

Ruling Fair or Foul, The "Point of Decision "

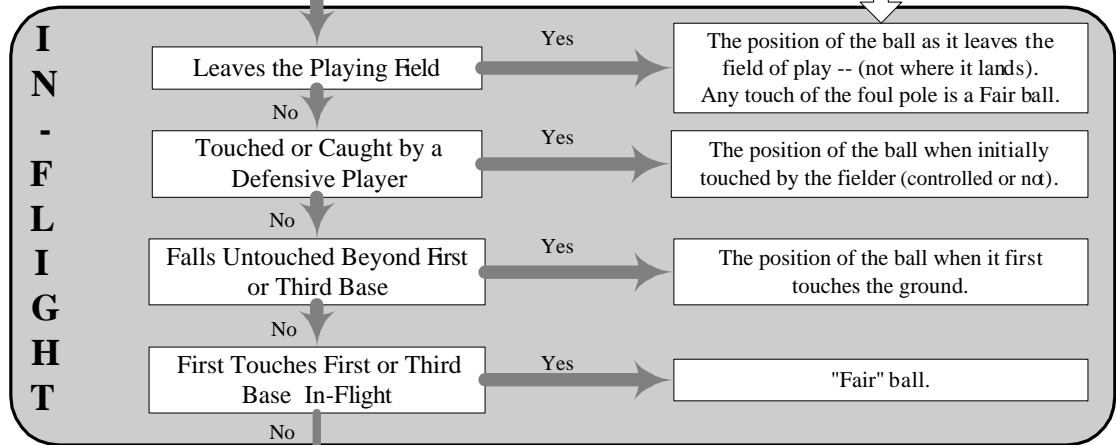
Definition -- Point of Decision: The precise instant that the decision of "Fair" or "Foul" is to be made. The decision shall be made by judging the position of the ball in relation to the foul line and/or foul pole. Any portion of the ball on or over fair territory* constitutes a "Fair" ball.

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A Batted Ball

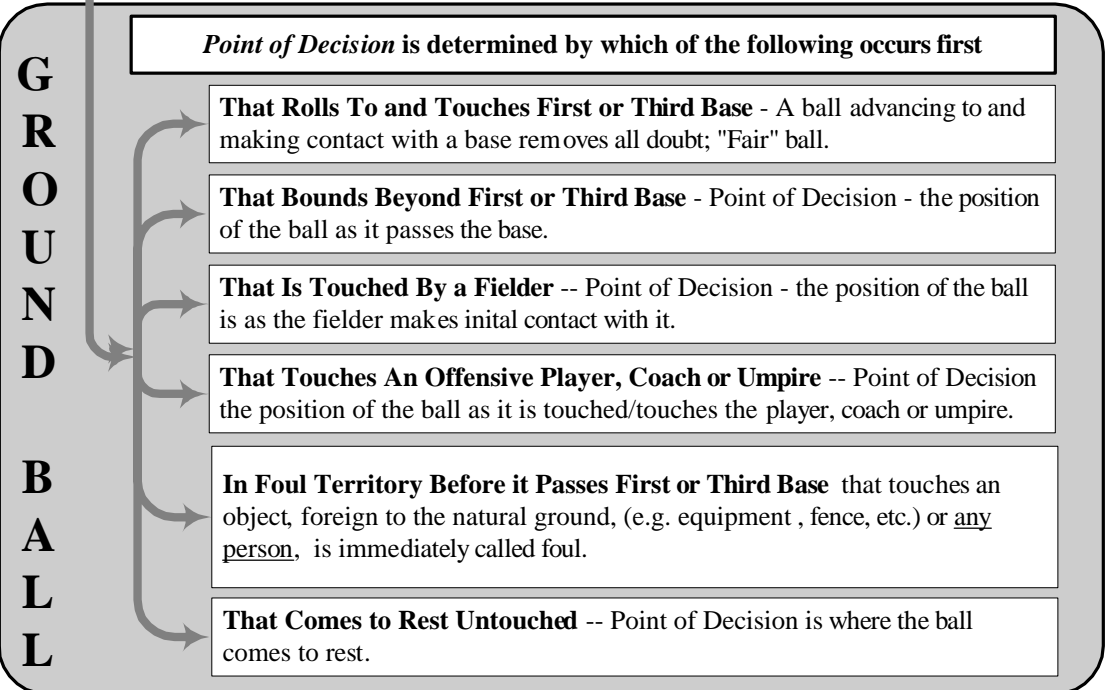
Right Off The Bat - Any batted ball that makes an immediate contact in the home plate area with: **the batter** while the batter is still (even partially) in the bater's box, **the umpire**, or **the catcher** (other than a FOUL TIP - See Rule 2.00), is a **FOUL ball**.

Point of Decision



All batted balls begin "In-Flight". If not caught or touched in-flight they become ground balls. (Yes, some become ground balls much sooner than others.)

If the batted ball is not resolved "In-flight" (above) it gets resolved as a ground ball (below). **



* Refer to Official Baseball Rules, 2.00 Definition of Terms; Fair Territory.

** This analysis addresses the application of Fair/Foul. Baseball can interject many distracting factors such as interference, ground rules or just unusual baseball moments. **The umpire must remember that once the bat makes contact with the pitch, the umpire's top priority is determining Fair/Foul.**