



OFFICIALS EDUCATION PROGRAM

BASE RUNNING



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INTRODUCTION

- 1. When a batter becomes a runner.**
- 2. Batter runner awarded first base.**
- 3. Touching, occupying, returning to a base.**
- 4. Base-running awards.**
- 5. Each runner is awarded.**
- 6. An award is from the base determined as follows.**
- 7. Batter runner is out when.**
- 8. Any runner is out when.**
- 9. Forced play slide rule.**
- 10. Obstruction.**
- 11. Batted ball striking runner.**
- 12. Player misses home plate.**



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MEASURABLE OUTCOME

“At the conclusion of this unit the individual should be able to.”

- 1. Determine proper awards of bases in various situations.**
- 2. Determine when a runner is declared out.**
- 3. Correctly applying the “Forced Place Slide Rule”.**



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WHEN A BATTER BECOMES A RUNNER

- 1. He hits a fair ball.**
- 2. He is charged with a third strike. (NOTE) If a third strike is caught, he is out an instant after he becomes a runner.**
- 3. An intentional base on balls is awarded, or a fourth ball is called.**
- 4. A pitched ball hits his person or clothing, provided he does not strike at the ball.**
- 5. Exception: If the batter makes no effort to avoid being hit or the umpire call the pitched ball a strike, the hitting of the batter is disregarded except that the ball is dead.**



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WHEN A BATTER BECOMES A RUNNER

- 6. The catcher or any other defensive player obstructs him.**
- 7. The coach/captain of the team at bat “after being informed” by the umpire-in-chief of the obstruction, shall indicate whether or not he elects to decline the obstruction penalty and accept the resulting play.**
- 8. Such election shall be made:**
 - Before the next pitch (legal or illegal).**
 - Before the award of an intentional base on balls.**
 - Before all 6 infielders leave the diamond.**
 - Obstruction of the batter is ignored if B/R reaches first and “all other runners” advance at least one base.**
 - Note: Or play or attempted play.**



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WHEN A BATTER BECOMES A RUNNER

- 9. Note #1** Any runner attempting to steal on a catcher's obstruction of the batter shall be awarded the base he is attempting. If a runner is not attempting to advance on the catcher's obstruction, he shall not be entitled to the next base, if not forced to advance because of the batter-runner being awarded first base.
- 10. Note #2** If obstruction is enforced, all other runners on the play will return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- 11. Note #3** If obstruction is not enforced, all other runners advance at their own risk.



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*A BATTER-RUNNER IS AWARDED FIRST
BASE WHEN*

- 1. He becomes a runner because of a base on balls-hit batsman-catcher's obstruction.**
- 2. His fair ball, other than an infield fly, becomes dead and provided a preceding runner or retired runner does not interfere in such a way as to prevent a potential double play.**



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TOUCHING, OCCUPYING AND RETURNING TO A BASE

- 1. An advancing runner shall touch first base, second base, third base, and then home plate in order, including awarded bases.**
- 2. A returning runner. If the ball is dead because of an uncaught foul, it is not necessary for a returning runner to retouch intervening bases. The umpire will not make the ball live until the runner returns to the appropriate base within proximity.**
- 3. A runner who misses a base while advancing may not return to touch it after a following runner has scored.**



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TOUCHING, OCCUPYING AND RETURNING TO A BASE

- 4. If a batted ball (fair or foul other than a foul tip) is caught. Each runner shall touch his base after the batted ball has “touched” a fielder.**
- 5. If a batter-runner is entitled to return to first base after overrunning it or if a runner fails to touch home base and desires to return, he shall return immediately.**
- 6. Penalty for advancing or returning or failure to tag-up after a foul ball. (Rule 8-2 Art 1-5).**



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TOUCHING, OCCUPYING AND RETURNING TO A BASE

- 7. If the ball becomes dead and the runner is “on or beyond a succeeding base,” he cannot return to the missed base and is subject to being declared out upon a proper and successful appeal.**
- 8. For a given runner, a force play ends as soon as he touches the next base or a following runner is put out at a, previous base. When a runner advances beyond a base to which he is forced without touching it the force remains. Also, a force is reinstated when a runner retreats back past the base to which he was forced to advance.**
- 9. A force in effect at the time of the pitch remains in effect for the following play only if a base running error occurs before a following runner is put out.**



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EACH RUNNER OTHER THAN THE BATTER-RUNNER IS AWARDED ONE BASE WHEN

- 1. There is a balk or a pitch strikes a runner.**
- 2. He is forced from the base.**
- 3. He is attempting to steal.**
- 4. When a runner is obstructed.**



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EACH RUNNER IS AWARDED

- 1. Four bases (home run) if a fair ball goes over a fence in flight or hits a foul pole above the fence, or is prevented from going over by being touched by a spectator or is touched by an illegal glove/ mitt or detached player equipment which is thrown, tossed, kicked or held by a fielder.**
- 2. Three bases if a batted ball is touched by an illegal glove or mitt, or by detached player equipment which is thrown, tossed, kicked or held by a fielder provided the ball, when touched is a fair ball whole on or over foul ground, or is over foul ground in a situation such as it might become a fair hit.**



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EACH RUNNER IS AWARDED

- 3. Two bases if a fair batted or thrown ball becomes dead because of bouncing over or passing through a fence; or lodges in a defensive players or umpires equipment or uniform.**
- 4. Two bases if a live thrown ball, including a pitch, is touched by an illegal glove, mitt or by detached player equipment which is thrown, tossed, kicked or held by a fielder.**
- 5. Two bases if a live thrown ball goes into a stand for spectators, dugout or player's or over or through or lodges in a fence and is not thrown by a pitcher from his plate.**



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EACH RUNNER IS AWARDED

6. **When 2 runners are between the same bases on an overthrow into dead ball territory, the lead runner receives 2 bases and the following runner is awarded one, since both runners share the same awarded base.**
7. **Runners between second and third would both score, because the award does not in both runners occupying the same base.**



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EACH RUNNER IS AWARDED

- 8. One base:** If a pitch or any throw by the pitcher from his pitching position on his plate goes into a stand or bench, or over or through, or lodges in a fence or backstop, or touches a spectator, or lodges in an umpire's or catcher's equipment.
- 9. One Base:** With less than two out the batter hits a fair or foul fly or line drive which is caught by a fielder, who then leaves the field of play by stepping with both feet or by falling into a bench, dugout,, stand, bleacher or over any boundary or barrier such as a fence, rope, chalk line, or pre-game determined imaginary boundary line. **Note:** The act shall not be deliberate.



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EACH RUNNER IS AWARDED

- 10. Bases as determined by the umpire who shall also impose such penalties as in his judgment will nullify the act of spectator interference with any thrown or batted ball. The ball shall become dead at the moment of the interference.**
- 11. Illegal use of detached player equipment does not cause the ball to immediately become dead. If each runner advances to or beyond the base, which he would have reached as a result of the award, the infraction is ignored.**
- 12. Any runner who advances beyond the base he would have been awarded does so at his own risk and may be put out.**



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AN AWARD IS FROM THE BASE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS

- 1. If the award is the penalty for an infraction such as a balk, or use of detached player equipment, or an illegal glove/mitt, the award is from the base occupied at the time of the infraction.**
- 2. If any pitch (batted or not batted) is followed by a dead ball, before the pitcher is in position for the next pitch, and before there is any throw by the fielding team, any award is from the base occupied at the time of the pitch.**
- 3. When a runner, who is returning to touch a base after a batted ball has been caught is prevented from doing so because a thrown live ball has become dead his award shall be from the base he occupied at the time of the pitch.**



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AN AWARD IS FROM THE BASE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS

- 4. If any situation on a batted ball which is the first play by an infielder, all runners including the batter-runner are awarded two bases from their positions at the time of the pitch. For purposes of this rule, the act of fielding is not considered a play.**
- 5. For any subsequent play by an infielder, or for any throw by an outfielder, the award is two bases from the time of the throw.**
- 6. Approved-ruling (When every runner, including the batter-runner has advanced one base at the time of the first play, the award is two bases from the time of the throw).**



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A BATTER IS OUT WHEN

- 1. He intentionally interferes with the catcher's attempt to field the ball after a third strike.**
- 2. His fair hit or his foul (other than a foul tip) which is not strike three is caught by a fielder, or such catch is prevented by a spectator.**
- 3. His fair fly ball, fair line drive or fair bunt in flight is intentionally dropped by an infielder with at least first base occupied before two are out and the ball is dead. Note: In this situation the batter is not out if the fielder permits the ball to drop untouched to the ground, except for an infield fly.**



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A BATTER IS OUT WHEN

- 4. After hitting or bunting a ball, he “intentionally” contacts the ball with the bat a second time in fair or foul territory. The ball is dead and no runner (s) advance. EXCEPTION: If the bat and ball accidentally come in contact with each other a second time while the batter is holding the bat in the batter’s box. It is a foul ball.**
- 5. A third strike is caught (usually by the catcher but might be by a fielder if the ball rebounds from the catcher after first touching the catcher’s glove or hand); or third strike is not caught while a runner is on first and fewer than two are out.**



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A BATTER IS OUT WHEN

- 6. After a third strike or a fair hit; if the ball held by any fielder touches the batter before the batter touches first base; or if any fielder, while holding the ball in his grasp, touches first base or touches first base with the ball before the batter-runner touches first base.**
- 7. He runs outside the three-foot lines (last half of the distance from home to first base) while the ball is being fielded or thrown there.**
- 8. Any runner or retired runner interferes in a way, which obviously hinders an obvious double play.**
- 9. With two out, on a dropped third strike, does not attempt to reach first base before all infielders leave the diamond, the half inning ends, or he gives up by entering the bench or dugout area.**



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A BATTER IS OUT WHEN

10. He enters the game as an illegal substitute and is discovered.



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 1. He runs more than three feet from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged.**
- 2. NOTE: When a play is being made on a runner, he establishes his baseline as directly between his position and the base toward which he is moving.**
- 3. NOTE: As a rule of thumb – Any runner, who goes beyond a fielder's arm reach, shall be considered out of his base path.**



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 4. He intentionally interferes with a throw or a thrown ball, or he hinders a fielder attempting to field a batted ball, or his being put out is prevented by an illegal act by anyone connected with the team or by the batter-runner, for a runner returning to a base and for a runner being hit by a batted ball.**
- 5. If in the judgment of the umpire, a runner or (including the batter-runner) interferes in any way and prevents a double play anywhere, two shall be called out (the interferer and the other runner involved).**



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 6. If a retired runner interferes and in the judgment of the umpire, another runner could have been put out, the umpire shall declare the other runner out. If the umpire is uncertain who would have been played on the runner closest to home shall be called out also. If the batter-runner interferes, the umpire shall call him out and the runner who has advanced the nearest to home base.**
- 7. Is touched by a live ball securely held by a fielder or is touched by a fielder's glove or hand with the ball there-in, while the runner is not touching his base.**



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 8. NOTE: A batter-runner who safely touches first base and then over-slides or overruns it, except on a base on balls may return immediately to first base without liability of being tagged out.**



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 9. Does not retouch his base before a fielder tags him out or holds the ball while touching such base after any situation where they must retag. Umpire may also call him out at the end of playing action upon proper appeal.**
- 10. Fails to reach the next base before a fielder tags him out or holds the ball while touching such base, after runner has been forced from the base he occupied because the batter became a runner (with ball in play) when other runners were on base. There shall be no accidental appeals on a force play.**



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 11. When hit by a fair batted ball before it passes a fielder other than the pitcher, or when a fair ball contacts him before passing through, but is not touched by an infielder, other than the pitcher. The umpire in this situation is convinced that another infielder had a chance to make a play on the ball had it not contacted the runner.**
- 12. Exception: If a runner is touching his base when he is hit by an infield fly, he is not out, but the batter is out by the infield fly rule.**
- 13. Attempts to advance to home base when the batter interferes with a play at home base, provided two are not already out. Note: With two out the batter is out.**



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 14. Passes an unobstructed preceding runner before such runner is out.**
- 15. Runs bases in reverse to confuse opponents, occurs when pitcher is in contact with the rubber.**
- 16. Positions himself behind a base to get a running start.**
- 17. He does not slide or attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag or if he maliciously runs into a fielder. Hurdling is prohibited (unless the fielder is lying on the ground or the runner hurdles over a fielder's outstretched arm).**



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ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

- 18. On a force play at any base (except first base) the runner or retired runner fails to execute a legal slide or if he does slide, fails to avoid the fielder on the play.**
- 19. Note: If such action by the runner, the batter-runner or retired runner causes illegal contact and or illegally alters the play, interference “shall be called.”**
- 20. After at least touching first base, he leaves the baseline, obviously abandoning his effort to touch the next base.**



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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE



LEGAL-Straight into base with one leg & buttock on ground...leg no higher than fielder's knee.



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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE

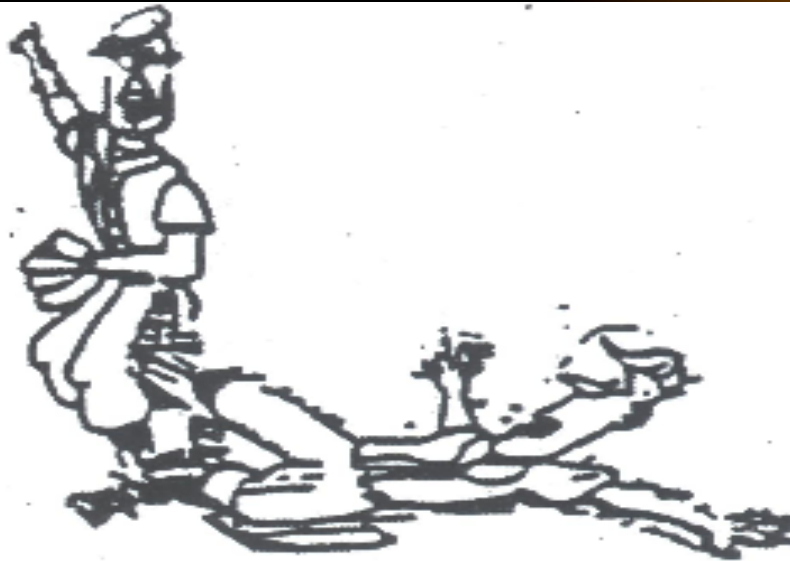


ILLEGAL-Not straight to base..sliding toward fielder either attempting or **NOT** attempting to make a throw..contact not necessary.



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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE



ILLEGAL-Slide carries thru base making contact with fielder.. also leg higher than fielder knee.. contact not necessary.. in play altered.



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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE



ILLEGAL-Pop-up slide..if
contact or alters play...
legal otherwise.



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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE



ILLEGAL-Rolling or cross-body block always illegal and if flagrant enough, cause for ejection.



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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE

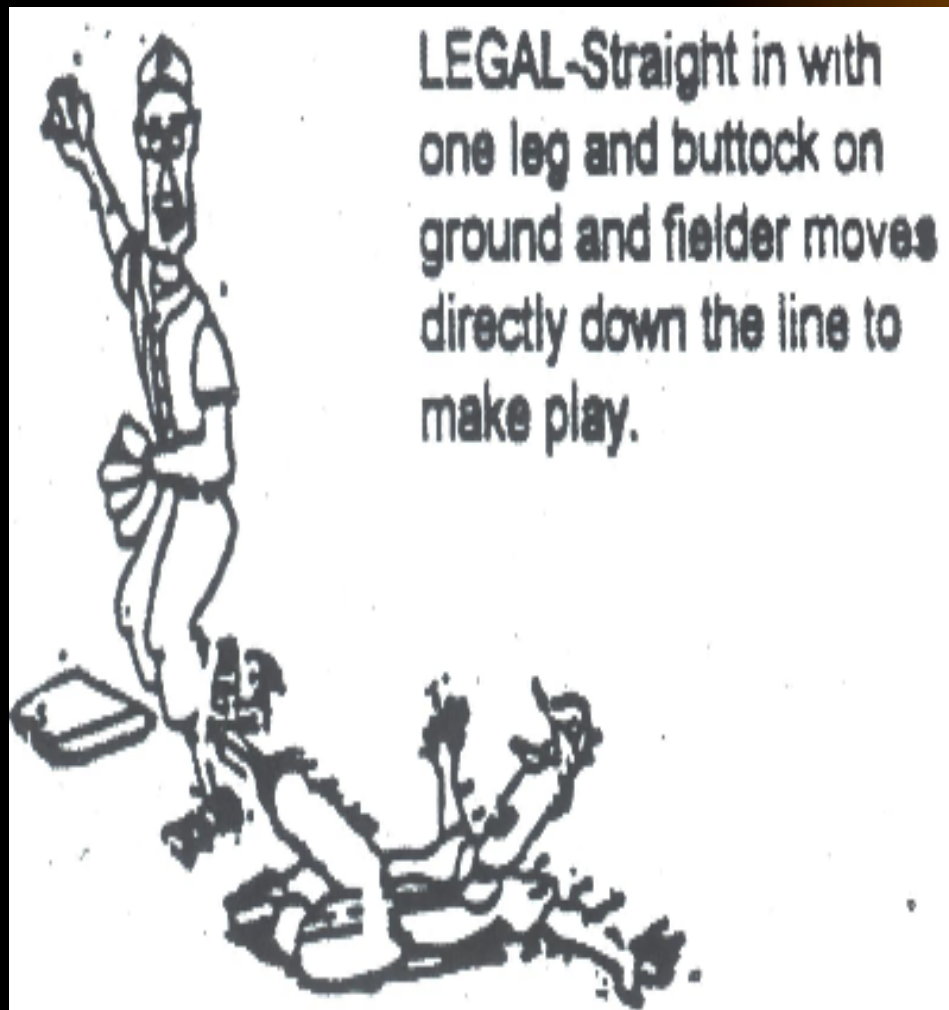


ILLEGAL-Runner slides directly into base but contact is made with runners foot higher than the fielder's knee.



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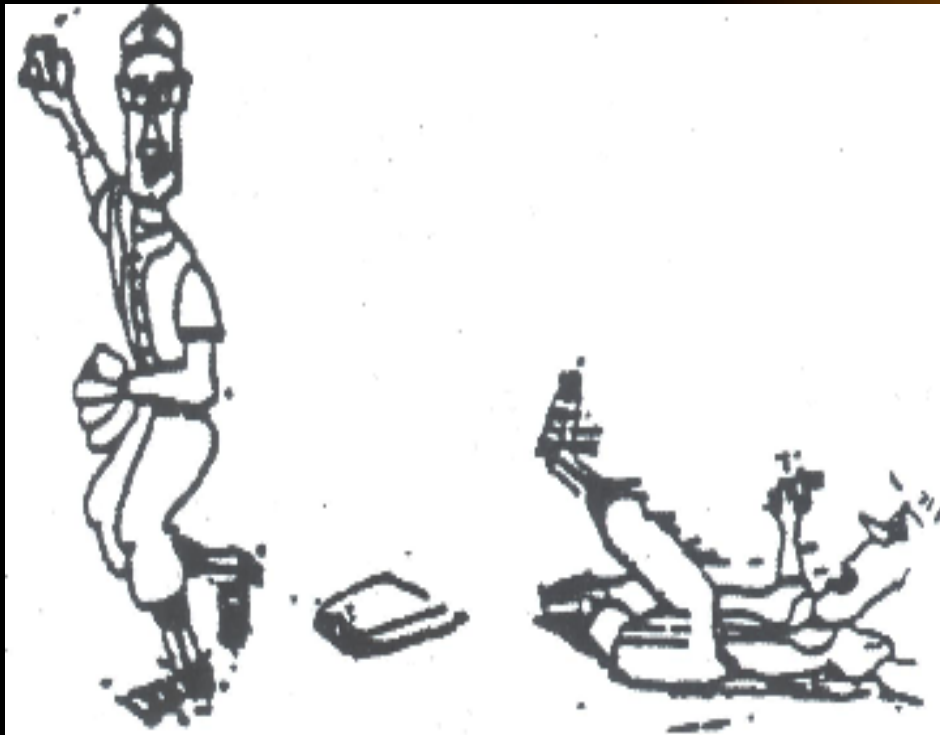
FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE





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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE



LEGAL-Runner sliding away from the base to avoid making contact with or altering play of fielder.



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FORCED PLAY SLIDE RULE

ALWAYS CALL THE OFFENDING
RUNNER AND BATTER-RUNNER
OUT FOR THESE VIOLATIONS OF
SAFETY RULES..NO OTHER RUN-
NERS MAY ADVANCE.



OBSTRUCTION

- 1. Definition - Obstruction is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner.**
- 2. Note: If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in direct flight toward and near enough to the fielder so he must occupy his position to receive the ball, he may be considered “in the act of fielding the ball.”**
- 3. A fielder without possession of the ball must give the runner access to the base or plate. Access is umpire judgment.**



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OBSTRUCTION

4. **After a fielder has made an attempt to field a ball and has missed he can no longer be in the act of fielding the ball.**
5. **Example- If a fielder dives at a ground ball and the ball passes him and he continues to lie on the ground and delays the progress of the runner, he very likely has obstructed the runner.**
6. **In all cases of obstruction the umpire calling the play should have the benefit of the advice of his partner (s). The umpire watching the obstruction will have difficulty in determining the position of the runners. It is recommended that when time is called on obstruction, if there is any doubt in the minds of the umpires about where the runner/runners shall be placed, the umpires shall confer.**



OBSTRUCTION EXAMPLES

- 1. Runner is obstructed during a rundown.**
- 2. Runner is obstructed as a fielder is making a direct throw to a base in an attempt to retire that runner.**
- 3. Batter-runner is obstructed before first base on a ground ball to an infielder.**
- 4. Batter-runner is obstructed rounding first base on a hit while the ball is in the outfield.**
- 5. Runner from first steals second. F2's throw is wild and goes into centerfield; then the runner is obstructed in attempting to advance to third base. Ball is loose in the outfield when obstruction occurs.**



OBSTRUCTION EXAMPLES

- 6. Runner is obstructed while rounding third base on a hit to the outfield.**
- 7. Fake tags are obstruction. By definition it is an act by a defensive player without the ball that simulates a tag.**
- 8. When obstruction occurs, the umpire gives the delayed dead ball signal and calls out obstruction. The umpire is to point directly at the obstruction while calling loudly and clearly obstruction. The ball is not dead, however, the umpire shall allow play to continue until all play has ceased and no further action is possible. At that moment, the umpire shall call time and impose such penalties, if any in his judgment will nullify the act of obstruction.**



OBSTRUCTION

PENALTY:

The obstructed runner is awarded a minimum of one base beyond his position on the base when the obstruction occurred. If any preceding runner is forced to advance by the awarding of a base or bases to an obstructed runner, the umpire shall award this preceding runner the necessary base or bases.



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A RUNNER OBSTRUCTED WHILE NO PLAY IS BEING MADE

In determining what base a runner will be awarded the umpire is to consider the position of the runner, ball, and fielder at the moment the obstruction occurs. However, the decision on placing the runners shall not, be made until all play has ceased and shall be based on the principle that the obstructed runner will be entitled to the base he would have reached had no obstruction occurred.



BATTED BALL STRIKING THE RUNNER

- 1. Runner on second base, one out. Batter hits a ground ball toward the hole. The third basemen charges in on the grass to try to cut it off as the short stop breaks deep toward the hole while runner is advancing. The ball gets past the third baseman without being touched by him and strikes the runner in the base path. The shortstop had a play on the ball.**
- 2. RULING: Runner from second is out and the batter-runner is awarded first base. The ball passed by but was not touched by an infielder other than the pitcher before striking the runner. However, another fielder behind the runner was deprived of an opportunity to field the ball.**



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RUNNER MISSES HOME PLATE

Should a runner in scoring fail to touch home plate and continue on his way to the bench, he may be put out by the fielder touching home plate and the umpire calling the runner out (end of playing action) upon proper appeal. However, this rule applies only where a runner is on his way to the bench and the catcher, would be required to chase him.

Note 1 It does not apply to the ordinary play where the runner “misses” the plate and then immediately makes an effort to touch the plate before being tagged.



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RUNNER MISSES HOME PLATE

Note 2: On a play at the plate, should the runner miss the plate and the fielder miss the tag, the umpire shall make “NO SIGNAL” on the play. The runner must then be tagged if he attempts to return to the plate; if he continues to the bench, the defense may make an appeal.



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QUESTIONS



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SUMMARY

- 1. When batter becomes a runner.**
- 2. Batter runner awarded first base.**
- 3. Touching, occupying, returning to a base.**
- 4. Base-running awards.**
- 5. Batter-runner is out when.**
- 6. Any runner is out when.**
- 7. Forced play slide rule.**
- 8. Obstruction.**
- 9. Batted ball striking runner.**
- 10. Player misses home plate.**



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POST TEST

1. **R1 on second, and R2 on first, no outs ground ball to second baseman, the ball is fielded cleanly, flipped to the shortstop to retire R2, however the relay throw to first eludes the first baseman and goes into the stands. What is the proper call?**
2. **RULING: Two outs, R1 scores, and the Batter-runner is awarded second base.**
3. **R1 on second, and R2 on first, no outs ground ball to second baseman, the ball is fielded cleanly, throw to shortstop is wild and goes into dead ball territory. What is the proper call?**
4. **Ruling: No outs, R1 scores, R2 is awarded 3rd base and the batter runner is awarded second base. Rationale: On the first play by an infielder, the throw goes into dead ball territory awards are two bases from the time of the pitch.**



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POST TEST

5. **R1 on first base, one out, ground ball to second baseman, batted ball (after passing the base umpire strikes the runner in the base-path. Make the call.**
6. **Ruling: “Time”, runner is out batter-runner awarded first base.**



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POST TEST

7. With bases loaded, no outs, ground ball to second baseman, which is fielded cleanly, flipped to shortstop who steps on second with the following slide, wildly throws the relay into the stands. Make the call and which umpire should call it.



ILLEGAL-Not straight to base..sliding toward fielder either attempting or NOT attempting to make a throw..contact not necessary.



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POST TEST

8. **RULING:** Time. Plate umpire enforces forced play slide rule for the illegal slide at second base. R3 and batter-runner declared out. Runner R1 returned to third base. Runner R2 returned to second base.