



Gayle Goodman, District 9

INTERFERENCE/OBSTRUCTION

Interference

Always remember certain things

- a) Offensive member is the cause
- b) Ball is "DEAD" ...99% of the time
- c) At least one person is out
- d) Whoever caused it is out **
- e) Contact is not necessary
- f) Sometimes....stuff just happens


Definition

- Any act (physical or verbal) by a member of the team at bat that impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play



Batter

Ways to interfere

- a) Steal or pickoff
 - b) Play at the plate
 - c) Batter is the one who is ALWAYS out
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Runner

Ways to interfere

- a) Struck by batted ball...is runner in front of or behind fielder? VERY IMPORTANT!!!!
- b) Double play ball. Did she interfere after being put out? How many outs and who?
- c) Crash-Definition; When a defensive player has the ball and runner remains upright and crashes into the defensive player
- d) Ball is dead, runner is out , base runners return and if act is flagrant, the offender shall be ejected

On Deck Batter

- In this case you obviously can't call the on deck batter out so.....who do we call out?
- If it involves a **runner**, the runner closest to home is declared out
- If it involves a **defensive player** fielding the ball, the **batter** is out
- Interferes with misplayed ball, but no play is on runners?????

Coach

- **ANYTIME** a coach interferes with a thrown **OR** batted ball, the ball is declared dead and runner closest to home is **OUT!!!**
- Coach can also interfere by aiding runner on fly ball being caught.
- In this case the runner being aided is out **(immediately)**, but the ball remains **LIVE**

Case Plays

- a) With infield playing in, batter hits a line shot right past the 1st baseman and strikes the runner in contact with 1st base bag
 - a1) not in contact with bag)
- b) Slow Pitch 1st baseman is playing back and runner is struck by hit ball and in contact with the bag at 1st base
 - b1) not in contact with bag at first base

Answers

Ball is live in a and a1 because fielder was playing in front of the base when runner was struck

b) Ball is dead and runner hit by ball is awarded 2nd and batter runner is awarded 1st base


B1) Ball is dead and runner hit by ball is out. Batter runner is awarded 1st base

OBSTRUCTION


Definition


Obstruction is the act of a fielder

- a) Not in possession of the ball or
- b) Not in the act of fielding a batted ball
which impedes the progress of a batter
runner or runner who is legally running the
bases



Most common forms of Obstruction

- First baseman most common when ball is hit to the outfield but other fielders at their bags are good at it also
 - Catcher obstruction
 - Run Downs
 - Play at any base and fielder not in possession of the ball
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In past years coaches taught their players to block the base, catch the ball and make the tag. Now defensive players must catch the ball, block the base and then make the tag.

Things to remember

- Umpire will give the delayed ball signal and ball remains live
- If obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the base they would have reached had obstruction not occurred, a dead ball is called and the runner and all other runners affected by obstruction shall be awarded the bases they would have reached had there been no obstruction.
- A runner cannot be called out between the two bases the runner was obstructed
- 5 Exceptions (interference, passing runner, leaving early, missing a base, crash)

Rules Supplement 13G

- When the ball , runner and defensive player arrive at the same time and place , and contact is made , the umpire should not invoke the crash rule , interference , or obstruction. This is merely incidental contact, or what some persons commonly call , “a wreck”