



# Section 7

## Interference & Obstruction



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# RULE 2-Interference

- Offensive – an act by a member of the team at bat (offense) – *usually interference is an act by the offense*
- Defensive – an act by a fielder (defense) which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch (*usually catcher's interference*)
- Umpire
- Spectator

**Dead ball on ANY interference!**  
**(Conflict in the RULES)**





# Rule 2-Obstruction

- The act of a **fielder** (defense) who while NOT in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner
- (NOTE) Obstruction shall be called on the defensive player who blocks a base, baseline or home plate from the base runner while NOT in possession of the ball
- (more about Obstruction later)





# Rule 6.05(j)

## Offensive Interference



A batter is out when- (Runners lane violation)

- In running the last half of the distance from home to 1<sup>st</sup> base while the ball is being fielded to first base, the batter/runner runs outside (to the right of) the runners lane, or inside (to the left of) the foul line, and in the umpires judgment in so doing interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
- The throw **MUST** be a reasonably catchable ball.
- Throw must be coming from the behind batter/runner.
- **No THROW, BAD THROW, HIGH THROW ... No Interference.**



Note: Defensive player has the right of way to a batted ball, but runner normally has the right of way in case of thrown ball, that's why this rule is needed





# Rule 6.05(j) Offensive Interference



Interference / Obstruction





# RULE 6.06(c)

## Batter Interference



A batter is out for illegal action when-

- Interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:
  - (1) stepping out of the box or
  - (2) making any other movement that hinders the catcher's actions at home plate or an attempted play on a runner
- The ball is dead (delayed dead ball) and runners return to the last base that was, in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference.
- (Exception) Batter is NOT out and ball is NOT dead if any runner attempting to advance is put out. It is assumed that **there is no actual interference if a runner is retired**. In that case play proceeds just as if no violation had been called.
- (Exception) Runner is out if batter interferes after strike 3





# RULE 6.06(c)

## Batter Interference

6.06 (c)(3): Play at the plate

If the batter fails to make a reasonable effort to get out of the box (“vacate a congested area”) when there is a play at the plate:

- With less than two out, the runner trying to score is out
- With two out, the batter is called out, otherwise he/she would be up again to start the next inning - in effect, rewarding the batter for interference.
- In any event, no run scores.
- The ball is dead (delayed dead ball) and runners return to the last base that was, in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference.
- (Exception) Batter is NOT out and ball is NOT dead if the runner attempting to score is put out.





# RULE 6.06(c)

## Batter Interference

Bottom line, for the batter:

- For a throw down, stay in the box
- For a play at the plate, get out of there







# Coach Interference

- **Rule 2 Interference:** If a coach interferes with a play (for example, a base coach interfering with a play at third) the ball is dead and the runner is out. Such interference does not have to be intentional to be called by the umpire.
- **Rule 3.15:** Should an overthrown ball accidentally touch a base coach, it will not be considered interference and the ball will remain live.
- **Rule 7.09(h):** It is interference when a base coach by touching or holding a runner physically assists a runner in returning or advancing. Ball is dead and runner is out.



# Rule 6.08(c)

## Defensive Interference



- It is interference by the defense if the catcher or any infielder interferes with the batter. Batter gets first, other runners go back unless forced. Dead ball (delayed)
- If a play follows the interference, the offensive manager may advise the umpire to decline the interference and accept the play.
- If a batter reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base on a hit, error, base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise, and ALL runners advance one base, play proceeds without reference to the interference.



# Rule 6.08(c)

## Catcher's Interference



- Here's an example of Catcher's Interference from the 2022 LLWS
- Note how difficult it can be for the umpires to see this without the benefit of replay
- Your only clue will probably be an audible "tick" of the bat off the catcher's glove
- ... or the batter claiming the bat hit the glove



# Rule 7.09(k)

It is interference by a batter or runner when-

- A fair ball touches a batter or runner in fair territory before touching or passing a fielder.
- Ball is dead – runner is OUT
- Batter gets first base, all runners (except the one who is out) return unless forced to advance

Note: Also see 5.09 (f), 7.08(f)





# Rule 7.08(a)(3)

Any runner is out when-

- The runner does not slide OR attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.
- There is **NO** “MUST SLIDE” rule and **NO** league may create one.

(More on this in a minute)





# Rule 7.09 (e)

It is interference by a batter or runner when -

- any batter or runner who has just been retired hinders or impedes any following play being made on another runner
- The OTHER runner shall be declared out for the interference of a teammate
- the ball is dead





# Rule 2-Obstruction

- The act of a **fielder** (defense) who while NOT in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner
- (NOTE) Obstruction shall be called on the defensive player who blocks a base, baseline or home plate from the base runner while NOT in possession of the ball







## 7.06(A)-OBSTRUCTION

- TYPE A – PLAY BEING MADE ON RUNNER
- The ball is dead and all runners advance to the bases they would have reached
- The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base last legally touched by such runner, before the obstruction. Any preceding runners forced to advance by the award of bases as the penalty for obstruction shall advance without liability to be put out.





# 7.06-Obstruction

OBSTRUCTION  
AT 2nd BASE





## 7.06 - Not Obstruction



- Umpire calls runner out, this is correct
- Throw takes fielder into runner's basepath, fielder can't reasonably be expected to not try and catch it
- Ball and player arrived at same time so runner can't reasonably be expected to avoid fielder
- In a situation like this it can be obstruction, interference or neither, just a train wreck
- This is nothing – just a train wreck.





## 7.06(B)-OBSTRUCTION

- TYPE B – NO play is being made on the obstructed runner
- The play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call “TIME” and impose such penalties, if any, as in that umpire’s judgment will nullify the act of obstruction.
- If the runner advances beyond the base which, in the umpire's judgment, the runner would have been awarded, the runner does so at his/her own risk

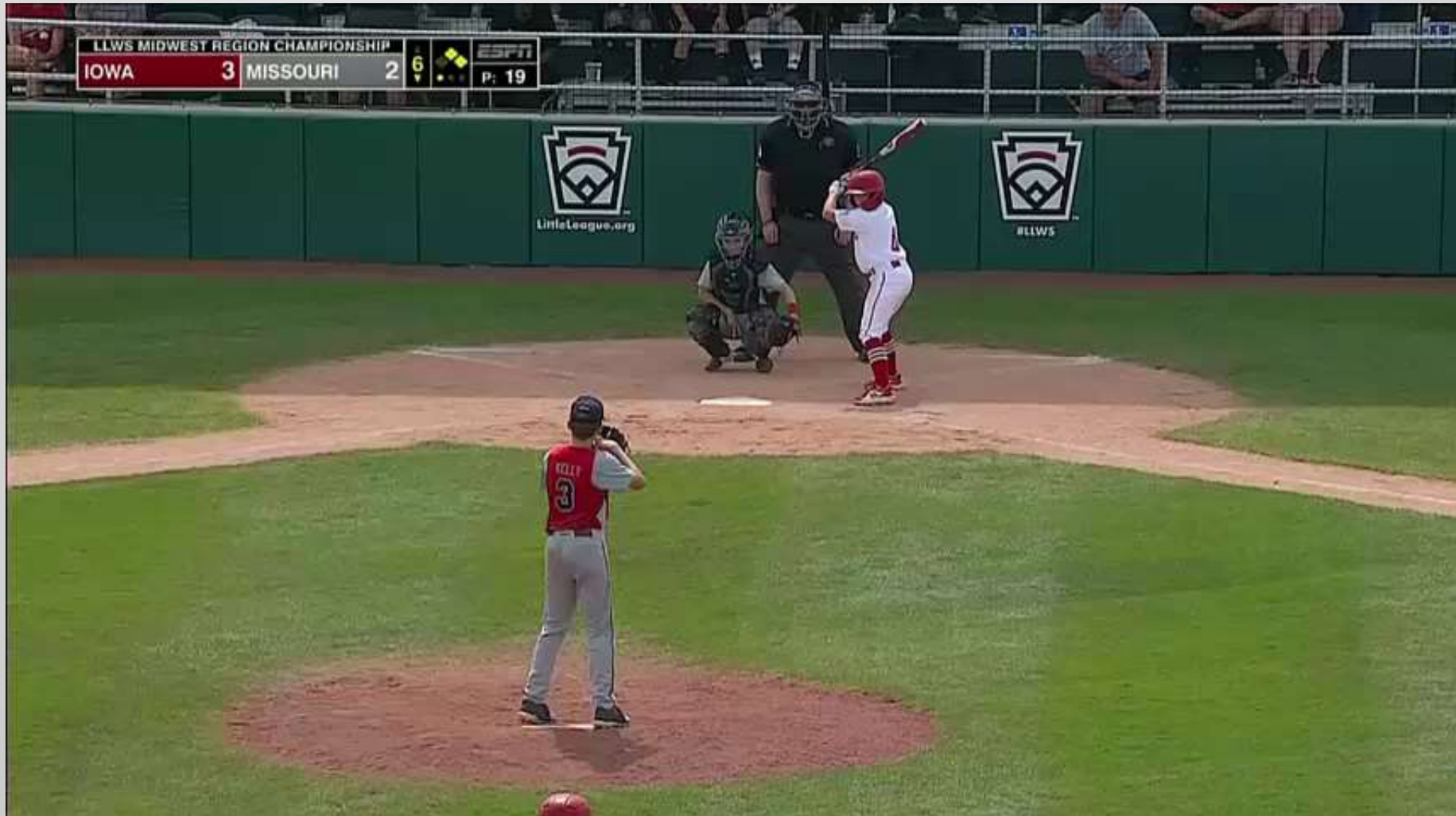




## 7.06 (B)-Obstruction



Interference / Obstruction





## 7.06-OBSTRUCTION

- Note that no actual contact need be made to call obstruction, can be as simple as you made the runner slow down or veer
- A first baseman watching a ball land in the outfield might block the base enough to cause the runner to have to go around
- This is obstruction, and would apply if the runner is subsequently thrown out
- Umpires have to watch for this
- Defense has the right of way on a batted ball but runner has the right of way on a thrown ball





# Obstruction Examples

1. Catcher doesn't have the ball and is in the way
2. Ball and runner arrive at same time
3. Ball arrives before runner
4. Backside Slide
5. Throw brings fielder to runner - dropped
6. Throw brings fielder to runner – tagged
7. Collision – unsportsmanlike conduct







# Section 7

## Interference & Obstruction



End of Section 7

