

Pitching Rule 6 art. 4

BALKS



NEUA
2014

“if you don’t say anything you cant get
in trouble”

What is unique about balks?

Illegal actions by the pitcher as defined by Rule 6 art 4 a-f and ART 5 – WITH a runner or runners on base



Feinting – not completing toward batter or first base – as a pitcher – from the mound (remember pitcher can step off the pitchers plate and is now a fielder – not a pitcher?)

Dropping the ball, even if accidental (from pitchers plate) and it does not cross the foul line

When throwing of feinting (faking) pitcher does not step with non-pivot foot toward a base when trying to put someone out

BALKS ... continued

Turning shoulders after bringing hands together – during or after the stretch.

Throwing or feinting (faking) to an unoccupied base when its not an attempt to put out a runner

Any illegal pitch (remember when runners on base)

BALKS ... continued

Removing his hand from the ball while in set position – unless pitching, throwing to base or faking a throw

Failing to pitch to the batter - when entire non-pivot foot crosses the back edge of the pitcher plate (difficult to see from B/C or home plate – but you must

Note – exception when throwing or feinting to second base

Pitcher simulates a pitch while not touching pitchers plate

BALKS ... continued

Failing to use continuous motion from either position (set or windup) – once he moves any body part that is part of his delivery - (be careful here)

- Note it is NOT a balk if pitcher stops his motion when batter steps out of box or puts his hand up to call time (even if umpire does not grant it) = as umpire call time and begin a new play
- Additionally – if batter steps out with both feet a strike shall be called violation of 7-3-1
- By the way – if the pitcher delivers the pitch when batter steps out – a strike shall be called – ball is live - B might get two strikes – one on the pitch one for stepping out

Balk Mechanics

Either Umpire must call it when recognized.

Although -

Typically Home plate watches for"

Failure to pause

Both watch for

Non-continuous motion

Base umpire watch for

Improper shoulder movement

Pitching "twitch" trying to fake a runner (may be accidental – still a balk)

Ball in glove hand or pitching hand

Pitching hand down to the side or behind his back

QUESTIONS re balks?