



April 8, 2026

NFHS Baseball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Most states are playing and running into interesting plays and situations. Dead ball areas are always a great discussion starter. Dead ball rules are a critical component of high school baseball because they balance **safety, fairness, and consistency**. While these situations may seem routine, their proper application ensures the game is administered with clarity and integrity—regardless of facility differences or level of play.

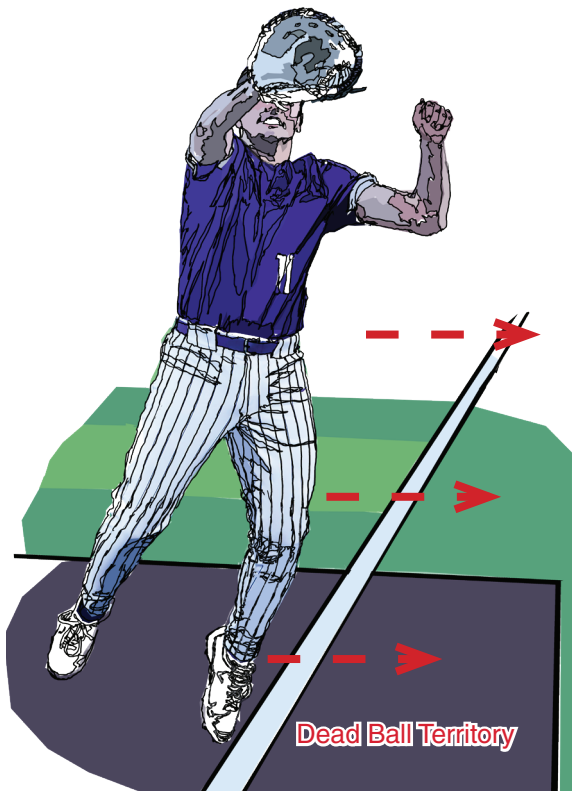
At times, seemingly simple plays can lead to outsized frustration until clear guidance is provided. We trust this interpretation will be received as helpful, practical, and constructive.

For your convenience, we have attached the illustration as a combined document to support ease of use and distribution. These materials serve as excellent discussion tools for both new and experienced umpires alike.

Thank you for your continued support and professionalism throughout the season, and best wishes for a successful baseball season.



LIVE BALL TERRITORY AND LANDING IN DEAD BALL AREA (2-9-1, 5-1-1i, 8-3-3d) A



PLAY: F3 jumps from live ball in the air, and lands with both feet in dead ball territory.

Leaves live Ball Territory and leaves with both feet in the Dead ball territory.

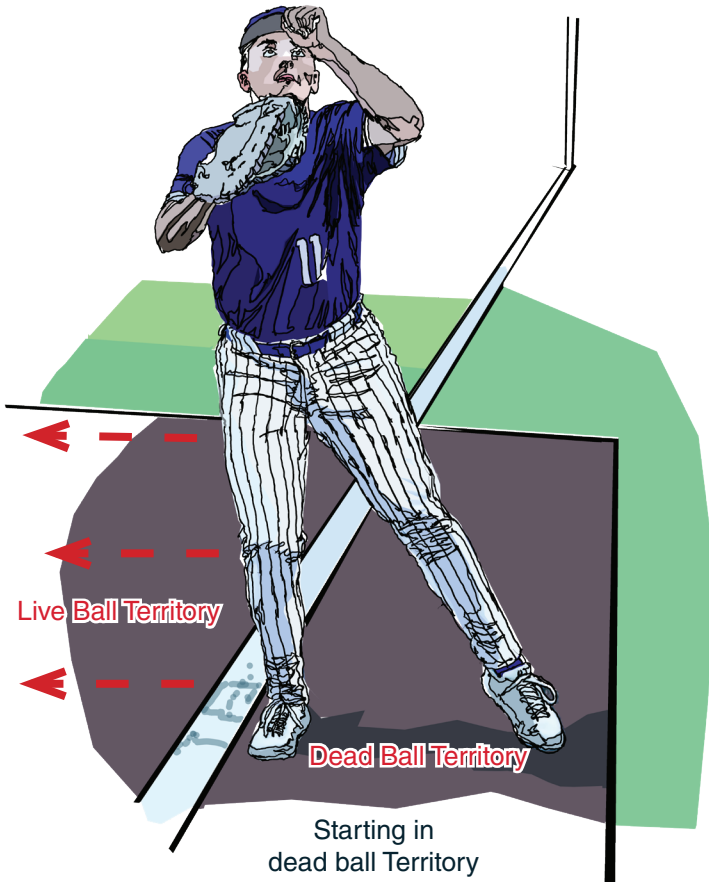


Ruling: This is a legal catch. F3 is considered to be in **live ball territory** when he is in the air as this is the area he legally left to make the catch. When he lands with both feet, the **ball becomes dead** and any runners on base are awarded one base. (2-9-1, 5-1-1i, 8-3-3-d)



DEAD BALL TERRITORY INTO LIVE BALL AREA (2-9-1)

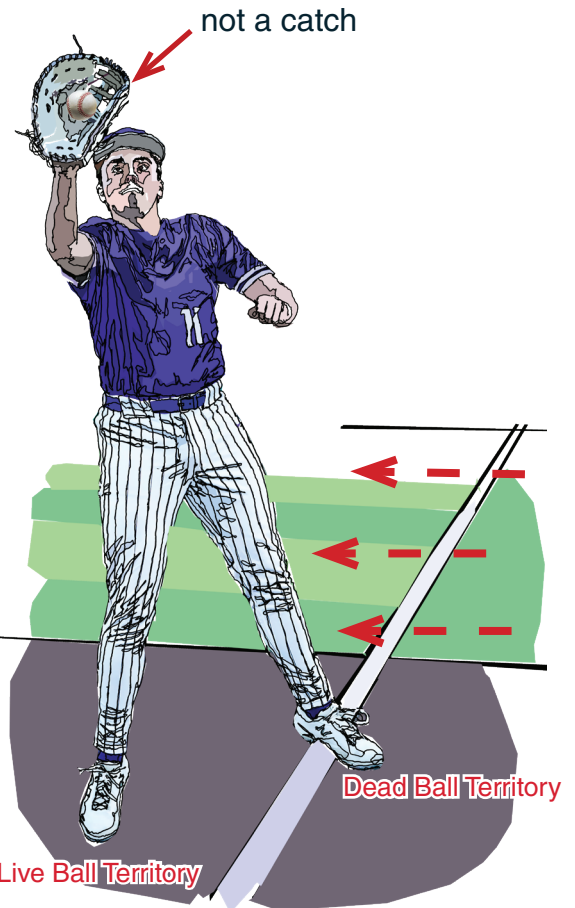
B



Starting in dead ball Territory

PLAY: F-3 is in **Dead ball territory** when he jumps into the air, catches the ball and lands with both feet in live ball territory.

IS THIS A LEGAL CATCH?



JUMP from Dead ball territory into Live ball Territory is **NOT A CATCH.**

Ruling: No, THIS IS NOT A CATCH. Since he jumped from **dead ball territory**, and then lands in **live ball territory**. It is **NOT A CATCH** and the ball becomes **DEAD**. (2-9-1)