Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 10:29:16 PM
Subject: 9U Stealing Rule

Gentlemen,

Since it is very early in the season, I wanted to remind everyone about the 1 run per inning on a pitcher-catcher exchange. I've seen a few emails on this subject and one situation arose in my game today. Here's a few observations/examples:

These examples count as your one per inning:

1. Pitcher throws a wild pitch and the runner on third scores. Easy one. If you had a blazing fast player who was already trying to steal third (from second) and the pitch is a wild one and the ball bounces all over and the runner scores all the way from second, that also counts. The catcher did nothing other than scrambling after the ball, no other throw occurred.

2. Pitcher throws a pitch and the catcher attempts to throw the ball back to the mound but airmails it or the pitcher isn't ready and the ball bounces away from him and a runner scores.

3. Pitcher strikes out a batter and the ball bounces away from the catcher and a runner scores.

These are all pitcher-catcher exchanges and match the description on the website rules that it must be a pitcher-catcher exchange.

These do not count:

4. The pitcher tries to "pick" a player at any base by throwing the ball or chasing a player and a runner scores (also see #8 below).

5. A runner is stealing a base (2nd or 3rd) and your catcher airmails one or the ball goes off your fielder's glove, this is a catcher and second or third basemen exchange.

6. Runners on first and third, and the catcher throws to 2nd attempting to nail the runner moving from first. This allows the runner on third to score. This runner scored on a throw to second, not on a pitcher-catcher exchange. Otherwise, once a legit passed ball scores, the catchers can gun for the guy going to second base without fear of the guy on third scoring. That's not the intent of the rule.

7. Pitch occurs and the catcher has the ball, guy on third breaks for home or is dancing up and down the line, catcher throws it to third and the runner scores. Here the catcher threw the ball to third, so the run is not considered scoring on a pitcher-catcher exchange.

8. Runners on 1 and 3, and the runner on 1 goes halfway to 2 and is waiting/baiting the catcher to throw the ball. The catcher fires the ball to SS attempting to then nail the runner on

third, or the catcher throws to 1st or 2nd, runner on third scores. Here the catcher threw to 1,2, SS and not the pitcher. If a runner has already scored on a legit, normal passed ball, just have the catcher ignore the "baiting" runner and throw the ball back to the pitcher. Guy on third can't score unless your pitcher throws it away trying to pick someone or he runs after the guy between 1 and 2 (or runs after the guy on third). If he is running after the guy between 1 and 2, (or the guy on 3rd) now the runner on third is scoring on your "running" after a player attempting a pick, not a pitcher-catcher exchange.

If a situation arises, immediately call time and discuss with the coach to see if you can agree on the interpretation. After an inning is over, it is too late to try and take runs away etc. The umps are not versed on this, so it is up to the coaches to assist and keep track of your one per inning.

Please send me any more situations that you can think of so we can try and agree while the season is in its early stages. At 10U, this rule goes away. It is meant to help the first year kid pitch players at 9U from wild pitching causing tons of runs to score on passed balls. It is also consistent that dropped third strikes are OK at 9U but not at 10U.

The easiest way I can think of is to just <u>focus on the pitcher throwing a pitch or the catcher throwing the ball back to the mound</u>. If anything else happens, the catcher throws the ball to a base or anyone other than the pitcher, the runner can score. If your pitcher tries a pick by running at a player or throwing the ball to a base, the runner can score.

I hope this helps. I'm hoping everyone can treat this consistently the rest of the season.

Regards,

Bryan