



Rules Interpretations/Changes Baseball 2017

Intentional Walk: The MANAGER/HEAD COACH may now inform the umpire of his intent to Intentionally Walk the batter, in which case: the umpire shall call "time" and award the batter first base. The ball will be put back in play after the batter has reached first. The manager may choose to put the batter on first at any time during his at bat. (The reason for granting "time" is to avoid any issues regarding this new rule's implementation.)

Coaches Box Rule: It is a Point of Emphasis that umpires are to enforce the new Coaches Box Rule. Umpires should play close attention to the position of the coach prior to the pitch and especially with a runner on third.

"Stepping" into Dead Ball Area after a Catch: Although MLB rules now prohibit a player from stepping into a dead ball area after a catch, the MBUA/MIAA realized this rule does not conform with many of our playing fields. Therefore, it is permissible and recommended that, where applicable, the player be allowed to throw, after he steps into a dead ball area, without penalty. These areas should be clearly determined during the "Ground Rules."

Modification of Reentry Rule: The Reentry Rule will remain as adopted in 2016 with one exception: "A pitcher WILL be allowed to reenter as a pitcher, if he is pinch hit or pinch run for and his return to the game is immediate (i.e. before any other player has delivered a pitch or assumed the position)."