

This is an example of type B obstruction (the runner is not being played on at the moment of obstruction). See the umpire give the correct mechanic (point at the infraction & say "That's obstruction") and leave the ball in play. The ball remains live when there is type B obstruction (delayed dead ball), and at the end of playing action the umpire shall impose such penalties, if any, to nullify the act of obstruction (Rule 7.06(b)).

(With type B obstruction, there is no automatic base award to the obstructed runner, unlike the situation with type A obstruction).

"Impose such penalties" is the rulebook term. It refers to awarding bases, scoring runs, nullifying outs, even disregarding a runner's failure to touch a base that was due to obstruction. Base awards are not restricted to the obstructed runner. Other runners affected by the obstruction may also be awarded bases.

When we have type B obstruction, we should immediately start to judge how much distance (ground) the obstruction cost the runner/s and to which base/s we would protect them. How far runners are going to be protected depends on the severity of the obstruction, the position, actions & speed of the runner/s, the position of the ball and the position & reactions of the fielders. Obstruction is not a free pass for base runners, just because they heard the umpire announce the infraction. If a runner advances beyond the base that he/she would have been awarded because of type B obstruction, they do so at their own risk and are in jeopardy of being tagged out.

Whether the batter-runner in this video should be awarded home because of the obstruction of the runner on 1st base is entirely dependent upon the judgement of the umpires. There's a good case to be made for making that award. The batter-runner almost reaches 2nd base, stops & retreats toward 1st base when she sees the runner originally on 1st retreating toward 2nd base, before resuming her advance. If you don't judge that she should be awarded home, then leave her at 3rd. Confer as a crew if there are any questions about the appropriate award.

If the manager wants an explanation, keep it brief & use rulebook terminology. We should not be offering a detailed explanation as to why we did or did not award the batter-runner home. Less is more. Suggestions as to what an umpire might say ...

"In my judgement, she would have scored if not for obstruction".

"In my judgement, she would not have scored despite the obstruction".

We want to avoid having a dissertation (rule lesson) on the field with the manager. If he/she asks additional questions, it's OK to repeat the above & leave it at that.