OBSTRUCTION

"OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner."

THERE ARE TWO APPLICATIONS OF THIS RULE:

- 1) If a play is being made on a runner who is obstructed, the ball is immediately called dead.
- 2) If no play is being made on the runner who is obstructed, the ball is a delayed dead ball.

OBSTRUCTION

PLAY BEING MADE ON AN OBSTRUCTED RUNNER:
1) Time is called at the moment of obstruction.
2) The obstructed runner is awarded one base beyond the last base that he occupied
3) Any other runners advance one base if forced, if not forced they advance or return to their base according to the umpire's judgment.

OBSTRUCTION

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PLAT NOT BEING MADE ON AN OBSTRUCTED RUNNER.
1) Obstruction is not called until all action stops.
2) After the play is completed, time is called and the ball is dead and the obstruction is called.
3) All runners advance or return to their base according to the umpire's judgment.

OBSTRUCTION

If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in flight directly toward and near enough to the fielder so he must occupy his position to receive the ball he may be considered "in the act of fielding the ball." After the fielder has made an attempt to field a ball and missed, he can no longer be "in the act of fielding."

A fielder may stand in the base path , IF, the throw is almost to him and he needs to be there to catch the ball. "Almost to him" is a judgment by the umpire. However, he may not actually block the base until he has possession of the ball. Until he has possession of the ball he must give the runner some way to get to the base. Obstruction can **NEVER** be called on a fielder for blocking a base when he has possession of the ball.

A "Fake Tag" is considered obstruction.

INTERFERENCE

Offensive Interference is an act by the team at bat which interferes with,
obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a
play. If the umpire declares the batter, the batter-runner, or a runner out
for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was in
the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the
interference. In the event the batter-runner has not reached first base, all runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch.
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Defensive Interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting pitch. It should be noted that this is the only defensive interference.

INTERFERENCE	
Batter's Interference - interferes with the catcher' fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box, or making any other movement that hinders the catcher' play at home plate.	
Catcher's Interference - interferes with the batter's ability to swing at a pitched ball.	
Umpire's Interference - interferes with the catcher's throw or ability to make a throw, or hinders his action to make a play.	
Runner is hit by batted ball in fair territory.	
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THE "SLIDE RULE"

THERE IS NO "MUST SLIDE " RULE !!!

Rule 7.08 - Any runner is out when - (a) (3) the runner does not slide \overline{OR} attempt to get around a fielder who \overline{HAS} THE \overline{BALL} and is waiting to make the tag.

The key phrases here are: "or attempt to get around" and "has the ball waiting to make the tag." The runner may slide or attempt to get around the fielder, but he does not have to slide. Plus, unless the fielder has the ball he doesn't have to do either

The fielder cannot be on the base without possession of the ball, if he is, and he impedes the runner, it is obstruction.

VISITS TO THE MOUND

A Manager/Coach is allowed to call time and visit the pitcher twice in an inning or three times in a game without penalty. However on the third visit in an inning or the fourth visit in the game the pitcher must be replaced.
New for this season - the catcher and any other defensive players may join the manager on the mound during a pitcher's conference. Although there is no time limit written in the rules as to the length of these visits, the umpire must use his judgment to insure that these visits do not take up too much time, as they could slow the progress of the game.

CHECK SWING RULE

"He broke his wrists", "the bat went past the front of the plate" ... many people believe these two statements are written in the rules or are official interpretations of a strike. THEY ARE NOT!! ... A strike by definition is "a pitch that is struck at by the batter and missed." Breaking the wrists or the bat moving beyond the front of the plate or the batter's body are factors that the umpire may use to make the judgment. Factors is all they are, not definitions. Did the batter "strike at" the pitch is he key factor.

In Little League the defense **does not** have the right to appeal a check swing to the field umpire, they may however ask the plate umpire to ask the field umpire for assistance. The plate umpire, at his discretion, can ask the field umpire for his opinion.
