

RULE 8

Section 4

G. (Men's Slow Pitch and Women's Open Slow Pitch Only)

Runners may advance when the ball reaches home plate.

- 1) The ball remains alive until the pitcher has possession of the ball in the infield and all immediate play has apparently completed. Runners not advancing return to the last base legally touched.
- 2) Runners may not advance if the pitched ball hits the batter, the ground before reaching the front edge of home plate, or home plate. The ball is dead and a ball is awarded to the batter.
- 3) The pitcher may cover any base on an attempted put out and if a play is being made on a runner off the base, the ball remains live.
- 4) The above will apply for both legal and illegal pitches.
- 5) A pitched ball that hits behind home plate and strikes the umpire, or a thrown ball by the catcher that hits the umpire, remains live and runners may advance.

Comment: *Eliminate some confusion of when the runners can leave and return to the base. Also, eliminates any judgement as to what the vicinity of the pitching plate is. Should be treated the same as when a base hit is returned to the pitcher in the infield. If no runners are attempting to advance, the umpire can call time to stop play.*

This rule change will make this rule more like the fast pitch rule other than when you can leave the base. Fast Pitch when the ball leaves the pitchers hand. Slow Pitch when the ball reaches home plate. This new rule will make stealing in Slow Pitch better for umpires and players to understand.