



Use of the Double First Base 2026 Season

Rule 2

2.7.2 For 2026, the double first base is required for Division I competition and may be used for Divisions II and III competition by mutual agreement of both coaches. For 2027, the double first base is required for all competition (Divisions I, II and III). See Rule 12.6.

2.7.2.1 The double first base shall be a one- or two-piece unit, 15 inches by 30 inches, filled with soft material to a thickness of 1½ to 3½ inches. The fair portion shall be white and the foul portion shall be a contrasting color (e.g., orange).



Rule 12

12.6.1 For 2026, the double first base is required for Division I competition and may be used for Divisions II and III competition by mutual agreement of both coaches. For 2027, the double first base is required for all competition (Divisions I, II and III). See also Rule 2.7.2.

12.6.2 Use of the double first base shall be governed by the following:

12.6.2.1 A batted ball hitting or bounding over any part of the fair portion of the base is fair. A batted ball hitting or bounding over the contrasting foul portion without first touching or bounding over the fair section is foul.

12.6.2.2 Runners tagging up on fly balls, leading off on a pitch, or returning to the base can only use the fair portion of the base. A defensive player must use only the fair portion of the base when a play is being made on the batter-runner on any live ball from within the foul lines or from third base foul territory.

EFFECT—(12.6.2.1 and 12.6.2.2)—(1) The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the fair portion provided the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to touch the fair portion of the base. This is treated the same as missing the base. (2) The batter-runner is out for interference when there is a force play and the batter-runner touches only the fair portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the fair portion. (3) Obstruction is called on the defense when there is a force play on the batter-runner who touches only the foul portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball, who is also on the foul portion. **Exception:** When the defense fields or throws from first base foul territory (for example, a dropped third strike) to make a play on the batter-runner, or when an errant throw pulls the defense off the fair portion of the base into foul ground: the batter-runner and the defensive player may use either portion of the double base and the batter-runner can run in fair territory. In this situation, normal running lane violation rules do not apply; however, if

intentional interference is ruled, the batter runner would be out. If the intentional interference is deemed to be flagrant, the runner will also be ejected.

Note: Incidental contact (i.e., no interference or obstruction) should be ruled if a fielder moves onto the foul portion of the base to receive a throw from first base foul territory on any live ball, and such movement was so late that the batter-runner could not avoid contact. However, if the fielder sets up on the foul portion of the base on this type of play in ample time, then the batter- runner would be expected to change direction and touch the fair portion of the base although there is no penalty for not doing so.

12.6.2.3 In general, the foul portion of the base is only available when a play is being made on a batter- runner advancing from home to first. Once the batter-runner passes the base, the foul portion is no longer available to the offense or defense.

12.6.2.4 On games played with the double first base, the “last stride” provision of Rules 12.5.5 and 12.18.1.5.2 does not apply. Runners are not entitled to leave the runner’s lane on their last stride in order to touch first base.

12.6.2.5 On a ball hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter- runner may touch either portion of the base. If the batter-runner reaches and goes beyond first base, they may only return to the fair portion of the base.

12.6.2.6 On a base on balls, the batter-runner may touch the fair or foul portion of the base while advancing from home plate.

12.6.2.7 After overrunning the base or returning to the base, the offensive player must return to the fair portion. Should they stand on the foul portion only, it is considered not in contact with the base and they will be called out if:

12.6.2.7.1 They are tagged with the ball, or

12.6.7.2.2 They stand on the foul portion of the base while the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher’s circle.

12.11.8 The batter-runner may legally overrun/overslide first base after initially reaching it safely, but if they feint or make an attempt to advance to second, they may be tagged out (while they are off base) by a defensive player with the ball. For games played with the double first base, see Rule 12.6 regarding which base the runner may use.

Note: A batter who is entitled to advance after a walk or dropped third strike is treated the same as if they batted the ball.