# LOOK BACK

**With just 60 feet between bases, this rule prevents any cat-and-mouse games between runners and the pitcher. The intent of the rule is to require baserunners to return to a base or continue to advance toward another base when the pitcher receives the ball within the circle.**

## MUSTS!

* Ball is live.
* Batter-runner has reached first base (or has been declared out if that occurs first).
* Pitcher has possession of the ball with both feet (completely or partially) within the pitcher’s circle.

# KEY TERMS

* A batter-runner who rounds first base toward second base can stop, but then must immediately, without stopping again, return to first or attempt to advance to second base.
* A batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and moves directly toward second base and stops is committed to second and must attempt to advance to second base.

### DON’T FORGET

Umpires should not call time, even if requested, until the pitcher has possession of the ball in the circle.



# ALL BETS OFF!

The pitcher, in control of the ball, initiates action to cause a reaction (fakes a throw on a baserunner), attempts to make a play on the runner or loses control of the ball. When that happens, the look-back rule is not in effect.