



**BCS TASO SOFTBALL UMPIRE  
INTERFERENCE - OBSTRUCTION DEC. MEETING 12-7-2020**  
[www.bcstasosoftball.org](http://www.bcstasosoftball.org)

**INTERFERENCE - DEAD BALL IMMEDIATELY**

**INTERFERENCE (OFFENSE)**

ART. 1 ... 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.

ART. 2 ... Other types of interference involve equipment, umpire and spectator

**TYPES OF INTERFERENCE:**

- **On-Deck Batter**
- **Batter**
- **Batter-Runner**
- **Runner**
- **Aiding a Runner**
- **Coach**
- **Spectator**
- **Umpire (no one is called out in most cases)**

## **INTERFERENCE BY RUNNER:**

**Interferer is out. Other runners return to base occupied at time of infraction. All outs made on play stand.**

**8-6-10 - 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.**

## **INTERFERENCE BY RETIRED RUNNER:**

**Runner closest to home is out. All outs made on play stand.**

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.

## **INTERFERENCE BY RUNNER (FOUL FLY):**

**8-6-10b - Interferer is out. Other runners return. Foul ball on batter. All outs made on play stand.**

*Interference by coach or other connected with the team (thrown ball):*

**For interference by coach, runner is out. All outs made on play stand.**

**3-5-5 - For interference by coach, runner is out. For interference by others connected with the offensive team, The ball is dead. The runner closest to home is out and all runners not out must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.**

**For interference by others connected with the team see below.**

**3-7-4** - 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.**

**8-6-16** - 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.**

### **INTERFERENCE BY COACH OR OTHER CONNECTED WITH THE TEAM (BATTED BALL):**

**For interference of other connected with the team, runner closest to home is out.**

**If interference prevented double play, the batter and the runner closest to home would be declared out. All outs made on play stand.**

**3-5-6** Offensive team members (excluding a runner or retired runner) shall not interfere with a fair batted ball or foul fly ball.

**PENALTY: (Art. 6) The ball is dead immediately and the batter is out. 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. (7-4-12; 7-5-4; 8-6-16) 7-5-4**

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.**

**SAMPLES** - *Click on link below*

<https://youtu.be/W9wF9ONv1QI>

<https://youtu.be/eKdWKAL2LN0>

<https://youtu.be/2N2icfVumL8>

<https://youtu.be/gC-3KiHPitM>

**QUESTIONS?**

## OBSTRUCTION - DELAYED DEAD BALL

### OBSTRUCTION (DEFENSE)

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.

**If obstructed runner and all other runners hindered by the obstruction do not reach the base(s) they otherwise would have reached, award runner or runners such base(s).**

8-4-3 -

**PENALTIES: (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.

b. If the obstructed runner is put out after passing the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction, the obstructed runner will be called out. The ball remains live.

c. When a runner, while advancing or returning to a base, is obstructed by a fielder who neither has the ball nor is attempting to make an initial play on a batted ball, or a fielder who fakes a tag without the ball, 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 been no obstruction.

c. (F.P.) a wild pitch or passed ball lodges in or goes under, over or through the backstop.

**SAMPLES** - *Click on link below*

<https://youtu.be/6L4v1svYcU4>

<https://youtu.be/J1sfQTPef-I>

<https://youtu.be/57wzM0E8vxk>

<https://youtu.be/MXhQF9yBSKo>

[https://youtu.be/-51\\_AA12pl0](https://youtu.be/-51_AA12pl0)

**QUESTIONS?**