a coach physically assists runner in either returning to a previous base, or advancing to the next base
 - The runner is out
 - The ball remains live

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties
 - If a runner physically passes a preceding runner
 - The runner who passed the preceding runner is out
 - EXCEPTION: If the passed runner is obstructed, the runner is not out
 - The ball remains live

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties
 - If the bat, while in the batter's hand, makes contact with the ball
 - While the batter's foot is in contact with the plate, OR
 - While the batter's foot is touching the ground while entirely outside of the batter's box
 - The batter is out
 - It does not matter if the ball would have been fair or foul, nor if this is a result of a swing, bunt, or checked swing

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties
 - If the batter-runner steps backward toward home plate
 - The batter-runner is out

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Penalties*

- ▣ Penalties—Other
 - There are several other instances where penalties are enforced (to be covered at a later time), including:
 - Interference with a fielder's initial play
 - Interference with a fielder attempting to make a play on a runner or batter-runner
 - Violation of the Look-Back Rule

Module 4 Base Awards & Penalties *Review*

- ▣ What are three ways in which a batter can become a batter-runner?
- ▣ What are the two ways in which a runner can become a retired runner?
- ▣ What is the only live-ball base award?
- ▣ What is the base award for a ball being thrown out of play?
- ▣ What are the two instances in which a batter is to be called out for illegally batting a ball?