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COORDINATORS' CONFERENCE CALL - Interpretations

March 1, 2011

1. Pitch Clock Protocol
 - a. For consistency, the umpire is to start the "between-innings" watch when the last defensive player of the team leaving the field has crossed the foul line nearest his dugout when his efforts to leave the field are not considered to be an attempt to circumvent the present protocol.
 - b. How should umpires proceed when the defense has not completed their five warm-up pitches and has not thrown the ball down to second and back to the pitcher? Umpires have correctly awarded a ball to the first batter for the 90/108 second violation. The pitcher and/or defensive coach indicates they are going to complete their warm-ups since they have been charged a penalty. **MECHANIC:** There is **NO** warning for the 90-second violation and the umpires are to then start the 20-second clock. Each time after 20 seconds, credit another ball to the batter and restart new 20 seconds until the pitcher has completed his warm-ups and has indicated he is ready. The batter does not have to be in the box during this time.
 - c. For clarification, once the 90- or 108-second clock has expired, the umpire is instructed to penalize this infraction. Once the penalty has been enforced, a 20-second time shall be started. If the 20-second time limit expires, the appropriate penalty is then enforced. The teams do not get 90 or 108-seconds and then additional 20 seconds without penalty.
2. Rule 6-2d (1) and (2): There is "backswing" contact by the hitter, hitting the catcher on the follow through of his swing. There is a base runner attempting to steal and the hitter's swing carries him across the plate causing batter interference. Does the umpire call "backswing" interference and stop play and return the base runner to his previous base or penalize the batter's interference?

INTERPRETATION: The backswing contact is acknowledged by the umpire and results in a "delayed dead ball" since the base runner is moving. The interference by the batter is also called and is then penalized if the catcher's throw does not retire the base runner. In the case where the base runner is not retired, follow the batter interference penalty.

- a. Other situations that could happen in this scenario:
There is back swing contact and on a pitch that is far removed from the catcher, (the ball is out of the reach of the catcher) and the batter's backswing disables the catcher; **INTERPRETATION:** the ball is dead and all runners are allowed their advance of one base on the

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passed ball. (OBR and Jaksa/Roder) The NCAA interpretation is the same as OBR.

If the backswing contact caused the catcher to miss a pitch he could have otherwise gloved, follow the protocol for backswing interference, the ball is dead and all runners may not advance (umpire's judgment should be a factor in this scenario).

- b. When the backswing hits the catcher after a ball has been batted and the catcher is prevented from making a play, treat as regular interference; the batter-runner is out and other runners return to their TOP bases. (Jaksa/Roder,) NCAA interpretation is the same as OBR.
3. Formula (presented by Jon Bible and Matt Moore) to assist the umpires with collisions at the plate (or other bases) that will best explain the obstruction/collision rule:
 - a. F2 stationary = immediate act of fielding the throw + collision = no obstruction but the base runner is held accountable for a flagrant slide or malicious contact.
 - b. F2 moving a step or two up the line + immediate act of fielding throw + collision = no obstruction but the base runner is still held accountable for a flagrant or malicious slide.
 - c. F2 chasing errant throw + collision = obstruction

Umpires still must exercise good judgment in these types of situations.

4. Bases loaded, 1-out, batter hits a ball that barely clears the outfield fence. R1, hesitates between first and second bases to make sure the ball will not be caught. As he hesitates, the batter passes R1. The umpire correctly calls the batter out for passing R1 (second out). R1 then continues around the bases but misses second base and does not attempt to return to the base to touch it. After a new ball is put into play, the defense then appeals R1's missing of second base (third out). How many runs are scored?
 - a. Consider in NCAA, the force is removed when B/R passes R1. 8-5j, Exception, "No runner can be forced out if the runner who follows in the batting order is put out first." (unless the runner is put out during live action, it does not remove the force on any runners who might be subsequently declared out for a running infraction. An example is when a leading runner has been forced to advance at the time he misses a base, the appeal of the base is a "force out." NCAA: When the missed base was after the out made on the trailing runner, the force is removed and this play becomes a "time" play.

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- b. OBR/NFHS-the force is removed as soon as the B/R passes R1 regardless if the ball is "live" or "dead"
5. Play: Bases loaded, one out. The batter triples. R1 missed second and the batter-runner missed first. The defense successfully appeals against the batter-runner, then R1. The appeal out of the batter-runner removes the force against R1. R1's appealed out (third out) is not a force out; R2 and R3's runs count. If the defense had appealed R1's' missing second as the first appeal and then the batter-runner's missing of first, no runs would have scored since the third out was for the batter-runner not attaining first base.

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