

OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES (OBR) Rule Changes for 2013

The Official Playing Rules Committee made the following changes
that will be in effect for the 2013 season:

- Amended Rule 1.15(a) to clarify legal colors for fielding gloves.
- Amended Rule 2.00 (INFIELD FLY) Comment to include the situation when interference occurs during an Infield Fly.
- Amended Rule 2.00 (INTERFERENCE (a) Comment) to include the situation where an intervening play occurs at home plate prior to the batter-runner being declared out for interference out of the three-foot lane.
- Amended Rule 2.00 (INTERFERENCE (d)) to clarify when a spectator is considered to have reached out of the stands.
- Amended Rule 2.00 (INTERFERENCE) by deleting the last sentence, "On any interference the ball is dead" in order to account for cases where interference does not result in an immediate dead ball (e.g., batter's interference, catcher's interference, etc.).
- Amended Rule 3.05(d) regarding situations in which the pitcher is at bat or on base when an inning ends and requirements of such pitcher to resume pitching the next half inning.
- Amended Rules 4.01(e) Comment, 4.10 Comment, 4.12(a) Comment, and 4.12(b) Comment to include Wild Card games at the Major League level regarding non-application of certain portions of Rules 4.01, 4.10, and 4.12.
- Amended Rule 4.12(b)(4) to explain the results of a suspended game that is not completed prior to the last scheduled game between two clubs in a championship season.
- Amended Rule 6.05(h) to include foul territory in cases when a batter is called out for throwing his bat and interfering with a fielder attempting to make a play.
- Amended Rule 6.06(c) Comment by deleting the phrase, "before the catcher has securely held the ball" in cases when the batter's swing (follow-through) unintentionally strikes the catcher.
- Amended Rule 7.09(a) to clarify situations when a batter is called out for hindering the catcher after a dropped third strike. Also added 7.09(a) Comment.
- Amended the PENALTY for violation of Rule 8.02(a)(1).
- Amended Rule 8.05(b) so that the pitcher, while in contact with the pitcher's rubber, is prohibited from faking a throw to third base. Penalty: Balk when runners are on base.
- Amended Rule 8.05(c) Comment to agree with amended Rule 8.05(b) above.
- Amended Rule 8.05(k) to include the ball slipping or falling out of the pitcher's hand or glove, while the pitcher is in contact with the rubber, as a balk.