



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

Training

Monday, October 25, 2021

Online Presentation and Video Training Expectations

This training presentation and videos are a tool for you to expand your knowledge and make proper and comprehensive determinations during play. The information presented is directly from the NFHS rule book, with corresponding video examples.

HCUA hopes these short training videos assist you in making the appropriate calls during your games.

Training Agenda

Obstruction

and

Interference

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

Obstruction (Definition 2-36)

Obstruction is the act of the defensive team member that hinders or impedes a batter's attempt to make contact with a pitched ball or that impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running bases, unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is making the initial play on a batted ball. The act may be intentional or unintentional, physical or verbal.

Obstruction 8-4-3-b

(not including Catcher's Obstruction with a batter)

b. a fielder not in possession of the ball or not making an initial play on a batted ball, impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running bases. Obstructed runners are still required to touch all bases in proper order, or they could be called out on a proper appeal by the defensive team. Should an act of interference occur following any obstruction, enforcement of the interference penalty would have precedence.

PENALTY: (Art. 3b) When any obstruction occurs (including a rundown), the umpire will signal a delayed dead ball. The ball will remain live.

a. **If the obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the base that would have been reached had there not been obstruction, a dead ball is called and the obstructed runner and each other runner affected by the obstruction will be awarded the base or bases which would have been reached, in the umpire's judgment, had there not been obstruction. An obstructed runner may not be called out between the two bases where she was obstructed.**

EXCEPTIONS

1. When an obstructed runner, after the obstruction, safely obtains or returns to the base she would have been awarded, in the umpire's judgment, had there been no obstruction and there is a subsequent play on a different runner, the obstructed runner is no longer protected between the bases where she was obstructed and may be put out.
2. When properly appealed for missing a base or leaving a base before a fly ball was first touched while advancing. If obstruction occurred while a runner was returning to touch the base, she is protected.
3. When committing an act of interference.
4. When passing another runner.
5. When the batter flies out for the third out.
6. When the batter-runner is obstructed between two bases, and she flies out.

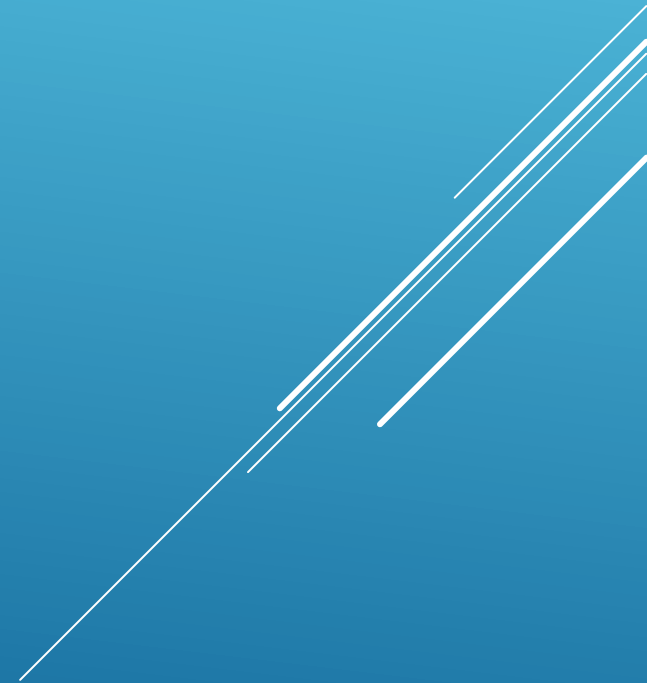
Obstruction Related Videos

Obstruction at First Base

Obstruction at Home

Obstruction at Home (No Call)

Obstruction at Third



Catchers or Fielders Obstruction involving a batter (8-1-d and 8-1-e)


d. the catcher or another defensive player obstructs, hinders or prevents the batter from striking or hitting a pitched ball.

EFFECTS:

- 1. The umpire shall give a delayed dead-ball signal.**
- 2. If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely and if all other runners have advanced at least one base on the batted ball, catcher obstruction is canceled. All action as a result of the batted ball stands. No option is given. Once a runner has passed a base, the runner is considered to have reached that base (whether missing the base or not) and no options are given.**
- 3. Otherwise, the coach or captain of the team at bat, after being informed by the plate umpire of the obstruction, has the option to take the result of the play, or have the obstruction enforced by awarding the batter first base and advancing all other runners only if forced.**



Catcher's Obstruction Video Example



SIGNAL

- From a standing set position raise the left arm shoulder height, fully extended;
- At the same time make a closed fist with the left hand;
- Hold this position for a two second count.

CALL

- “OBSTRUCTION”

**PROPER SOFTBALL
UMPIRE MECHANIC**

**OBSTRUCTION/ILLEGAL
PITCH**

DELAYED DEAD BALL

Interference

Interference is an act (physical or verbal) by a member of the team at bat who illegally impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder; or when a runner creates malicious contact with any fielder with or without the ball, in or out of the baseline.

Interference by Runner (8-6-10 through 14)

ART. 10 ... The runner interferes:

- a. with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a fair batted ball. (2-47)
- b. with a fielder attempting to field a fly ball over foul territory.
- c. with a fielder attempting to throw the ball.
- d. intentionally with a fielder or thrown ball.

NOTE: Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder only if the fielder is lying on the ground.

ART. 11 ... The runner is struck with a fair untouched batted ball while not in contact with a base and before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher, or if it passes an infielder and any fielder has an opportunity to make an out.

ART. 12 ... The runner intentionally contacts a fair ball that an infielder has missed.

ART. 13 ... The runner does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of the fielder in the immediate act of making a play on her. Runners are never required to slide but, if the runner elects to slide, the slide shall be legal.

ART. 14 ... She remains on her feet and maliciously crashes into a defensive player. Malicious contact supersedes obstruction.

Interference by Runner - Penalty

PENALTY: (Arts. 10 through 14) The ball is dead and the runner is out. Each other runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference. When a runner is called out for interference, the batter-runner is awarded first base and credited with a fielder's choice. If this interference, in the judgment of the umpire, is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play and occurs before the runner is put out, the immediate succeeding runner shall also be called out. If interference occurs by the runner on a foul fly ball, the runner is out and the ball is dead. A foul ball is called in this situation and the batter remains at bat unless it was a bunt attempt with two strikes on the batter (F.P) or it was the third strike (S.P); the batter is also out in these cases. (Art. 14) The runner is also ejected.

Related Video Examples

Runner Interference (2nd to 3rd)

Runner Interference at 3rd and Foul

Runner Interference (Double Play)

Interference by Batter (7-4-4)

ART. 4 ... The batter interferes with the catcher's fielding or throwing by leaning over home plate, by stepping out of the batter's box, by making any movement which hinders action at home after the pitch reaches the catcher or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner, or by failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate congested area when there is a throw to home and there is time for the batter to move away.

PENALTY: The ball is dead immediately. Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference. (8-6-10)

Video Example

Batter Interference during Steal Attempt

Interference by Batter-Runner (8-2-6 through 8)

ART. 6 ... She runs outside the three-foot (0.91m) lane and, in the judgment of the umpire, interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base (there must be a throw); however, the batter-runner may run outside the three-foot (0.91m) lane to avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball. A runner is considered outside the running lane if either foot is completely outside the lane and in contact with the ground.

ART. 7 ... The batter-runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make an initial play, interferes with a fielder attempting to throw the ball, intentionally interferes with a thrown ball while out of the batter's box, makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base, or (F.P.) interferes with a dropped third strike. If this interference, in the umpire's judgment, is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play, the runner closest to home plate shall be called out. A batter-runner being hit with a thrown ball does not necessarily constitute interference.

ART. 8 ... The batter-runner interferes with a play at home plate in an attempt to prevent an obvious out at home plate.

PENALTY: (Arts. 6 through 8) The ball is dead and runner(s) must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference. (Art. 8) The runner is also out.

Interference by Spectator (8-2-12)

ART. 12 ... If a spectator reaches into the field of play and interferes with a fielder's opportunity to catch a fly ball.

PENALTY: (Art. 12) The ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and the umpire should award the runners the bases in the umpire's judgment that they would have reached had the interference not occurred.

Interference by Offensive Team Members (7-4-12)

ART. 12 ... Offensive team members (excluding a runner or retired runner) shall not interfere with a fair batted ball or foul fly ball.

PENALTY: The ball is dead immediately. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the interference prevented a possible double play, the batter and runner closest to home shall be declared out. Other runners shall be returned to the last base touched at the time of interference. (3-5-6; 7-5-4; 8-6-16)

Interference by Batter –Throws Bat (7-4-14)

ART. 14 ... The batter throws her bat and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.

NOTE: If the bat breaks and a portion is hit by the ball or hits a runner or fielder, no infraction has occurred.

PENALTY: The ball is dead immediately. Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference. (8-6-10)

On-Deck Batter Interference (7-5-4)

ART. 4 ... The on-deck batter shall not commit interference with the defensive team.

PENALTIES: (Art. 4)

1. When the interference is with a thrown or pitched ball, the ball is dead and the runner closest to home is declared out. If no play is obvious, no player is out, but runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of interference.

2. When the interference is with a fair batted or foul fly ball, the batter is out. When, in the judgment of the umpire, the interference prevented a possible double play, the runner closest to home shall also be declared out. Other runners return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

Interference by Preceding Runner (7-4-11)

ART. 11 ... The immediate preceding runner who is not yet out intentionally interferes, in the umpire's judgment, with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or throw a ball in an attempt to complete the play on the batter-runner.

PENALTY: (Art. 11) Interference is ruled, the ball is dead, the batter-runner and the interfering runner are out, and all other runners are returned to the base last occupied at the time of interference.

Interference by Offensive Team Equipment (8-6-15)

ART. 15 ... Offensive team equipment causes a blocked ball (and interference).

PENALTY: (Art. 15) The runner being played on is out. If no play is obvious, no player is out, but runners shall return to the last base touched at the time the ball is declared dead.

Interference by Coach or Member of Offensive Team (8-6-16)

ART. 16 ... Any coach or member of the offensive team, other than a runner, interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a. The coach near third base runs in the direction of home plate on or near the baseline while a fielder is attempting to make a play on a batted or thrown ball and thereby draws a throw to home plate.
- b. A coach intentionally interferes with a thrown ball while in the coach's box, or interferes with the defensive team's opportunity to make a play on another runner.
- c. After being declared out or after scoring, a runner interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play on another runner. A runner continuing to run and drawing a throw may be considered a form of interference. This does not apply to the batter-runner running on the dropped third strike rule.
- d. Member(s) of the offensive team stand or collect around a base to which a runner is advancing, thereby confusing the fielders and adding to the difficulty of making the play. Members of a team include bat/ball shaggers or any other person authorized to sit on the team's bench.

PENALTY: (Art. 16) The ball is dead and the runner closest to home plate at the time of the interference shall be declared out. Each other runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

The next three pages includes a short quiz (9 questions). Some of the answers can be found in the rules within this power point presentation. Or you may need to locate the answer in the rule book. The Explanation and/or the Penalty needing to be applied is listed under each question. These questions were taken out of past FHSAA softball exams.

Simply write the answers down and then email them to our Training Director, Scott Ellis, so he can check them and give you feedback.

Scott Ellis Email Address: sellis@shamrocktampa.com

You will receive training and meeting credit for October 2021, if you send Scott the email and put some effort into answering the questions. I know some of you may share your answers with your friends and just pass them along, but shame on you for doing that. Put a little effort into this and you just might learn and remember something.

Quiz

1. R1 is on third base and R2 is on first base with one out. B4 hits a fly ball in foul territory near the firstbase line. R2 interferes with F3 attempting to catch the fly ball. The correct call is:
- a. If the fly ball is caught by F3, both R2 and B4 are out.
 - b. B4 is out and R2 is returned to first base.
 - c. The ball is dead immediately, R2 is out and B4 is charged with a foul ball.
 - d. If the fly ball is caught, B4 is out and the interference by R2 is ignored.

Explanation - 8-6-10 penalty

2. R1 on 3rd, R2 on 2nd and R3 on 1st. B4 hits a home run. As R3 advances to 2nd she is knocked down by F4. B4 watching the home run ball doesn't see R3 on the ground. She passes R3 advancing to 2nd. B4 is called out for passing a preceding runner.
- a. True
 - b. False

Explanation - 8-8-17

3. A delayed-dead ball always occurs during the following:
- a. Interference occurs.
 - b. The ball is thrown into dead ball area.
 - c. A pitched ball hits the batter.
 - d.. Obstruction occurs.

Explanation - 5-1-2b

Quiz (Page 2)

4. R1 is on first base when B2 hits a ground ball. R1 crashes into F4, in the base path, as she attempts to gain control of a batted ball which is within a step and a reach of the spot of initial contact. The correct call is:
- a. R1 has committed interference.
 - b. When F4 fails to gain control of the batted ball, the umpire will give the delayed dead-ball signal and wait to see what happens.
 - c. Because F4 was in the runner's base path, F4 is always charged with obstruction.
 - d. There is no call since R1 and F4 could not reasonably avoid contact. If judged unintentional the play is allowed to continue.

Explanation - 2-32-1, 2-47-3c

5. Which statement is NOT an example of interference?
- a. Batter-runner running outside the 3-foot lane interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
 - b. The batter-runner makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base.
 - c. The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out.
 - d. The batter-runner remains in the batter's box on a play at home plate in order to prevent an obvious out.

Explanation - 8-2-5

6. The on-deck batter shall not commit interference with the defensive team. Which statement is correct?
- a. When the interference is with a thrown or pitched ball, the runner closest to home is out.
 - b. If no play is obvious then no player is out, but the runners must return to the last base touched at the time of interference.
 - c. When interference is with a fair batted or foul fly ball, the batter is out.
 - d. All of the above.

Explanation - 7-5-4

Quiz (Page 3)

7. Which statement is NOT an example of interference?

- a. Batter-runner running outside the 3-foot lane interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
- b. The batter-runner makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base.
- c. The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out.
- d. The batter-runner remains in the batter's box on a play at home plate in order to prevent an obvious out.

Explanation 8-2-5

8. B1 hits a dribbler in front of the plate and a few feet down the first-base line. F2 fields the ball and doesn't throw because B1 is outside the running lane and in the way of a potential throw.

- a. The plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.
- b. The plate umpire lets the play stand as there is no interference on B1.
- c. The plate umpire lets the play stand and signals obstruction on F2.
- d. The plate umpire calls dead ball and obstruction on F2.

Explanation 8-2-6

9. R1 is on first base. B2 hits a pitch to F6 with one foot touching the ground completely outside the batter's box. F4 obstructs R1 advancing to second base. The correct ruling is:

- a. Delayed dead ball. B2 is out but R1 is awarded second base for F4 obstructing.
- b. Dead ball. B2 is out and R1 must return to first base.
- c. Delayed dead ball. B2 is out and R1 advances at her own risk.
- d. Dead ball. B2 is out. R1 is awarded second base if F4's obstruction occurred before B2 contacted the ball.

Explanation - 7-4-8



That's all Folks!