

# Volume 5 (Week 3/30-4/4/20) Case Plays

## Volume 5 Case Plays deal with Substitutions

- **Case Play 1:** Baker is listed in the starting lineup as the fourth batter. In the top of the second, Smith, who is not in the lineup, is the first batter for the inning, bats in the fourth spot, and no notification is made to the umpire or the opposing coach's scorekeeper. ... **Make your Ruling –**  
**Ruling 1:** Under pro rules (MLB/OBR) Smith is an unannounced pinch hitter and is a legal substitute. The substitute is considered to have entered the game when the batter takes his place in the batter's box. It is irrelevant that "Play" had not been signaled. The act of stepping into the box is equivalent to the coach properly notifying the umpire and scorekeeper of a change. (MLB/OBR 5.10-j-2). However, in NFHS, Smith is not a pinch hitter until the ball becomes live, which would happen when the plate umpire says and signals "Play" to start the inning. (NFHS 3-1-1-d).
- **Case Play 2:** Batter B1, Baker, hits a home run over the fence. As he is rounding first he trips on the bag and falls to the ground badly injuring his ankle. He tries to get up but falls back down from the pain half-way between first and second base. ... **Make your Ruling –**  
**Ruling 2:** The offensive team may substitute a runner in that dead ball situation, and if the substitute runner completes the touching of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and home, the run shall count.
- **Case Play 3:** Smith was a substitute batter for Jones in the third inning. Jones returned to field in the fourth inning. In the sixth inning Smith again entered the game to bat for Jones and accrued a 2-0 count. ... **Make your Ruling –**  
**Ruling 3:** In pro rules (with no "modified" league re-entry rule in place) Jones is ejected in the fourth inning and replaced with a proper substitute. In NFHS, Jones, as a starter legally re-entered the game in the fourth inning. In the sixth inning, Smith is an illegal substitute in both pro and NFHS codes. In pro, Smith is ejected and replaced by a proper substitute. Pro rules do not address illegal substitutes, but by interpretation, if a player who is not eligible to enter the game participates, he is ejected when discovered. He is not declared out if at bat or on the bases, and can be replaced by a proper substitute. There is no statute of limitations and the infraction can be discovered by anyone, including the umpire. No need for the umpire to wait to be told if the umpire realizes the infraction. In NFHS, Smith is declared out and restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.

# Volume 6 (Week 4/6 - 4/11/20) Case Play

Volume 6 Case Play deals with the Nine-Player "Player/DH". Only one Case Play this week.

Read the first article in the *NFHS 2020 Preseason Baseball Guide* Chris Kane sent everyone on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The one Case Play I have included in today's Email will complement the

“Plays” in the *Guide*, and also complement the Case Plays & Rulings I gave you in my first week’s Volume 1 Email, which also dealt with the “Player/DH”.

- **Case Play 1:** Baker is the Pitcher/DH batting in the fourth spot in the lineup of a high school NFHS game. Baker bats for himself in the first inning and pitches in the first three and one-third innings. With one out in the bottom of the fourth inning Smith replaces Baker as the pitcher. When Smith is due to bat in the top of the fifth inning, Baker bats in his place in the fourth spot. In the bottom of fifth inning Baker comes back into pitch. In the sixth inning Baker is again replaced as the pitcher by Jones. In the seventh inning, Baker bats for Jones in the fourth spot. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 1:** Baker’s at-bat in the top of the fifth inning is legal. Baker’s return to the pitcher role in the bottom of the fifth inning is legal. Baker’s batting in the seventh inning is also legal. Under NFHS rules a Player/DH who had a substitute in the defensive role may return to that defensive role once (that counts as a starter’s re-entry), and he may continue as the Player/DH; which are the two scenarios that took place: one of which is what happened when Baker returned to pitch in the bottom of the fifth (his one time re-entry), and the other of which is why he was legal to bat for Smith (his continuance as the DH). The subsequent defensive substitution of Baker as the pitcher in the sixth inning shifts the Player/DH role into only the DH role exclusively. Thus, Baker is still the DH when he bats for Jones in the seventh inning. Any substitution of a Player/DH into the offensive role terminates the DH role for the remainder of the game. However, Baker never had any offensive substitute, so he was still the legal DH throughout the game.

## Volume 7 (Week 4/13 - 4/18/20) Case Plays

### Volume 7 Case Plays deal with Catches

- **Case Play 1:** Baker is batting and he hits a foul ball that is traveling in the air near the out-of-bounds chalk line of demarcation. Smith, the first baseman runs swiftly to catch the fly foul ball with one foot on the demarcation chalk line and the other foot out-of-bounds. ... **Make your Ruling – Hint: there is a difference between the two sets of rules, NFHS & pro OBR. Make your Ruling for each –**

**Ruling 1:** Under **pro rules (MLB/OBR)** Smith’s catch is not legal and the umpire will signal a foul ball because Smith is out-of-bounds. A fielder must have no part of his body touching the ground out of bounds when making a catch. (MLB/OBR 5.09-a-1). However, **in NFHS**, Smith’s catch is legal and the umpire will signal an out. The NFHS rule only requires that one foot be in bounds for a legal catch, and the chalk line is considered to be in bounds so Smith’s foot that is touching the chalk line is considered to be in bounds. (NFHS 2-9-1 and NFHS Case Book 2.9.1 Situation C - Comment).

- **Case Play 2:** Batter B1, Baker, hits a ground ball to the third baseman, F5. F5’s throw to the first baseman, F3, is not a good one and F3 must make a difficult stretch to catch this throw. F3 makes the catch before the batter-runner, B1, Baker, arrives at first, but when F3 attempts to regain his balance, he bobbles the ball. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 2:** Attempts to regain balance after receiving the ball are considered a part of the act of catching; and if the fielder does not come up with the ball in his possession, it is not considered to be a catch. In such cases, judgement is a factor. If the ball was clearly in the fielder's possession and if some other new movement not related to the catch is then made, and if the ball is fumbled during such new movement, the umpire will declare it a catch followed by a fumble. (NFHS Case Book 2.9.1 Situation A)

- **Case Play 3:** Batter B1, Baker, with a 1-2 count, swings and hits a foul tip straight back. The foul tip ball glances off the catcher's mitt and then hits the catcher's chest protector. The catcher traps the loose ball against his chest and then secures it. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 3:** Strike three - out. As long as the foul tip ball first touches the catcher's glove before it strikes his chest protector the umpire will call it Strike three - out. The umpire will give the signal for a foul tip and then give the out signal. On the other hand, if the foul tip ball had gone directly to hit the chest protector first and then had been caught, the umpire would rule a Foul ball, and Baker would remain at bat with the count still at 1-2.

**Volume 8 (Week 4/20 - 4/25/20) had No Case Plays**

**Volume 9 (Week 4/27 - 5/2/20) had No Case Plays**