

T-Ball and Rookie Division Infield Held Ball Rule

Approved 18 December 2018 for the 2019 season and beyond

Once an infielder for the defensive team has possession of a live ball, in the infield, that player shall throw up both hands, showing he has possession of the ball.

Once this gesture has been performed by the infielder, while in possession and in keeping possession of the ball, the coaches and/or the umpire will announce "held" and throw up their hands in a similar fashion, to alert the players and others to the held ball.

A held ball in the infield will result in a delayed dead ball situation.

In the event all runners are at a base, it will be a dead ball. In the event that the runners are advancing to the next base, once the held ball is announced, the runner(s) may immediately stop and return to the last base touched, without risk of being put out. The ball will be considered dead once all runners have stopped advancing. If the runner(s) choose to continue to advance, they may be put out. The ball will become dead once the runner(s) who are advancing reach the base they are advancing to. No runners may advance after the held ball, unless they were in the process of advancing prior to the held ball.

If any coach, player, or spectator, maliciously announces "held" in an attempt to deceive the offensive team, they shall be immediately ejected from the field for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Cases

Team A has a runner on second base and the batter hits a ground ball to right field. The batter runner is on first base and the lead runner rounds third base and the right fielder throws the ball to the second baseman, who throws up his hands, while Team B's coach announces "held." The second baseman throws the ball to his catcher to attempt a put out at home, but overthrows the ball.

Ruling: The lead runner scores and the ball is immediately dead. The batter runner must remain on first base.

Team A has a runner on second base and the batter hits a ground ball to right field. The batter runner is on first base and the lead runner rounds third base and the right fielder throws the ball to the second baseman, who throws up his hands, while Team B's coach announces "held." The lead runner immediately stops and returns to third base. The second baseman throws the ball to third base, in an attempt to put out the runner. The batter runner then advances for second base and is subsequently put out at second.

Ruling: The ball is dead when once the ball is held and runners have stopped advancing. The batter runner returns to first base and no out is recorded.

A batter-runner hits the ball to right field. The 1st baseman runs out to get the ball. When picking up the ball, clearly still in the outfield, he throws up his hands as the batter-runner is nearly to 2nd base. A coach for the defensive team announces "held" and A: the runner continues to round 2nd and advanced to 3rd or B: the runner stops at 2nd base.

Ruling: Because the play was called held, incorrectly by the defensive team, in both situations A and B, the batter-runner would be at 3rd base. In both situations, the ball was not both in possession of an infielder and in the infield. Because it is a delayed dead ball situation, the batter-runner can continue to advance at his own risk in A. In B, the batter-runner is awarded an additional base, due to the opposing team calling for the delayed dead ball, when all the conditions for it were not met.

With a runner at 3rd base, the batter puts the ball into play to the 2nd baseman. The 2nd baseman fields the ball and immediately holds up his hands, where subsequently the coach calls "held." A: the runner has not left 3rd base. B: the runner has left 3rd base and is attempting to score. C: the runner has left 3rd base, but stops once "held" is called, then continues towards home plate.

Ruling: In all of those situations, since it is a delayed dead ball, the ball is still live until all baserunners have safely reached their next base. The fielder can still attempt a putout at either 1st or home. In A, the runner must stay at 3rd, because at the time the held call was made, he had not advanced. In B, the runner may continue to advance, or he can stop and return to 3rd base, without being put out. In C, once the runner has come to a complete stop, he has elected to no longer advance and must return to 3rd base. The ball would be immediately dead, as long as the other baserunner(s) are no longer advancing.