



TM

ILLEGAL PITCH

- **Calling the illegal pitch**
- **Enforcement**
- **Beginning Legally**
- **Illegal Motions**
- **Types of Illegal Pitch**

Once the illegal Pitch Happens



- Signal Delayed Dead Ball
- **Firmly Verbalize “ILLEGAL”**
- Then **AFTER** the pitch or play ends
- Signal TIME
- **Firmly Verbalize “TIME”**
- Signal Delayed Dead Ball Again
- **Firmly Verbalize “ILLEGAL PITCH”**
- Enforce the rule based on the result of the pitch or play

Enforcement

- 1. If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely **AND** all other runners have advanced at least one base on the batted ball**
 - The illegal pitch is nullified
 - All action as a result of the batted ball stands
 - No Option is Given
- 2. Otherwise, the Manager has the option to:**
 - Take the result of the play
 - OR have the illegal pitch enforced by awarding a ball to the batter and advancing all runners one base
- 3. If an illegal pitch hits the batter **OUT** of the strike zone**
 - The batter is awarded first base and all runners are awarded one base

Beginning Legally

What simple things must a pitcher do before the pitch starts?

- **When stepping on the pitching plate**
 - **Hands must be separated**
 - Must have the ball in either the glove or the pitching hand
 - **Both feet must be in contact with and within the 24 inch length of the pitching plate**
- **While hands are separated and on the pitching plate**
 - **Must take or appear to take a signal**
 - Should be a noticeable pause
- **The pitcher shall bring the hands together**
 - for not less than one second
 - and not more than ten seconds before releasing the ball

NOTE: The pitch starts when the hands are separated after they have been placed together

ILLEGAL MOTIONS

A Pitcher Shall NOT:

- Make two revolutions of the arm on the windmill delivery
- Double Touch by bringing the ball back to both hands after separating
- Deliver the ball behind the back or between the legs
- Make another revolution after releasing the ball
- Deliberately drop, roll or bounce the ball to prevent then batter from hitting

EFFECT: ILLEGAL PITCH

TYPES of ILLEGAL PITCH

- **Crow Hop / Replant**
- **Leaping**
- **Rocking**
- **Stepping Back**

Crow Hop

Notice the hands never separate until after the hop of the pivot foot....remember the pitch doesn't begin until after the hands have separated ... this is an illegal re-plant or crow hop



Crow Hop / Re-Plant

Here we see the **hop to the re-plant** and then the delivering of the pitch ... **an illegal pitch!**

One of the most controversial illegal pitches because the pivot foot just slightly beaks contact with the ground....**BUT it is the re-plant and then the push** that creates the advantage



LEAPING

This video will show you several slow motion replays of different pitchers...remember if the pivot foot does not remain in contact with ground when pushing off the pitching plate we have illegal leaping



ROCKING

Is the picking up of the pivot foot completely off the pitching plate and putting it back down on the pitching plate

STEPPING BACK

Is the non pivot foot starting or stepping backward off the pitching plate ... this is referred to as the high school rule which is an illegal pitch in USA Softball

Recap

Calling illegal pitches **CONSISTENTLY** across the board **FROM ALL UMPIRES** is one key to our success as a **USA Softball Crew!!**

- **Signal** Delayed Dead Ball
- **Firmly Verbalize** “**ILLEGAL**”
- Then **AFTER** the pitch or play ends
- **Signal** TIME
- **Firmly Verbalize** “**TIME**”
- **Signal** Delayed Dead Ball Again
- **Firmly Verbalize** “**ILLEGAL PITCH**”
- Enforce the rule based on the result of the pitch or play

!! CALL ILLEGAL PITCHES !!