



April 1, 2026

NFHS Baseball Weekly Rule Interpretations

As more schools take the field, we inevitably encounter unusual situations, unexpected plays, and moments that test even the most prepared officials. One such play involves a batted fly ball and its interaction with an outfield wall or fence—an occurrence that can catch even experienced umpires off guard. The key to ruling correctly lies in how the ball responds after contacting a permanent structure, which will determine whether it is a home run or remains a live ball.

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 first-year and veteran umpires alike.

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



PLAY: The batter hits a deep fly ball to right field that, (A) hits the top of the outfield fence and then bounces over, or (B) hits the top of the outfield fence and bounces back into the field and is caught by the right fielder.

RULING: In (A), this is a homerun. In (B), this is **NOT** a catch, but the ball remains in play.

