



Diamond Minds Baseball Academy
Baseball Training Manual

“Rules” (3rd Inning)

Infield Fly Rule

Live Ball

“Fielders and Base Runners Stay Alert”

Academy Level: Professional

Level of Difficulty: Challenging

Earned Runs: 3

Original Baseball Case Scenario (OBCS)

#003

www.dmbba.com

This Training Manual is an exclusive part of the Diamond Minds Baseball Academy educational curriculum intended for use in conjunction with our online seminars, workshops and training initiatives.

Copyright 2014 Diamond Minds Baseball Academy, LLC. All Rights Reserved.
No part of this publication may be used or reproduced; or stored in a retrieval system; or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise in any manner whatsoever, without the express written permission of Diamond Minds Baseball Academy, LLC. For information, write:

Diamond Minds Baseball Academy, LLC
P.O. Box 204
Three Bridges, NJ 08887-9998
www.dmbba.com

“Diamond Minds Baseball Academy”, “Play Smart. Play Ball!”, and the baseball with mortarboard logo are trademarks of Diamond Minds Baseball Academy, LLC. (Registered in the U.S Patent and Trademark Office).

Play Smart. Play Ball!®

There are runners on first and second base with one Out. The batter swings and hits a high Fly Ball over the infield between second and third base. The runner at second base believes that the ball will drop into shallow left field for a hit so he decides to immediately run to third base. The Umpire, seeing that the Shortstop is effortlessly positioning himself to catch the ball, shouts “Infield Fly!” However, for some reason the infielder briefly became distracted and then failed to catch the pop-up. The ball quickly fell to the ground untouched by any fielders.

Despite the fact that the Umpire declared “Infield Fly” and no infielder caught the ball, all players must remember that the ball remains “Live”! Additionally, once the batter is declared Out during an Infield Fly Rule situation, there is no longer a force on the base runners. However, because the ball is “Live”, any runners may attempt to advance in jeopardy just as they might do on any batted ball.

Review Question #1

What action should be taken by the Shortstop after he drops a routine pop-up that was previously declared an “Infield Fly!” by the Umpire; considering that the runner on second base began running to third base before the ball ever hit the ground?

Choose the most appropriate answer.

A - He should quickly pick-up the ball, touch second base and then appeal to the Umpire that the runner now at third base should be Put Out for leaving second base too soon.

B - He should quickly pick-up the ball, but the base runner advanced legally. Batter is Out.

C - He should do nothing. Since an Infield Fly was called, the ball is “Dead” and the Umpire will order the runner to go back to second base. Batter is Out.

D - None of the above.

Correct Answer

B - He should quickly pick-up the ball, but the base runner advanced legally. Batter is Out.

Comments

Given that the ball was not caught after “Infield Fly!” was declared by the Umpire, all smart base runners should stay on their bases, but remain alert. However, since the runner at second base already advanced safely to third base, he should stay there.

Although the batter is Put Out because of the Infield Fly Rule, the ball remains “Live”. An alert Shortstop will quickly pick-up the ball and attempt to stop the runner from advancing to another base.

When an Infield Fly Rule situation exists and the Umpire judges that a pop-up could be caught by an infielder with Ordinary Effort, he will declare the batter Out. Since the batter is Out, there is no longer a force on the runners on base; however, the ball remains “Live” and runners may attempt to advance at their own risk as they might do on any batted ball.

Review Question #2

During an Infield Fly Rule situation when the batter Bunts a pop-Fly Ball high above the infield, all runners should remain on their bases because the ball becomes immediately “Dead” once the batter is automatically Put Out by the Umpire.

True or False

Correct Answer

False

Comments

First of all; by rule, an Infield Fly will not be called on an attempted Bunt or a Line Drive! The Bunted ball remains “Live” and the batter should run to first base. If the ball is not caught for an Out and drops to the ground Fair, the base runners are forced to advance.

The defense should try to catch the Bunted ball for an Out! If the ball hits the ground and remains Fair, a smart infielder will look to get a force Out at one of the bases.

The Infield Fly Rule requires that the ball be hit with a swing that is not a Bunt. A Bunted ball may become a pop-fly and infielders can legally let it drop to the ground. The batter will not be Put Out and all runners are required to advance in jeopardy of being forced Out at the next base.

Play Smart. Play Ball!®



This Training Manual is an exclusive part of the Diamond Minds Baseball Academy educational curriculum intended for use in conjunction with our online seminars, workshops and training initiatives.



Play Smart. Play Ball!®

www.dmbba.com