

Balks

A balk is an illegal motion by a pitcher with one or more runners on base. Under rules of Major League Baseball, it results in a delayed dead ball. A balk is enforced unless the batter and all runners safely advance at least one base.

It is a balk when the pitcher:

1. When going from the stretch to the set position, fails to make a complete stop with his hands together before beginning to pitch.
2. While on the rubber, makes a motion associated with his pitch and does not complete the delivery.
3. While in contact with the rubber, fakes a throw to first base.
4. Throws from the mound to a base without stepping toward (gaining distance in the direction of) that base.
5. Switches his pitching position from the windup to the set (or vice versa) without properly disengaging the rubber (stepping off with the pivot foot).
6. Pitches a quick pitch, that is, delivers a pitch before the batter has had a reasonable amount of time to get ready.
7. Throws or feints a throw from the rubber to an unoccupied base, unless a play is being made.
8. Delivers to the plate while not in contact with the rubber.
9. Drops the ball while on the rubber, even if by accident.
10. While intentionally walking a batter releases a pitch while the catcher is out of his box with one or both feet.
11. Unnecessarily delays the game.
12. Pitches while facing away from the batter.
13. After bringing his hands together on the rubber, separates them except in making a pitch or a throw (or a feint).
14. Stands on or astride the rubber without the ball
15. With a runner on first, throws to the first baseman when he is playing off the base (The throw must be made to the base).