

INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS:

- Any runner after reaching first base who leaves the baseline heading for his/her dugout or his/her position believing that there is no further play, may be declared out if the umpire judges the act of the runner to be considered abandoning his/her efforts to run the bases. Even though an out is called, the ball remains in play in regard to any other runner. **PLAY:** Runner believing he/she is called out on a tag at first or third base starts for the dugout and progresses a reasonable distance still indicating by his/her actions that he/she is out, shall be declared out for abandoning the bases.
- When to call him/her out? Whenever he/she obviously “gives up” and heads towards his/her dugout or, at the end of an inning, towards his/her defensive position. But wait until the runner is on foul ground or well onto the outfield grass before you declare an out.

- (3) the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag; or

Baseball A.R.—There is no “must slide rule.”

EXAMPLE: - Comment: There is “no” must slide rule. The rule is slide or attempt to get around. The key in this situation is “fielder has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.”

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- Hurdling or going over the defensive player that has the ball and is waiting to make a tag is a legal maneuver. Rule 7.08(a) (3) does not prevent or make hurdling illegal.
- **Rule 7.08(a-3)** is easily the most misunderstood rule in the book. It is easily broken down as follows:
 - (1) The fielder must have the ball in his/her possession; **AND**
 - (2) The fielder must be **WAITING** to make the tag;
 If **BOTH** of those two criteria are satisfied, then the runner must **EITHER**:
 - (1) **Slide**; **OR**
 - (2) **ATTEMPT** to get around the fielder.
- Notice that the rule says, “attempt to get around”, not “avoid”. Contact may occur with no penalty assessed.
- There is no “Must Slide” rule and no league may create one. No league may modify **Rule 7.08(a-3)**.

- (4) (**Tee Ball, Little League (Minor/Major Divisions only)**): the runner slides head first while advancing

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- This rule does not apply when a runner is returning to a base, only when advancing to a base. Any runner who does a headfirst slide is out at the moment the umpire sees the runner go into the headfirst slide. The ball remains alive and in play and runners may advance at their own risk and plays may be attempted on any other runners. If the runner who is called out for sliding headfirst has been forced to advance by the batter-runner this will be a force out and no runs will score if this is the third out of the inning. In all other instances the headfirst slide will be a timing play when there are two outs.

- (5) (a) **Softball: Major/Junior/Senior League Divisions:** the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery. **NOTE:** Major Division: A local league may adopt a rule that requires the runner to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter, or be called out.
- (b) **Softball: Minor League/Tee Ball:** the runner fails to keep in contact with the base which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.

NOTE 1: If the ball slips from the pitcher’s hand before, during, or up to the delivery of a pitch, the ball will remain in play and the runner(s) may advance at their own risk (see 8.07(a) Dropped Ball). When a runner is off a base after a pitch or as a result of a batter completing a turn at bat, and while the pitcher has the ball within the eight (8) foot radius circle, the runner must immediately attempt to advance to the next base or return to the base the runner is entitled to.

NOTE 2: If the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher’s circle, and is not making a play (a fake throw is considered a play), runners not in contact with their bases must immediately attempt to advance or return to base.

PENALTY: The ball is dead. “No Pitch” is declared and the runner is out. Eight (8) foot radius circle must be properly marked

Softball: A.R.—After making a decision, should the runner stop again without a play being made before reaching the base, he/she shall be called out. The responsibility for the runners to advance or return is removed if the pitcher attempts a play on a runner.

- (b) intentionally interferes with a thrown ball; or hinders a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball; (**NOTE:** A runner who is adjudged to have hindered a fielder who is attempting to make a play on a batted ball is out whether it was intentional or not);