

Plays and Clarifications

July 2025

2025 UIC Clinic

Here is a reminder for the 2025 UIC Clinic in Oklahoma City. The clinic is designed for the Local Association UIC, Local Association staff or the umpire who just wants to further their knowledge of umpiring. This year's clinic will be held at the Oklahoma City Convention Center and our hotel is the Omni attached to the Center, both fantastic venues. The clinic will open with a meet and greet on Thursday night October 23. The clinic will start on Friday morning and run through Saturday afternoon. We will open the clinic with a guest speaker, Patti Gasso, coach of the USA Softball Women's National Team as well as multi-time National Championship coach of the Oklahoma Sooners. We will also have eight break-out topics on various aspects of umpiring softball for both Fast and Slow Pitch umpires, and more. For more information and to register for the clinic and hotel go to the umpire tab at usasoftball.com or reach out to Steve Nelson at bubbatheump@windstream.net

PLAY:

R1 on 2^B, 1 out

B3 hits ground ball to F6 who turns and freezes R1, who returns to 2B. F6 successfully throws out the B3 at 1B for the 2nd out. R1 thinking this is the 3rd out, starts to move towards her dugout on the 1B side of the field. The 1B base coach frantically tells R1 to get on the base. R1 reaches 1B safely as the defense tags them while R1 is standing on 1B. Has R1 violated any playing rule that would declare them out?

Rule 8.3d states: A runner shall not run bases in reverse order to confuse the fielders nor to make a travesty of the game.

Effect:

1 The ball is dead.

2 The runner is out.

In this case, the offensive player was confused, NOT the defense.

Rule 8.7u states: When a runner abandons a base and enters the team area or leaves live ball territory.

Effect:

1 The ball is dead.

2 The runner is out.

3 Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the infraction.

In this case, R1 is still in Live Ball Territory, so there is no infraction.

Ruling: There has been no violation of any playing rule as R1 has put themselves and their team at a disadvantage by retreating to the previous base. Once the defense put the B3 out 1B, R1 is no longer forced to advance and has the ability to return to 1B at their own risk.