

6.07 BATTING OUT OF TURN

(a) A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when he fails to bat in his proper turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in his place. (1) The proper batter may take his place in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat.

(b) When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter of either team, or before any play or attempted play, the umpire shall (1) declare the proper batter out; and (2) nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter or because of the improper batter's advance to first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.

NOTE: If a runner advances, while the improper batter is at bat, on a stolen base, balk, wild pitch or passed ball, such advance is legal.

(c) When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and a pitch is made to the next batter of either team before an appeal is made, the improper batter thereby becomes the proper batter, and the results of his time at bat become legal.

(d) (1) When the proper batter is called out because he has failed to bat in turn, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter thus called out;

(2) When an improper batter becomes a proper batter because no appeal is made before the next pitch, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of such legalized improper batter. The instant an improper batter's actions are legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized improper batter. The umpire shall not direct the attention of any person to the presence in the batter's box of an improper batter. This rule is designed to require constant vigilance by the players and managers of both teams. There are two fundamentals to keep in mind: When a player bats out of turn, the proper batter is the player called out. If an improper batter bats and reaches base or is out and no appeal is made before a pitch to the next batter, or before any play or attempted play, that improper batter is considered to have batted in proper turn and establishes the order that is to follow.

APPROVED RULING

To illustrate various situations arising from batting out of turn, assume a first inning batting order as follows: Andrew; Brett; Charles; Daniel; Edward; Frank; George; Henry; Irwin.

PLAY (1). Brett bats. With the count 2 balls and 1 strike, (a) the offensive team discovers the error or (b) the defensive team appeals. **RULING:** In either case, Andrew replaces Brett, with the count on him 2 balls and 1 strike.

PLAY (2). Brett bats and doubles. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to Charles. **RULING:** (a) Andrew is called out and Brett is the proper batter; (b) Brett stays on second and Charles is the proper batter.

PLAY (3). Andrew walks. Brett walks. Charles forces Brett. Edward bats in Daniel's turn. While Edward is at bat, Andrew scores and Charles goes to second on a wild pitch. Edward grounds out, sending Charles to third. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to Daniel. **RULING:** (a) Andrew's run counts and Charles is entitled to second base since these advances were not made because of the improper batter batting a ball or advancing to first base. Charles must return to second base because his advance to third resulted from the improper batter batting a ball. Daniel is called out, and Edward is the proper batter; (b) Andrew's run counts and Charles stays on third. The proper batter is Frank.

PLAY (4). With the bases full and two out. Henry bats in Frank's turn, and triples, scoring three runs. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately, or (b) after a pitch to George. **RULING:** (a) Frank is called out and no runs score. George is the proper batter to lead off the second inning; (b) Henry stays on third and three runs score. Irwin is the proper batter.

PLAY (5). After Play (4) (b) above, George continues at bat. (a) Henry is picked off third base for the third out, or (b) George flies out, and no appeal is made. Who is the proper leadoff batter in the second inning? **RULING:** (a) Irwin. He became the proper batter as soon as the first pitch to George legalized Henry's triple; (b) Henry. When no appeal was made, the first pitch to the leadoff batter of the opposing team legalized George's time at bat.

PLAY (6). Daniel walks and Andrew comes to bat. Daniel was an improper batter, and if an appeal is made before the first pitch to Andrew, Andrew is out, Daniel is removed from base, and Brett is the proper batter. There is no appeal, and a pitch is made to Andrew. Daniel's walk is now legalized, and Edward thereby becomes the proper batter. Edward can replace Andrew at any time before Andrew is put out or becomes a runner. He does not do so. Andrew flies out, and Brett comes to bat. Andrew was an improper batter, and if an appeal is made before the first pitch to Brett, Edward is out, and the proper batter is Frank. There is no appeal, and a pitch is made to Brett. Andrew's out is now legalized, and the proper batter is Brett. Brett walks. Charles is the proper batter. Charles flies out. Now Daniel is the proper batter, but he is on second base. Who is the proper batter? **RULING:** The proper batter is Edward. When the proper batter is on base, he is passed over, and the following batter becomes the proper batter.