



# INFIELD FLY

Did You Know!?

## INFIELD FLY RULE (IFR)

This rule is all about preventing trick plays that would unfairly catch runners off guard.

Here's How it Works:

- When there are runners on first and second (or bases loaded),  
and
  - There are fewer than two outs and
- The batter hits a pop-up “fly” in fair territory that can easily be caught by an infielder.

When this series of events align, the umpire will call “infield fly-batter out!” and the batter will be automatically out, EVEN if the ball is dropped. This can be frustrating for the offense (team at bat), BUT it is ACTUALLY to the offense's (batting teams) benefit.

This is so the defense (infielders) can't intentionally drop the ball to try for a double or triple play by confusing the runners and forcing them to run after tagging up.

This rule does not apply where 1st is NOT occupied and 2nd and 3rd are. This is because there is no force play. AKA. 2nd and 3rd are not forced to move bases.