Final NFHS Ruling on CASE BOOK PLAY 2.9.1 SITUATION D: Ball Lodged in Glove.

FROM:
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“The Ball in the Glove interpretation was an existing rule prior to 2004. While it is an extremely rare occurrence, the committee at that time felt that having a uniform interpretation benefited the member state associations. As you know, consistency is paramount with national rules. Baseball is one of the sports that we have a high percentage of states who adhere to our rules. With so many schools crossing state borders to compete, this is good for all coaches, umpires and more importantly, players.

In 2004, the current rules committee did not like the fact that a ball stuck in a glove could be thrown around and modified the interpretation. Again, with very rare occurrences, they made another interpretation not to allow that practice.

However, our current rules committee has seen no problem reinstating the old prior 2004 rule interpretation and has done so without any other stipulation. The ball is live until it meets the NFHS definition of a dead ball.

Pennsylvania will follow the final NFHS ruling:

If a ball lodges in a glove, play is to continue with a live ball lodged in the glove. When all playing action is concluded, the umpire will call “time”. 
INTERFERENCE BY THE BATTER.

Offensive Interference is an act, by the team at bat, which interferes with, impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder trying to make a play.

1. FOLLOW THROUGH (not to be confused with back swing) INTERFERENCE by the batter.

A hitter, on his swing follow through, is not permitted to interfere with a catcher’s play.

Penalty: Note: This is a delayed dead ball situation. When an attempt to put out a runner at any other base is unsuccessful, the batter is out and all runners must return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch. If the pitch is a third strike and in the umpire’s judgement interference prevents a possible out on the bases, two may be ruled out.

SITUATION: 1 out with R1 attempting to steal 2nd base. The batter swings and misses for strike three and his follow through knocks the ball out of the catcher’s mitt. The catcher quickly picks up the ball and throws it to second where R1 is called safe on a close play.

Ruling: The batter is out because of strike three and runner is ruled out because the follow through interference likely prevented an out at 2nd base. Rule 7-3-5-c PENALTY.

2. When the batter hinders a catcher’s attempt to retire a runner, by leaning over home plate or by stepping out of the batter’s box, interference may be called on the batter.

Penalty: This is a delayed dead ball situation. When an attempt to put out a runner at any other base is unsuccessful, the batter is out and all runners must return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch. If the pitch is a third strike and in the umpire’s judgement interference prevents a possible out on the bases, two may be ruled out. Rule 7-3-5-c PENALTY.

Note: The hitter’s momentum is not to be taken into consideration when enforcing this rule.

Note: The catcher does not have to make a throw. If the actions by the batter hinder the actions by the catcher, we have delayed dead ball interference. CASE BOOK PLAY 7.3.5 SITUATION A.