

# Bats and Hands

There is a common mythical belief that the hands are part of the bat. They are not.

*1.10 -- The bat must be a baseball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards.*

No hands included.

*2.00 The **PERSON** of a player or an umpire is any part of the body, clothing or equipment.*

Note that it says “any part”. That includes hands.

Confusion reigns when a player is hit on the hands. There are several things that could happen in this event.

First, the ball is ALWAYS dead when a pitch hits the batter. Not fair. Not foul. Dead.

*5.09 -- The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases without liability to be put out, when -*

*(a) a pitched ball touches a batter, or the batter's clothing, while in a legal batting position; runners, if forced, advance*

If the pitch hits the batter, on the hands or anywhere else, he gets to go to first base EXCEPT:

*6.08 -- The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when –*

*(b) the batter is touched by a pitched ball which the batter is not attempting to hit unless (1) The ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or (2) the batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball;*

Note the “not attempting to hit” part. So, if he was swinging at the pitch, he stays at the plate and it is also a strike (and a dead ball) because:

*2.00 A **STRIKE** is a legal pitch which meets any of these conditions -*

*(e) Touches the batter's person as the batter strikes at it (dead ball);*

So the batter can go to first when hit on the hands (or anyplace else) unless he was attempting to hit the pitch, or the pitch was in the strike zone when the hit happened. Then it's just a dead ball and a strike – maybe even strike three.

In addition, the umpire can rule that the batter made no attempt to avoid being hit and not allow him to go to first. This almost never happens at any level of baseball. At the LL ages, many batters freeze up. All benefit of the doubt goes to the batter. The pitcher goofed – don't reward him.

The professional rule is the same.