

## Change: 6-2-4

ART. 4 . . . Balk. If there is a runner or runners, any of the following acts by a pitcher while the pitcher is touching the pitcher's plate is a balk; . A balk is a delayed dead ball.

a. Any feinting toward . . . put out a runner.

**PENALTY (a-f)** - The ball becomes dead and each runner must advance one base.

1. If the balk is immediately followed by a pitch that permits the batter and each runner to advance a minimum of one base, the balk is ignored and the ball remains live.

2. If a balk immediately is followed by a **wild** throw by the pitcher to a base that permits a runner(s) to advance to or beyond the base to which that runner is entitled, the balk shall be acknowledged. The umpire will call the balk in the usual manner but shall not call "Time" until all play has ceased.

3. If only the runner advances to or beyond the base to which he is entitled because of a **wild** pitch after a balk, the balk is still acknowledged.

Note 1: After a balk that is followed by a base hit or a **wild** throw to a base or the plate, a runner who misses the first base to which the runner is advancing and who, before the next pitch, is called out on appeal, shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of this rule.

Note 2: A runner(s) may advance beyond the base that is entitled at the runner's own risk.

Note 3: When a balk occurs, the pitch is nullified and the batter will resume with the at-bat with the count that existed unless:

a) The **wild** pitch was ball four on which all runners (including the batter-runner) advanced one base.

b) The **wild** pitch was strike three on which the batter and all other runners advanced one base.

In both situations (a) and (b) above, play proceeds without reference to the balk, because all runners (including the batter-runner) advanced one base on the pitch after the balk.

Note 4: If the balk is followed by a **wild** pitch that allows a runner to attempt to go beyond the base that he would have been awarded because of the balk, the runner advances at his own risk; he is either safe or out as a result of the play. **The balk is still "acknowledged" as it relates to the batter and he will resume the at-bat with the count that existed when the balk occurred.**

Rationale:

A balk being an immediate dead ball may in some instances penalize the offense for an infraction by the defense. In cases where an infraction by the pitcher occurs and a pitch is delivered, the immediate dead ball prevents the offense from hitting the ball or advancing on a **wild** pitch. This proposal looks to correct that.

Other Rules Affected:

Rule: 5 Section: 1 Article: 1K

Rule: 8 Section: 3 Article: 1a

Case Book Situations Affected:

Rule: 6 Section: 2 Article: 4 Situation: Comment B

Rule: 6 Section: 2 Article: 5 Situation: Situation B

**Change: 5-1-1k**

ART. 1 . . . Ball becomes dead immediately when:

Sub-articles a-j remain the same.

k. a balk or an illegal pitch is committed; or

Re-number sub-articles l-n.

Rationale:

To coincide with the Rule change proposal #14

**Change: 5-1-2g (New)**

g. a balk or an illegal pitch is committed.

Rationale:

To coincide with the Rule change proposal #14

**Change: Dead Ball and Delayed Dead Ball Table**

20. All runners advance one base. Batter remains at bat.....6-2-4, 6-2-5, 8-3-1a, 8-3-5a If enforced all runners advance one base.  
Batter remains at bat....6-2-4, 6-2-5, 8-3-1a, 8-3-5a

Rationale:

To coincide with the Rule change proposal #14

**Change: Baserunning Awards Table**

ONE BASE (runners)

1. Add (\*) to Balk

Items 2-7 remain the same.

**Change: 8-3-1a**

ART. 1 . . . Each runner other than the batter-runner (who is governed by 8-1-2) is awarded one base when:

a. There is a balk A balk is enforced (6-1-4, 6-2-4) or a pitch strikes a runner (5-1-1a);

Rationale:

To coincide with the Rule change proposal #14