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Subject: Rule 7.13(c) and new uncaught 3rd strike rule for LLBB
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Recently, Little League has clarified application of Rule 7.13(c) to the bases loaded situation with 2 outs and an uncaught 3rd strike occurs. In summary, Rule 7.13(c) will apply. This was questioned because 7.13(c) states "... and the batter bunts or hits a ball ...". On an uncaught 3rd strike, the batter has not bunted or hit the ball. The text of an email that I received from Regional UIC, Bill Carter, is below. This discussion, including Little League's clarification, can be found on Little League's Facebook site.

Nick,

This was answered on facebook. The answer from headquarters is as follows:
A recent subject of debate on our Facebook page, with our answer, FYI...

Question... Major Baseball...Bases loaded, and someone leaves early. The third strike gets away from the catcher, and all the runners, including the batter, advance one base. Does the run score?

Answer...The same principle that applies in Rule 7.13 (c) and 7.13 Example No. 15 will apply in this case. The answer to the specific question above then, provided there are two outs when the situation occurs, is no.

Here is how it is applied:

- * Major Baseball. Regular Season or Tournament.
- * Bases loaded. Two outs.
- * Any of the three runners on base leaves before the pitched ball reaches the batter.
- * The pitch is a third strike, which is not caught by the catcher.

* By the application of the new rule, the batter is now a runner. That means all runners are forced to advance in this case. (This assumes that the local league did not exercise its option to go with the traditional rule for Regular Season play.)

* If any runner is put out before reaching the next base, the inning is over. (Since this would be a force-out, no run would score. For instance, the catcher can simply hold the ball and step on the plate before the runner from third can touch the plate, ending the inning.)

* If all runners (including the batter-runner) advance at least one base, the runner who was on third is not permitted to score, and is not called out. That runner simply "goes poof," or is removed from the play entirely. If, on that play, any other runners advance more than one base (because of a misplay, for instance), the batter-runner is placed on first base, and the other two runners are placed on second and third. No run can score on such a play under any circumstance.

Note: If there are less than two outs when the situation occurs, then the batter does not become a runner and the force play does not apply. As such, it's simply a live ball.

END
Bill Carter

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