

**BULLETIN #15**  
**VALID CATCH INVOLVING A TEMPORARY COLLAPSABLE FENCE**  
**RULE INTERPRETATION**  
**FP RULE 5.1.9 c; RULE 2.2.1 d; RULE 5.11 a) ii 3**  
**SP RULE 5.1.9 c; RULE 2.2.1 d; RULE 5.11 a) ii) 3**

A fielder falls into a collapsible fence while making a catch. The fence and player collapse to the ground with the players arm, hand and glove contain the ball make contact with the out of play area.

- 1) In the above play, y virtue of Rule 5.1.9 c, the WBSC considers this to be a valid catch provided control of the ball is maintained.
  
- 2) After the legal catch, the WBSC considers the player to have unintentionally carried the ball out of the playing field by virtue of Rule 2.2.1 c) causing the ball to be declared dead ball and awarding all runners one (1) base from the time the player left the field of play, by virtue of Rule 5.11 a) ii 3.

The WBSC also relies on the following case plays, Points of Emphasis and Observations:

Current Casebook

**2.1.14 Play 2** - A defensive player standing in playable territory (a) reaches across an out-of-play line and catches a fly ball, and (b) accidentally falls into the out-of-play area.

Ruling: A legal catch as long as control is maintained in both (a) and (b). In (b) by falling into the out-of-play area this is considered accidentally carrying the ball out-of-play, and all runners are advanced one base. [2.1.14; 2.2.1 d); 5.1.9 c); 5.11 a)ii 3]

**5.1.9 Play 6** - F8 collides with a portable fence, knocks the fence to the ground and makes a catch while standing on the collapsed fence.

Ruling: Legal catch, the ball is alive. [5.1.9]

### **WBSC Umpire Manual – 5.2 CATCH**

To be considered a legal catch, the defensive player must have control of the ball in either hand and control of his/her body. There is no time limit, however control of the ball and the body must be established to the umpire's satisfaction.

If the fielder drops the ball while transferring the ball from the glove to the hand for a throw, it is still considered a legal catch provided all the elements of a legal catch were established before the transfer began.

To be ruled a catch, a fielder must have secure possession of the ball before stepping or falling into dead ball territory. A fielder may be stepping on the dead ball line or in the air and make a legal catch, but no foot may be touching the ground or *any part of the body* an object completely in dead ball territory at the time of the catch.

**1998 POE98 -15.FALLING OVER THE FENCE ON A CATCH** (Attached first compiled by Charlie Phillips SNZ UIC from mainly ASA/SC references)

*The fence is an extension of the playing field, making it legal for a player to climb and make the catch. If he catches a ball in the air and his momentum carries him through, or over the fence, the catch is good, the batter-runner is out, the ball is dead and, with less than two outs, all runners are advanced one base without liability to be put out.*

### **Out of Play Line ex Merle Butler**

Observation:

1. A legal catch is completed and the ball is controlled in the glove and appears not to touch the ground. The upper part of the body and the arms are in contact with the ground in deadfall territory beyond the

collapsed fence. Ruling catch/dead ball (R2.2.1 d) The ball is "outside the playing field" when it touches the ground, **a person on the ground** or an object outside the playing area.