

2006 CHANGES TO OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES (*EXCERPTS*)

1. Rules 1.15(a) and 1.15(c) [pitchers' gloves]

Under Rule 1.15(a) pitchers are now allowed to wear multi-colored gloves as long as the glove is not, in the judgment of the umpire, distracting. This rule is now consistent with current practice at the professional level. Rule 1.15(c) provides remedy for violations.

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>1.15 (a) The pitcher's glove shall be uniform in color, including all stitching, lacing and webbing. The pitcher's glove may not be white or gray.</p> <p>(b) No pitcher shall attach to his glove any foreign material of a color different from the glove.</p>	<p>1.15 (a) The pitcher's glove may not be white, gray, nor, in the judgment of an umpire, distracting in any manner.</p> <p>(b) No pitcher shall attach to his glove any foreign material of a color different from the glove.</p> <p>(c) The umpire-in-chief shall cause a glove that violates Rules 1.15(a) or 1.15 (b) to be removed from the game, either on his own initiative, at the recommendation of another umpire or upon complaint of the opposing manager with which the umpire-in-chief agrees.</p>

2. Rules 3.02 and 8.02(a) [intentionally defacing the baseball, possession of foreign substance by the pitcher, penalties for violation]

Rule 3.02 amended to provide automatic 10-game suspension for player who intentionally defaces the ball.

Penalty in Rule 8.02(a) changed to agree with penalty in Rule 3.02: automatic ejection of pitcher and 10-game suspension.

Note that previous penalty for violation of 8.02(a) (2) through (6) [which was to call the pitch a ball, warn the pitcher, and have the violation announced] has been deleted.

New Casebook Comment added for Rules 8.02(a)(2) through (6) that allows umpire discretion to issue a warning to the pitcher if pitcher unintentionally violates either 8.02(a)(2) or 8.02(a)(3).

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>3.02 No player shall intentionally discolor or damage the ball by rubbing it with soil, rosin, paraffin, licorice, sand-paper, emery-paper or other foreign substance.</p> <p>PENALTY: The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender from the game. In case the umpire cannot locate the offender, and if the pitcher delivers such discolored or damaged ball to the batter, the pitcher shall be removed from the game at once and shall be suspended automatically for ten days.</p>	<p>3.02 No player shall intentionally discolour or damage the ball by rubbing it with soil, rosin, paraffin, liquorice, sand-paper, emery-paper or other foreign substance.</p> <p>PENALTY: The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender from the game. In addition, the offender shall be suspended automatically for 10 games. For rules in regard to a pitcher defacing the ball, see Rules 8.02 (a) (2) through (6).</p>
<p>8.02 The pitcher shall not—</p> <p>(a) (1) bring his pitching hand in contact with his mouth or lips while in the 18 foot circle surrounding the pitching rubber.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Provided it is agreed to by both managers, the umpire prior to the start of a game played in cold weather, may permit the pitcher to blow on his hand.</p> <p>PENALTY: For violation of this part of this rule the umpires shall immediately call a ball. However, if the pitch is made and a batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a hit batsman or other wise, and no other runner is put out before advancing at least one base, the play shall proceed without reference to the</p>	<p>8.02 The pitcher shall not-</p> <p>(a) (1) Bring his pitching hand in contact with his mouth or lips while in the 18 foot circle surrounding the pitching rubber.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Provided it is agreed to by both managers, the umpire prior to the start of a game played in cold weather, may permit the pitcher to blow on his hand.</p> <p>PENALTY: For violation of this part of this rule the umpires shall immediately call a ball. However, if the pitch is made and a batter reaches first base on a hit an error, a hit batsman or otherwise, and no other runner is put out before advancing at least one base, the play shall proceed without reference to the</p>

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>violation. Repeated offenders shall be subject to a fine by the league president</p> <p>(2) apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball;</p> <p>(3) expectorate on the ball, either hand or his glove;</p> <p>(4) rub the ball on his glove, person or clothing;</p> <p>(5) deface the ball in any manner;</p> <p>(6) deliver what is called the "shine" ball, "spit" ball, "mud" ball or "emery" ball. The pitcher, of course, is allowed to rub the ball between his bare hands.</p> <p>PENALTY: For violation of any part of this rule 8.02 (a) (2 to 6) the umpire shall:</p> <p>(a) Call the pitch a ball, warn the pitcher and have announced on the public address system the reason for the action.</p> <p>(b) In the case of a second offense by the same pitcher in the same game, the pitcher shall be disqualified from the game.</p> <p>(c) If a play follows the violation called by the umpire, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire that he elects to accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batsman, or otherwise, and no other runner is put out before advancing at least one base, the play shall proceed without reference to the violation.</p> <p>(d) Even though the offense elects to take the play, the violation shall be recognized and the penalties in (a) and (b) will still be in effect.</p> <p>(e) The umpire shall be sole judge on whether any portion of</p>	<p>violation. Repeated offenders shall be subject to a fine by the league president.</p> <p>(2) expectorate on the ball, either hand or his glove;</p> <p>(3) rub the ball on his glove, person or clothing;</p> <p>(4) apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball;</p> <p>(5) deface the ball in any manner; or</p> <p>(6) deliver a ball defaced in a manner prescribed by Rule 8.02 (a) (2) through (5) or what is called the "shine" ball, "spit" ball, "mud" ball or "emery" ball. The pitcher is allowed to rub the ball between his bare hands.</p> <p>PENALTY: For violation of any part of Rules 8.02 (a) (2) through (6):</p> <p>(a) The pitcher shall be ejected immediately from the game and shall be suspended automatically for 10 games.</p> <p>(b) If a play follows the violation called by the umpire, the manager of the offence may advise the plate umpire that he elects to accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batsman, or otherwise, and no other runner is put out before advancing at least one base, the play shall proceed without reference to the violation.</p> <p>(c) Even though the offence elects to take the play, the violation shall be recognized and the penalties in sub-section (a) will still be in effect.</p> <p>(d) The umpire shall be sole judge on whether any portion of this rule has been violated.</p>

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>this rule has been violated.</p> <p>All umpires shall carry with them one official rosin bag. The umpire-in-chief is responsible for placing the rosin bag on the ground back of the pitcher's plate. If at any time the ball hits the rosin bag it is in play. In the case of rain or wet field, the umpire may instruct the pitcher to carry the rosin bag in his hip pocket. A pitcher may use the rosin bag for the purpose of applying rosin to his bare hand or hands. Neither the pitcher nor any other player shall dust the ball with the rosin bag; neither shall the pitcher nor any other player be permitted to apply rosin from the bag to his glove or dust any part of his uniform with the rosin bag.</p> <p>(b) Have on his person, or in his possession, any foreign substance. For such infraction of this section (b) the penalty shall be immediate ejection from the game.</p>	<p><i>Rules 8.02 (a) (2) through 8.02 (a) (6) Comment: If a pitcher violates either Rule 8.02 (a) (2) or Rule 8.02(a) (3) and, in the judgment of the umpire, the pitcher did not intend, by his act, to alter the characteristics of a pitched ball, then the umpire may, in his discretion, warn the pitcher in lieu of applying the penalty set forth for violations of Rules 8.02 (a) (2) through 8.02 (a) (6). If the pitcher persists in violating either of those Rules, however, the umpire should then apply the penalty.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 8.02(a) Comment: If at any time the ball hits the rosin bag it is in play. In the case of rain or wet field, the umpire may instruct the pitcher to carry the rosin bag in his hip pocket. A pitcher may use the rosin bag for the purpose of applying rosin to his bare hand or hands. Neither the pitcher nor any other player shall dust the ball with the rosin bag; neither shall the pitcher nor any other player be permitted to apply rosin from the bag to his glove or dust any part of his uniform with the rosin bag.</i></p> <p>(b) Have on his person, or in his possession, any foreign substance. For such infraction of this section (b) the penalty shall be immediate ejection from the game. In addition, the pitcher shall be suspended automatically for 10 games.</p>

3. Rule 6.02(c) [batter refuses to take position in batter's box]

Rule 6.02(c) amended so that penalty for batter refusing to take position in batter's box is now an automatic strike (pitcher no longer ordered to pitch the ball for the strike penalty to be called). Ball is dead during the penalty.

Old Rule	New Rule
6.02 (c) If the batter refuses to take his position in the batter's box during his time at bat, the umpire shall order the pitcher to pitch, and shall call "Strike" on each such pitch. The batter may take his proper position after any such pitch, and the regular ball and strike count shall continue, but if he does not take his proper position before three strikes are called, he shall be declared out.	6.02 (c) If the batter refuses to take his position in the batter's box during his time at bat, the umpire shall call a strike on the batter. The ball is dead, and no runners may advance. After the penalty, the batter may take his proper position and the regular ball and strike count shall continue. If the batter does not take his proper position before three strikes have been called, the batter shall be declared out.

4. Rule 6.02(d) [experimental pace-of-game rule for National Association leagues]

Rule 6.02(d) added to the Official Baseball Rules. This experimental rule was in effect for all National Association leagues in 2005. No changes in any aspect or wording of the experimental rule from 2005. (The rule, although in effect in 2005 for all National Association leagues, did not appear in print in the 2005 book.)

Old Rule	New Rule
Not applicable	<p>(d) The following experimental rule shall be in effect for all National Association Leagues in 2006:</p> <p>(1) The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat, unless one of the following exceptions applies, in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The batter swings at a pitch;(ii) The batter is forced out of the batter's box by a pitch;(iii) A member of either team requests and is granted "Time";(iv) A defensive player attempts a play on a runner at any base;(v) The batter feints a bunt;(vi) A wild pitch or passed ball occurs;(vii) The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving, the ball; or(viii) The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals. <p>Notwithstanding Rule 6.02 (c) , if the batter intentionally leaves the batter's box and delays play, and none of the exceptions listed in Rule 6.02 (d) (1) (i) through (viii)</p>

Old Rule	New Rule
	<p>applies, the umpire shall award a strike without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch. The ball shall remain alive. The umpire shall award additional strikes, without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch, if the batter remains outside the batter's box and further delays play.</p> <p>(2) The batter may leave the batter's box and the dirt area surrounding home plate when "Time" is called for the purpose of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) making a substitution; or(ii) a conference by either team. <p><i>Rule 6.02(d) Comment: Umpires shall encourage the on-deck batter to take a position in the batter's box quickly after the previous batter reaches base or is put out.</i></p>

5. Rules 6.05(a) Casebook Comment and 7.04(c) Casebook Comment [prohibits catching ball in the dugout]

Casebook Comment to Rule 6.05(a) has been added to prohibit fielders from catching a ball in the dugout. (Fielders may no longer enter the dugout to make a catch.) Fielders may still reach into the dugout to make a catch but they may no longer step into the dugout to do so. Casebook Comment to Rule 7.04(c) amended to delete reference allowing catch to be made in dugout.

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>6.05 A batter is out when—</p> <p>(a) His fair or foul fly ball (other than a foul tip) is legally caught by a fielder;</p>	<p>6.05 A batter is out when-</p> <p>(a) His fair or foul fly ball (other than a foul tip) is legally caught by a fielder;</p> <p><i>Rule 6.05(a) Comment: A fielder may reach into, but not step into, a dugout to make a catch, and if he holds the ball, the catch shall be allowed. A fielder, in order to make a catch on a foul ball nearing a dugout or other out-of-play area (such as the stands), must have one or both feet on or over the playing surface (including the lip of the dugout) and neither foot on the ground inside the dugout or in any other out-of-play area. Ball is in play, unless the fielder, after making a legal catch, falls into a dugout or other out-of-play area, in which case the ball is dead. Status of runners shall be as described in Rule 7.04(c) Comment.</i></p>
<p>7.04 (c) A fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a bench or stand, or falls across ropes into a crowd when spectators are on the field;</p> <p>A fielder or catcher may reach or step into, or go into the dugout with one or both feet to make a catch, and if he holds the ball, the catch shall be allowed. Ball is in play.</p> <p>If the fielder or catcher, after having made a legal catch, should fall into a stand or among spectators or into the dugout</p>	<p>7.04 (c) A fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a bench or stand, or falls across ropes into a crowd when spectators are on the field;</p> <p><i>Rule 7.04 (c) Comment: If a fielder, after having made a legal catch, should fall into a stand or among spectators or into the dugout or any other out-of-play area while in possession of the ball after making a legal catch, or fall while in the dugout after making a legal catch, the ball is dead and each runner shall advance one base, without liability to be put out, from his last</i></p>

Old Rule	New Rule
after making a legal catch, or fall while in the dugout after making a legal catch, the ball is dead and runners advance one base without liability to be put out.	<i>legally touched base at the time the fielder fell into, or in, such out-of-play area.</i>

6. Rules 6.09(b) and 7.08(a) [batter-runner attempting to advance after dropped third strike]

A new ruling provides that a batter-runner be declared out after a dropped third strike if he leaves the dirt circle around home plate while not on his way to try to reach first base. (The current Rule provides that a batter may still try to reach first base until he has reached the dugout or his defensive position.)

Under the new rule, when the batter-runner does not realize a third strike is not caught and starts for his dugout or position, the batter-runner is called out *"once he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate."*

This change affects the Casebook Comment in Rule 6.09(b) (Comment has been rewritten); as well as the Casebook Comment in Rule 7.08(a) (last paragraph of Comment and Approved Ruling following Comment have been deleted).

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>6.09 The batter becomes a runner when—</p> <p>(a) He hits a fair ball;</p> <p>(b) The third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied, or (2) first base is occupied with two out;</p> <p>When a batter becomes a base runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher and starts for the dugout, or his position, and then realizes his situation and attempts then to reach first base, he is not out unless he or first base is tagged before he reaches first base. If, however, he actually reaches the dugout or dugout steps, he may not then attempt to go to first base and shall be out.</p>	<p>6.09 The batter becomes a runner when-</p> <p>(a) He hits a fair ball;</p> <p>(b) The third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied, or (2) first base is occupied with two out;</p> <p><i>Rule 6.09(b) Comment: A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught, and who is not in the process of running to first base, shall be declared out once he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.</i></p>
<p>7.08 Any runner is out when—</p> <p>(a) (1) He runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged unless his action is to avoid interference with a fielder fielding a batted ball; or (2) after touching first base, he leaves the baseline, obviously abandoning his effort to touch the next base;</p> <p>Any runner after reaching first base who leaves the baseline</p>	<p>7.08 Any runner is out when-</p> <p>(a) (1) He runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged unless his action is to avoid interference with a fielder fielding a batted ball; or (2) after touching first base, he leaves the baseline, obviously abandoning his effort to touch the next base;</p> <p><i>Rule 7.08(a) Comment: Any runner after reaching first base</i></p>

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>heading for his dugout or his position believing that there is no further play, may be declared out if the umpire judges the act of the runner to be considered abandoning his efforts to run the bases. Even though an out is called, the ball remains in play in regard to any other runner.</p> <p>This rule also covers the following and similar plays: Less than two out, score tied last of ninth inning, runner on first, batter hits a ball out of park for winning run, the runner on first passes second and thinking the home run automatically wins the game, cuts across diamond toward his bench as batter-runner circles bases. In this case, the base runner would be called out “for abandoning his effort to touch the next base” and batter-runner permitted to continue around bases to make his home run valid. If there are two out, home run would not count (see Rule 7.12). This is not an appeal play.</p> <p>PLAY. Runner believing he is called out on a tag at first or third base starts for the dugout and progresses a reasonable distance still indicating by his actions that he is out, shall be declared out for abandoning the bases.</p> <p>In the above two plays the runners are considered actually abandoning their base paths and are treated differently than the batter who struck out as described. APPROVED RULING OF 7.08 (a).</p> <p>APPROVED RULING: When a batter becomes a runner on third strike not caught, and starts for his bench or position, he may advance to first base at any time before he enters the bench. To put him out, the defense must tag him or first base before he touches first base.</p>	<p><i>who leaves the baseline heading for his dugout or his position believing that there is no further play, may be declared out if the umpire judges the act of the runner to be considered abandoning his efforts to run the bases. Even though an out is called, the ball remains in play in regard to any other runner.</i></p> <p><i>This rule also covers the following and similar plays: Less than two out, score tied last of ninth inning, runner on first, batter hits a ball out of park for winning run, the runner on first passes second and thinking the home run automatically wins the game, cuts across diamond toward his bench as batter-runner circles bases. In this case, the base runner would be called out “for abandoning his effort to touch the next base” and batter-runner permitted to continue around bases to make his home run valid. If there are two out, home run would not count (see Rule 7.12). This is not an appeal play.</i></p> <p><i>PLAY Runner believing he is called out on a tag at first or third base starts for the dugout and progresses a reasonable distance still indicating by his actions that he is out, shall be declared out for abandoning the bases.</i></p>

7. Rule 7.05(j) [pitched ball touched by detached equipment]

A new rule has been added (7.05(j)) that covers a pitched ball being touched by detached equipment. Previously, this situation was not covered under the Rules, although interpretations existed at both the Major and Minor League levels. The award of one base now concurs with interpretations at the professional level.

Old Rule	New Rule
Not applicable	7.05 (j) One base, if a fielder deliberately touches a pitched ball with his cap, mask or any part of his uniform detached from its proper place on his person. The ball is in play, and the award is made from the position of the runner at the time the ball was touched.

8. Rules 8.01(a) and 8.01(b) [pitcher's position on the pitching rubber, delivery of ball to the batter]

Several changes to the pitching rules now allow a pitcher to have only a portion of his pivot foot, rather than the entire foot, in contact with the rubber, which is consistent with some modern pitching deliveries. Furthermore, in the windup position, a pitcher is allowed to have his free foot at either side of the rubber and to step to either side of the rubber, both of which are commonly accepted current practices. Previous editions of the Rules prohibited this.

Under the new rules,

(a) Only a portion of the pitcher's pivot foot must be in contact with the rubber (no longer "entire pivot foot"). This applies to both windup and set positions. Under the new rule, pitchers may pitch "off the end" of the rubber, as long as any part of the pivot foot is in contact with the rubber.

(b) In the windup position, the pitcher's free foot may be on the rubber, in front of the rubber, or to the side of the rubber.

(c) In the windup position, the pitcher is permitted to step to the side during his delivery (previously prohibited).

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>8.01 Legal pitching delivery. There are two legal pitching positions, the Windup Position and the Set Position, and either position may be used at any time.</p> <p>Pitchers shall take signs from the catcher while standing on the rubber.</p> <p>Pitchers may disengage the rubber after taking their signs but may not step quickly onto the rubber and pitch. This may be judged a quick pitch by the umpire. When the pitcher disengages the rubber, he must drop his hands to his sides.</p> <p>Pitchers will not be allowed to disengage the rubber after taking each sign.</p> <p>(a) The Windup Position. The pitcher shall stand facing the batter, his entire pivot foot on, or in front of and touching and not off the end of the pitcher's plate, and the other foot free. From this position any natural movement associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits him to the pitch without interruption or alteration. He shall not raise either foot</p>	<p>8.01 Legal pitching delivery. There are two legal pitching positions, the Windup Position and the Set Position, and either position may be used at any time.</p> <p>Pitchers shall take signs from the catcher while standing on the rubber.</p> <p><i>Rule 8.01 Comment: Pitchers may disengage the rubber after taking their signs but may not step quickly onto the rubber and pitch. This may be judged a quick pitch by the umpire. When the pitcher disengages the rubber, he must drop his hands to his sides.</i></p> <p><i>Pitchers will not be allowed to disengage the rubber after taking each sign.</i></p> <p>(a) The Windup Position. The pitcher shall stand facing the batter, his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and the other foot free. From this position any natural movement associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits him to the pitch without interruption or alteration. He shall not</p>

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>from the ground, except that in his actual delivery of the ball to the batter, he may take one step backward and one step forward with his free foot. When a pitcher holds the ball with both hands in front of his body, with his entire pivot foot on, or in front of and touching but not off the end of the pitcher's plate, and his other foot free, he will be considered in the Windup Position.</p> <p>The pitcher may have one foot, not the pivot foot, off the rubber and any distance he may desire back of a line which is an extension to the back edge of the pitcher's plate, but not at either side of the pitcher's plate.</p> <p>With his "free" foot the pitcher may take one step backward and one step forward, but under no circumstances, to either side, that is to either the first base or third base side of the pitcher's rubber.</p> <p>If a pitcher holds the ball with both hands in front of his body, with his entire pivot foot on or in front of and touching but not off the end of the pitcher's plate, and his other foot free, he will be considered in a windup position.</p> <p>From this position he may:</p> <p>(1) deliver the ball to the batter, or</p> <p>(2) step and throw to a base in an attempt to pick-off a runner, or</p> <p>(3) disengage the rubber (if he does he must drop his hand to his sides). In disengaging the rubber the pitcher must step off with his pivot foot and not his free foot first. He may not go into a set or stretch position—if he does it is a balk.</p> <p>(b) The Set Position. Set Position shall be indicated by the</p>	<p>raise either foot from the ground, except that in his actual delivery of the ball to the batter, he may take one step backward and one step forward with his free foot.</p> <p>When a pitcher holds the ball with both hands in front of his body, with his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and his other foot free, he will be considered in the Windup Position.</p> <p><i>Rule 8.01 (a) Comment: In the Windup Position, a pitcher is permitted to have his "free" foot on the rubber, in front of the rubber, behind the rubber or off the side of the rubber.</i></p> <p><i>From the Windup Position, the pitcher may:</i></p> <p>(1) <i>deliver the ball to the batter, or</i></p> <p>(2) <i>step and throw to a base in an attempt to pick-off a runner, or</i></p> <p>(3) <i>disengage the rubber (if he does he must drop his hand to his sides).</i></p> <p><i>In disengaging the rubber the Pitcher must step off with his Pivot foot and not his free foot first.</i></p> <p><i>He may not go into a set or stretch position-if he does it is a balk.</i></p> <p>(b) The Set Position. Set Position shall be indicated by the pitcher when he stands facing the batter with his pivot foot in contact with, and his other foot in front of, the pitcher's plate, holding the ball in both hands in front of his body and coming to a complete stop. From such Set Position he may deliver the ball to the batter, throw to a base or step backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot. Before assuming Set Position, the pitcher may elect to make any natural preliminary</p>

Old Rule	New Rule
<p>pitcher when he stands facing the batter with his entire pivot foot on, or in front of, and in contact with, and not off the end of the pitcher's plate, and his other foot in front of the pitcher's plate, holding the ball in both hands in front of his body and coming to a complete stop. From such Set Position he may deliver the ball to the batter, throw to a base or step backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot. Before assuming Set Position, the pitcher may elect to make any natural preliminary motion such as that known as "the stretch." But if he so elects, he shall come to Set Position before delivering the ball to the batter. After assuming Set Position, any natural motion associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits him to the pitch without alteration or interruption.</p> <p>Preparatory to coming to a set position, the pitcher shall have one hand on his side; from this position he shall go to his set position as defined in Rule 8.01 (b) without interruption and in one continuous motion.</p> <p>The whole width of the foot in contact with the rubber must be on the rubber. A pitcher cannot pitch from off the end of the rubber with just the side of his foot touching the rubber.</p> <p>The pitcher, following his stretch, must (a) hold the ball in both hands in front of his body and (b) come to a complete stop. This must be enforced. Umpires should watch this closely. Pitchers are constantly attempting to "beat the rule" in their efforts to hold runners on bases and in cases where the pitcher fails to make a complete "stop" called for in the rules, the umpire should immediately call a "Balk."</p>	<p>motion such as that known as "the stretch." But if he so elects, he shall come to Set Position before delivering the ball to the batter. After assuming Set Position, any natural motion associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits him to the pitch without alteration or interruption.</p> <p>Preparatory to coming to a set position, the pitcher shall have one hand on his side; from this position he shall go to his set position as defined in Rule 8.01(b) without interruption and in one continuous motion.</p> <p>The pitcher, following his stretch, must (a) hold the ball in both hands in front of his body and (b) come to a complete stop. This must be enforced. Umpires should watch this closely. Pitchers are constantly attempting to "beat the rule" in their efforts to hold runners on bases and in cases where the pitcher fails to make a complete "stop" called for in the rules, the umpire should immediately call a "Balk."</p>

9. Rule 8.01 (b) Casebook Comment [new Casebook Comment added regarding pitcher not coming to complete stop when using set position with no runners on base]

A new Casebook Comment provides that a pitcher is not required to come to a complete stop when using the set position with no runners on base. However, the Casebook Comment provides for the umpire declare a quick pitch if, in the umpire's judgment, the pitcher delivers the ball in a deliberate effort to catch the batter off guard (for which the penalty is a ball with no runners are on base).

Old Rule	New Rule
Not applicable	<i>Rule 8.01 (b) Comment: With no runners on base, the pitcher is not required to come to a complete stop when using the Set Position. If, however, in the umpire's judgment, a pitcher delivers the ball in a deliberate effort to catch the batter off guard, this delivery shall be deemed a quick pitch, for which the penalty is a ball. See Rule 8.05(e) Comment.</i>