

May 3rd 1941.

Mr. Howard Engleman,
Dept. of Physical Education,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence Kansas.

Dear Mr. Engleman;

Replying to your inquiry just
received which is;

Premise;

"Our base ball class has been discussing the following rule on the play diagrammed on the accompanying form.

To explain the play in words;

The batter hits a ground ball down the first base line. There is a base runner on first base. The baserunner immediately starts for second base. The first baseman traps the ball and steps on first retiring the batter. Now the question is; what is the status of the runner?

- (A); Can he be put out at second by merely tagging second base?
- (B); Must he be tagged out?
- (C); Can he return safely to first if he is able to do so and still be safe or is he forced to take second the minute the ball is hit?" (End of quote.)

Rule Application; when base runners are out:

Rule 49;

Sec. II;

- (A) "If, when the batsman becomes a base runner, the first base, or the first and second bases, or the first, second and third bases be occupied, any base runner so occupying a base shall cease to be entitled to hold it, and may be put out at the next base in the same manner as in running to first base, or by being touched with the ball in the hand of a fielder at any time before any base runner following him in the batting order be put out, unless etc." (End of quote)

Definition of a Force Play:

Rule 52; (Second Paragraph);

- (B) "A force out can be made only when a base runner legally loses the right to a base he occupies by reason of the batsman becoming a base-runner and he is thereby forced to advance." (End of quote)