

It is illegal for a fielder to intentionally use thrown or detached equipment to play (catch, stop, slow down, etc.) a ball.

When this happens we have a delayed dead ball, much like obstruction.

If the fielder is playing a batted ball, the batter and runners are entitled to three bases from the time of the pitch (four if the batted ball was going to clear the outfield fence).

If the fielder is playing a thrown ball the batter and runners are entitled to two bases from the time of the throw.

If the fielder is playing a pitched ball the batter and runners are entitled to one base from the time of the pitch.

If the batter and runners each attain the base they would have been awarded, the delayed dead ball is canceled and the infraction ignored. A player may attempt to go further, they are then subject to being put out (just like obstruction, there is no protection past the base they would have been awarded).

Just as with any awarded base, players must touch the bases (or are subject to being put out on appeal).

If a pitched ball is being played by the catcher and no advantage is gained (nobody is trying to advance and no play is being made) then the infraction is ignored.