CAL RIPKEN MAJOR 60 FT. BASEBALL DIVISION SPECIAL BASE RUNNING RULE

Rule: When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached home plate. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped his forward progress, the runner must *immediately* return to the base. (p 13-- 2017 Babe Ruth League, Inc Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules).

Interpretation:

A. The only opportunity a base runner has to advance to the next base is:
1) If the catcher bobbles the pitch—ball not in his glove
2) If the catcher overthrows on a pick-off at a base.
3) On any overthrow from one baseman to another or an overthrow to any fielder
4) Any wild pitch or passed ball
5) When advanced by a hit ball
6) When done so as a steal within the guidelines listed in #1-4

B. A runner cannot advance:
1) When the catcher has "clean" possession of a pitch ("secured" the ball).
2) When the pitcher has possession either on a throwback from the catcher or when in contact with the pitching rubber.
3) Once he has "stopped his forward" progress to another base.
4) On a throw-back from the catcher to the pitcher.

The runner cannot fake a "steal" by leaving the base while the catcher or pitcher has possession of the ball; trying to draw a throw to the base or to get into a run down. If a player tries to "bend the rules" by shuffling his feet to confuse the umpire as to when he has "stopped his forward progress" the umpire will use his best judgment and require the runner to return to the base. The word "*immediately*" in the rule is interpreted as meaning that the runner will return to the base as soon as he has made a stop in his one quick attempt allowed as indicated in section B above. The defense need not be concerned about his return to the base and a pickoff from the pitcher or catcher will not result in a putout on this return to the base.