

Midget National Baserunning Rule

In 2006, Junior Baseball of Oregon passed a rule which restricted the ability to advance to home those runners who occupy third base. This rule was put into place to teach players proper baserunning advancement for their skill-level. What was often happening was either pitchers would attempt pick off moves and players would misplay the ball which gave the runner an easy score, or a pitcher would throw a passed ball and, again, runners would easily score. We want to see these kids learn how to safely and correctly apply the basic principals and fundamentals of baseball.

At the Midget National Level there are only three ways a runner may advance from third base to home:

- As the result of a hit ball or;
- A walk with the bases loaded or;
- The result of a penalty.

The penalty for stealing home is an out and the run is nullified. This is a delayed dead ball call.

Here are a few examples of how this rule works:

1. Batter hits and advances all the way to home plate while the ball is still alive, even though some bases are advanced as a result of misplays by fielders.

RULING: This is legal. Batter and runners may advance at their own risk.

EXPLANATION: Because all of this is the result of a hit ball, it is legal.

2. Runner is on second and steals third, an overthrow is made and the ball goes **out of play**.

RULING: Ball is dead, runner advances home.

EXPLANATION: As the result of the standard penalty, this rule allows the runner to advance home.

3. Pitcher attempts a pick off move to third base and throws the ball out of play.

RULING: Ball is dead, runner advances home.

EXPLANATION: As the result of the standard penalty, this rule allows the runner to advance home.

4. Runner on third base is caught in a rundown (without the ball being hit). He/she is (a) tagged out; (b) able to return to third base safely; or (c) advances home untagged.

RULING: In (a) & (c), the runner is out; In (b), the runner is safe

EXPLANATION: In (a), the runner is out because he was tagged out. In (b), because the runner was not tagged and safely returned to third, no out shall be called. In (c), because the runner advanced home, and did not attain it in any manner legal to what this rule states, the runner is out.