

# Infield Fly

## Blue Notes



### Definition:

An INFIELD FLY is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second, and third base are occupied before two are out. The batter is out and the ball remains alive and in play. Runners may advance at their own risk.

The key to remember with the Infield Fly rule is that it was created to prevent the defense from gaining an advantage over the offense by allowing the ball to drop and then recording multiple outs.

### What is "ordinary effort"?

There is no definition for ordinary effort. Ordinary effort is left to the individual umpire to decide for himself or herself. A general rule of thumb would be if an infielder is standing under the fly ball waiting for it with ease, the definition of ordinary effort is met. An infielder sprinting for the fly ball and making a diving catch would not be considered ordinary effort. However, if after sprinting or struggling to locate the fly ball, the fielder then gains control of himself and at the last second is standing under the fly ball, and the umpire decides 'ordinary effort' is met, an infield fly should be indicated immediately.

Things to consider when deciding if ordinary effort is met:

- Weather (is it windy, sunny, raining)
- Fielder's starting positions
- Height of the fly ball
- NOT whether it reaches a grass or dirt line however

### KEY POINTS:

- Fair fly ball
- Can NOT be a bunt or line drive
- Runners on 1st and 2nd, or bases loaded
- Less than 2 out
- Caught by an infielder (or pitcher, catcher or outfielder in the infield)



### INTERPRETATIONS

- If a declared infield fly should fall and touch a runner while off his base, both the batter and runner are out, the ball is dead. No other runners may advance.
- If a declared infield fly should fall and touch a runner on his / her base, the batter is out, the runner is safe and the ball is dead. No runners may advance.
- If a declared infield fly is intentionally dropped, the ball remains alive and in play despite rule 6.05 (L), the infield fly rule takes precedence.
- Should an infield fly fall to the ground and bounce into foul territory before passing first or third base and is touched or comes to rest in foul territory, it is a foul ball

### UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES

- ANY umpire can signal an infield fly
- Umpire responsible for the catch / no catch is the umpire who should initially signal (voice and mechanic) the infield fly
- Terminology should be, "Infield Fly, batter is out!" or "Infield Fly, batter's out if fair"
- Should be signaled once the fly ball reaches its apex (top of its flight) and the fielder is stationed in a position which will enable him / her to handle the ball with ordinary effort
- An infield fly is an umpire's judgment and therefore can not be protested