

# Interference

# Interference definition

**INTERFERENCE:** The act of an offensive player or team member, umpire or spectator that impedes, hinders, or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play. Contact is not necessary.

# Are there more types of interference?

Yes, there are 3 other types

- Spectator
- Umpire
- Defensive

# How are they ruled?

Spectator interference results in runners being placed where they would have reached. We have a 0.00000001% chance in either adults or recreational.

Umpire interference results in a dead ball....usually. With the positioning we teach, you should NEVER be the reason.

Defensive interference is not an out...it is called obstruction.

# Interference mechanic

Call time. When the offense causes interference, the player that caused the interference is out. Runners are returned to their last legally occupied base.

You do not need to physically hinder the defensive player. For example, as the runner passes the fielder making a play on the ball yells “I got it”.

## Inference examples

1. Runner from 1<sup>st</sup> is hit by a batted ball as they run in front of the fielder. Penalty: The ball is dead and the runner is out. All other runner(s) return.
2. Offensive player is outside the dugout. A thrown ball is missed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman and is picked by the player. The ball is dead. The runner that was being played on is out and all runners return to last legally acquired base.
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman is fielding fly ball. The runner yells, “I’ve got it”. The ball is dead and the runner is out.

# Common sense and fair play principle

## Examples:

Runner yells “I’ve got it” and the fielder makes the catch. Warn the player but no additional outs need to be called.

Defensive player outside the dugout and a thrown ball is heading toward them. They reach down and pick up the ball. No runners are advancing. Call time, ask the player not to do that again. Hint: If they were in the dugout, no issue....