

## Top 10 Misunderstood Rules (15.1.5)



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## Give **Respect** to Get **Respect**

### TOP 10 MISUNDERSTOOD RULES

These ten rules have been selected as rules about which there are many common misconceptions. These misconceptions then lead to many forms of abuse whether it be heckling from the fans who misunderstand (or don't agree with) the rule, verbal abuse from coaches and/or players, etc.

The Top 10 Misunderstood Rules in Softball Are:

1. [Left Hand Turn from First](#)
2. [Check Swing](#)
3. [Award of Bases on Overthrow](#)
4. [Batted Ball hitting Home Plate, First Base, Second Base or Third Base](#)
5. [Batter stepping on home plate or mat or directly in front of home plate or mat](#)
6. [Fair ball bouncing out of play or off a defensive player](#)
7. [Infield Fly](#)
8. [Lead-off \(Pitcher's Circle\) - Fast Pitch only](#)
9. [Difference between Interference / Obstruction](#)
10. [Double Base](#)

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#### 1. **Left hand turn from first.**

A runner forfeits his/her exemption from liability to be put out if, after overrunning first base, he/she makes an attempt to run to second base.

The key to this rule is to continue to second base. There must be at least an attempt towards second base. It does not matter which direction the batter-runner turns after reaching first base if they are coming back to first base without attempting to advance to second base.

#### 2. **Check swing.**

If it is the plate umpire's judgement that the batter made an attempt to swing at the ball (but not a full swing), the plate umpire shall call the pitched ball a strike. This call is NOT to be appealed to the base umpire - use the guiding principle that the plate umpire does not call it a strike unless he/she saw the attempted swing - therefore no need for an appeal of what the plate umpire saw.

However, if the batter attempted to swing at the ball but the plate umpire did not see the attempt (perhaps blocked out by the catcher) then a ball shall be called. With this call, the plate umpire does have the opportunity to check with his/her base umpire(s) with or without a request from the defensive team. The plate umpire may make the request on their own or may choose to make the request when requested to do so by the defensive team. The key to the base umpire is that they shall only answer a check swing request made by the plate umpire - they do not respond to a request made directly to them by a defensive player.

Should the base umpire see the attempt that the plate umpire did not see, they shall respond by calling "yes" and the call shall be changed from ball to strike.