



MECHANICS BULLETIN

Date: 17/11/09

Subject: SAL MB 2009-10 Infield fly mechanic.

Definition

An infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive, or an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who positions himself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

This rule is to protect the offensive team. If an infielder allows a fly ball to drop to the ground in this situation; there is a possibility for a double, or triple play.

Background.

The Mechanic for an infield fly has been; the base umpire(s) should give the assist signal to the plate umpire by pointing into the air to indicate in their opinion the fly ball can be caught with ordinary effort.

The plate umpire would verbal "infield fly, the batter is out".

If the base umpires, or at least the base umpire in the proximity of the hit gives the assist signal the plate umpire should call the infield fly.

2009 ISF Rules congress changes for 2010. Rule 10 Sec 1, L5.

The Plate umpire and the base umpire will have equal authority to call the batter out for the infield fly rule.

New Mechanics.

1. The base umpire(s) will still give the assist signal when an infield fly occurs.
2. The plate umpire assumes primary responsibility for calling the infield fly.
By the time the ball has reached the top of its arc, the plate umpire should determine if it is an infield fly.
The plate umpire should also be aware of the assist signal given by the base umpire(s).
The plate umpire should then call the "infield fly" and signal "out".
3. When an infield fly ball is around the outer limits of the infield area it may be difficult for the plate umpire to judge the depth of the hit.
All base umpire(s), but at least the base umpire in the proximity of the fly ball should give the assist signal.

4. If the base umpire in the proximity of the hit has given the assist signal then the plate umpire should call the infield fly.
However if the plate umpire has not called the infield fly, then the base umpire should call "infield fly" and signal "out".
The base umpire can make the out signal by adjusting from the assist signal.
5. If the fly ball is not caught and becomes foul, the plate umpire should call and signal "Foul Ball". This should be mirrored by the base umpire making the infield fly call if applicable.

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