

## Official Ruling 15-03

### The Hands Are Not Part of the Bat

When a player is hit on the hand by a pitch, the umpire must evaluate the situation just as he would if the pitch had hit him elsewhere:

- If the pitch was in the strike zone the ball is dead, runners return to the last legally touched base, and the batter gets a strike. If that was the third strike, the batter is out.
- If the batter was in the process of swinging, just as in the previous case, the ball is dead, runners return to the last legally touched base, and the batter gets a strike. If that was the third strike, the batter is out.
- If the pitch was not in the strike zone and the batter was not swinging at it, but the batter makes no attempt to get out of the way, the ball is dead, runners return, a ball is charged to the batter and he/she must continue to bat. (Unless that was ball four.)
- If none of the above conditions apply, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base, and runners advance only if forced.

Remember - when a batter is hit anywhere by a pitch, the ball is immediately dead, whether or not a base award is made.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Skelton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wes Skelton, Commissioner