

UMPIRE TRAINING

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.

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.

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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 OR attempt to get around a fielder who HAS THE 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.
