CASE BOOK PLAY  2.9.1 SITUATION D:

This play has caused many questions throughout the state.

B1 hits a two hopper back to the PITCHER. F1 gloves the batted ball, but cannot get the ball out of his glove. He quickly removes the glove with the ball that is securely stuck inside the webbing of the glove and shovels the glove TO THE 1st BASEMAN who is in contact with first base. The first baseman catches the glove with the ball in it, just before the B1 touches first base. Is B1 out?

NFHS RULING:

B1 is OUT, because F3 had secure possession of the glove and ball.

We are to call the play exactly as presented: If the ball is a ground ball to the pitcher and the ball lodges in his glove he may toss the glove and ball to first base and only first base. He is not permitted to toss it to another base.

Even though this play is a one in a million occurrence, We must have a ruling and guide lines for making this call and and how to deal with other related plays. So for the sake of simplicity, in every other situation where a ground ball lodges in a fielders glove, We are to apply Rule 5.1.1 (f) and Rule 8.3.3 (c),

The ball is dead immediately and all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch.

If a fly ball or line drive lodges in a fielder’s glove, the batter is out and all other runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch.
QUESTION 1:

What if there are other runners on base, during PLAY 2.9.1 D, and they try to advance?

Until we receive instructions from the NFHS

RULING 1: After the play at first base, the umpire shall rule DEAD BALL, and place all other runners at the base they would have reached had the ball not lodged in the pitcher’s glove.

QUESTION 2:

What if the ground ball becomes lodged in a player’s glove, other than the pitcher, such as: (a) The short stop and he tosses it to the second baseman for a force out at second base?

RULING 2: On ground balls, that lodge in the glove of any fielder, OTHER THAN THE PITCHER:

Apply Rules 5.1.1 (f), 8.3.3 (c), and the ruling in the BASERUNNING AWARDS TABLE.

The ball is dead immediately and all runners are awarded 2 bases from the time of the pitch.

I agree this could be a harsh or unfair penalty in some cases, but remember this play is a rare occurrence and, unlike Case Book Play 2.9.1 D, we are supported by the Rule Book.

QUESTION 3:

What if a fly ball or line drive fair or foul becomes lodged in a fielder’s glove?

Ruling 3: Call the batter out and Apply Rules 5.1.1 (f) and 8.3.3 (c) – Dead Ball – 2 bases T.O.P.

QUESTION 4:

What if a THROWN BALL becomes lodged in a fielder’s glove?

RULING 4: Apply Rule 8.3.3 (c) or the ruling in the BASERUNNING AWARDS TABLE.

Remember: In all cases, except Case Book Play 2.9.1 D, the ruling is:

The ball is dead immediately and all runners are awarded 2 bases from the time of the pitch.
There appear to be some issues with what may and may not be WORN.

Players ARE PERMITTED to wear the ARMBAND SIGNAL BANDS, as they were designed to be worn-ON THE ARM OR WRIST, or placed (without exposure) in a pocket.

Hitters may wear them.

They MAY NOT be worn on the belt.

If a player is wearing a play list on the belt, politely ask him to wear it on his arm/wrist or put it in his pocket. If he does not comply, ask the coach to instruct the player.

While we do have a rule that says failure by a player to wear proper equipment after being so ordered by the umpire, shall be ejected (restricted to the bench). The situation, if possible, should be handled without an ejection (restriction to the bench).

Pitchers are not permitted to wear them. They are a distraction.

The 2019 Chapter Meeting guide does not quite agree with this ruling and will be changed for 2020.