

Batter Hit by Pitch



Rules

- Pitch (2-28-2)
 - Live ball delivered to the batter
- Touch (2-40)
 - Contact with any part of the person or his clothing (reasonably well fitted)
- Dead Ball (5-1-1a)
 - Ball becomes dead immediately when a pitch touches a batter or his clothing.
- Award (8-1-1d, 8-1-2)
 - A batter is awarded first if a pitched ball hits his person or clothing
 - Except:
 - He strikes at the ball
 - He permits the pitched ball to touch him (7-3-4)
 - The umpire calls the pitched ball a strike



Umpire Actions

- Discern if the pitched ball touched the body or bat
 - Read the batter's reactions
- Signal and Call "Time"
- Award or Penalty



Contact during a swing

- If the batter strikes at the pitch and it touches him, it is a strike (7-2-1b)
 - “Dead ball strike”
 - Third strike, batter is out
- Hands are part of the body; Knob is part of the bat
 - Distinct sound of pitch hitting the hands vs bat/knob
 - Read the reaction of the batter to determine hands vs knob
- A batted ball which touches the batter is foul, not HBP
 - Bat then hands/body – Foul
 - Hands then bat – Dead ball strike
- Check swing
 - May need help from partner to determine swing/strike





Batter permits pitch to hit him

- The batter should make an attempt to avoid the pitch
 - Freeze usually OK
 - Pitch in the batter's box
- Watch for Batter moving arm or leg toward the pitch
 - Intentional act of getting hit
- Pitch in the strike zone
 - Crowding/Leaning over the plate
- Batter stays at bat
 - Except
 - Ball four
 - Strike





Case plays

- Play 1: F1 throws a fastball down the middle of the batter's box. B1 is caught flat-footed and the ball strikes him in the middle of the back. Ruling 1: B1 is a hit batsman since he did not swing at the pitch. He is awarded first.
- Play 2: B1 takes a stance leaning over the plate. The pitch is high near the inside edge of the plate. B1 freezes and allows the pitch to hit the top of his shoulder that is out of the batter's box. Ruling 2: The ball is dead and is a ball. B1 is not awarded first.
- Play 3: With a runner on first, B1 anticipates a curve on a 1-0 count and holds his ground. The ball breaks, but hits B1 on the wrist in the strike zone. Ruling 3: The ball is dead and B1 remains at bat with a 1-1 count. R1 remains at first.

Pitcher intentionally pitches at batter

- Infractions by Pitcher:
 - Intentionally pitch close to a batter (8-2-3)
- Must show intent
- Game situation
- Penalty: Warn or Eject
 - Warn both sides

Resources

- <https://www.referee.com/hit-by-pitch-base-award/>
- Swinging HBP
 - <https://youtu.be/9sUhPAnky24>
- Leaning in HBP
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6SUK6ScBv4>
- Close Call Analysis
 - https://youtu.be/sENLPHKJeqo?list=PLoEUhme7_vIM2uFFklzqqClrpVxJXevJl
 - https://youtu.be/J2_zp9hZUo?list=PLoEUhme7_vINtMoe_e1ooqL1IrriQ0XJ