



West Nyack Little League Umpire Clinics

Is it Fair or is it Foul?

Question

When is a batted-ball considered a fair ball?

Answer

A batted ball is considered a **fair ball** under the following conditions:

- The ball settles on fair ground between home and first base, or between home and third base
- The ball is on or over fair territory when moving past first or third base
- The ball touches first, second, or third base
- The ball touches an umpire or player while the ball is on or over fair ground
- The ball passes out of the playing field in flight while over fair ground

- The ball touches any part of the foul pole, including an attached screen, while in flight.

It is possible for a ball moving in foul territory to become a fair ball if the ball crosses into fair territory before passing 1st or 3rd base.

For example:

A batter swings and hits a slow roller down the 3rd base line. The ball initially moves into foul territory but then rolls over the foul line back into fair territory before moving past 3rd base.

Question

When is a batted-ball considered a foul ball?

Answer

A batted ball is considered a **foul ball** under the following conditions:

- The ball passes out of the playing field in flight while over foul ground
- The ball first falls on foul territory beyond first or third base
- The ball moves past 1st or 3rd base on or over foul territory, before a player or umpire touches it
- The ball first touches the an umpire or player, or any object foreign to the natural

ground while on or over foul ground
(including the screen or backstop behind
home plate)

- before touching or passing 1st or 3rd base,
settles entirely on foul ground before a
player or umpire touches it, or
- touches a batter in the batter's box
- bounces off the ground or home plate and
immediately hits the bat, with the batter in
the box
- first falls on fair territory, then bounces
over the bag and lands in foul territory