

**Dixie Youth Baseball Inc.
Office of the Commissioner
Official Ruling 08-01**

Rule 6.08(a) "The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out(provided he advances to and touches first base) when...(a) *Four "balls" have been called by the umpire...*"

Official Interpretation:

- (1) On a base on balls, the batter is entitled to first base without liability to be put out. However, the ball remains in play. The batter-runner must return to first base if he stops or retreats his advancement on the bases after the pitcher is in contact with the pitching rubber and the catcher is in position to catch a pitch.**
- (2) On a base on balls, the batter has the right to overrun the base down the foul line and return immediately to first base without liability to be put out. However, if the batter reaches first base on a base on balls and enters fair territory or steps off first base into fair territory, he can be put out.**
- (3) Likewise if the "fourth" ball gets by the catcher on a wild pitch or passed ball, the ball remains live and in play and the batter-runner may attempt to advance an extra base unless the ball is declared dead under Rule 5.09, 6.08(b), 7.05(h), and 7.05(i).**
- (4) On a base on balls, other base runners who are forced to advance may advance one base without liability to be put out. However, if they over slide after touching the next base or touch the next base and run past it, the runner can be tagged out since the ball remains in play unless declared dead under Rule 5.09, 6.08(b), 7.05(h), and 7.05(i). The advancing runner or runners must return to the base he last touched if he stops or retreats his advancement on the bases after the pitcher is in contact with the pitching rubber and the catcher is in position to catch a pitch.**

Effective Date: July 15, 2008



**Wes Skelton, Commissioner
Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.**