

INDIANAPOLIS



UMPIRE ASSOCIATION

**Obstruction**

**Batter's and Follow-Through Interference**

**Runner's Lane Interference**

# OBSTRUCTION (OBS)

## NFHS Rule References:

2-22-1;

2-22-2;

2-22-3;

8-3-2

## Rules Graphics Book:

Page 45

All OBS is a delayed dead ball and a minimum award of one base from the last ***LEGALLY*** touched base

# OBSTRUCTION (OBS)

IF you see OBS, call it by pointing and saying  
*“that’s obstruction”,*

Then adjudge what the runner lost due to the  
obstruction,

Let the play continue and then award bases based  
on your judgement if the runner advances past the  
minimum of more base.

# OBSTRUCTION (OBS)

*When BR is obstructed prior to reaching first base on a fly/liner,*

*Call the obstruction and allow play to continue and if the batted ball is caught, the BR is out.*

# OBSTRUCTION (OBS)

## Fake Tag:

*A fake tag is considered OBS in high school.*

*Call the OBS,*

*When play is over: award base(s) to nullify the OBS*

*Then, issue a warning to the offending team, and eject next and any subsequent offenders on that team.*

# OBSTRUCTION (OBS)

## Case Play Example:

R1;

Ball hit down line to right field corner, R1 after touching 2nd base has to deviate from his path due to F6 in his base path.

R1 continues and is thrown out at home plate on a bang-bang tag play right at the plate

## Ruling:

*Point and say at the time of the obstruction “**That’s Obstruction**”. If in the umpires judgment R1 having to deviate caused him to be just late to the plate and be tagged out, and without the OBS would have reached home safely the umpire should award R1 home.*

# Batter's Interference and Follow-Through Interference(INT)

**Rule References:**

**7-3-5**

**Rules Graphics Book:**

**Page 42**

# Batter's Interference (INT)

*A batter shall not interfere with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:*

a) Leaning over home plate

b) Stepping out of the batter's box

c) Making any other movement:

including follow-through interference, which hinders actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner

d) Failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate and there is time for the batter to move away.

# Batter's Interference (INT)

## Penalty:

*When there are two outs, the batter is out.*

*When there are **NOT** two outs and the runner is advancing to home plate*

- If the runner is tagged out, the ball remains live and interference is ignored.*
- Otherwise, the ball is dead and the runner is called out.*

# Batter's Interference (INT)

## Penalty (cont.) :

*When an attempt to put out a runner at **any other base** is unsuccessful,*

- The batter is out and all runners must return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch.*
- If the pitch is a third strike and in the umpire's judgment interference prevents a possible double play (additional outs)
  - two may be ruled out (8-4-2g).**

# Follow-Through Interference (INT)

*An act when a batter takes a swing and his swinging follow through makes contact with the catcher and interferes with the catcher's ability to put out a runner.*

- Follow-Through INT is penalized as Batters INT is in high school
- KNOWN as backswing INT in OBR and NCAA rulesets,  
and is only “soft” INT where the penalty is that stealing runners are returned to time of pitch base.

# Batter's Interference (INT)

## Case Play Example:

R1; 1 out, 0-0 count.

R1 is stealing on the pitch the batter leans out over the plate after taking a pitch, and interferes with F2 throw to second.

The throw sails into centerfield.

## Ruling:

What is the ruling?

# Batter's Interference (INT)

## Case Play Example:

R1; 1 out, 0-0 count.

R1 is stealing on the pitch the batter leans out over the plate after taking a pitch, and interferes with F2 throw to second. The throw sails into centerfield.

## Ruling:

Point and say *"That's Batter's Interference"*.

Once R1 is safe at 2nd base, call time and call out the batter, and return R1 to 1st.

# Follow-Through Interference (INT)

## Case Play Example:

R1; 1 out, 2-2 count.

R1 is stealing on the pitch the batter swings and misses for strike three and his follow through with the bat contacts F2's mask and interferes with his throw to second which is offline towards the F6 position. R1 slides safely into second base as the ball is recovered by F4.

## Ruling:

What is the ruling?

# Follow-Through Interference (INT)

## Case Play Example:

R1; 1 out, 2-2 count.

R1 is stealing on the pitch the batter swings and misses for strike three and his follow through with the bat contacts F2's mask and interferes with his throw to second which is offline towards the F6 position. R1 slides safely into second base as the ball is recovered by F4.

## Ruling:

Point and say ***“That’s Follow Through Interference”***.

Once R1 is safe, call time since the batter is out for strike three, R1 is now out for the INT. The half inning is over.

# Running Lane Interference (RLI)

**Rule References:**

**8-4-1g**

**Rules Graphics Book:**

**Page 45**

# Running Lane Interference (RLI)

## *The batter-runner is out when:*

g) He runs outside the three-foot running lane (last half of the distance from home plate to first base), while the ball is being fielded or thrown to first base

- While the ball is being fielded or thrown to first base

1. This infraction is ignored if it is to avoid a fielder who is attempting to field the batted ball or if the act does not interfere with a fielder or a throw

2. The batter runner is considered outside the running lane lines if either foot is completely outside either line (the lines are considered part of the lane)

# Running Lane Interference (RLI)

*Remember quality throw standard for this type of play in high school baseball is very low in comparison to other levels.*

If BR and F2 are on the same side of foul line when throw is made and RLI occurs, a quality throw is not needed to meet the rule requirements.

Also, BR is protected when in the last step of run to 1st if he deviates in order to touch the bag.

All other runners return to their initial base at the time of the pitch, unless an intervening play occurs at home where a runner scored with less than 2 outs.

# Running Lane Interference (RLI)

## Case Play Example:

R1; 1 out

The batter bunts just outside the dirt circle towards 3rd base, F2 fields the batted ball and throws towards 1st base. His throw hits the BR about 60 feet down the first base line, who has one foot completely in fair territory. The ball careens into foul territory and R1 slides safely into 2nd.

## Ruling:

What is the ruling?

# Running Lane Interference (RLI)

## Case Play Example:

R1; 1 out

The batter bunts just outside the dirt circle towards 3rd base, F2 fields the batted ball and throws towards 1st base. His throw hits the BR about 60 feet down the first base line, who has one foot completely in fair territory. The ball careens into foul territory and R1 slides safely into 2nd.

## Ruling:

Call ***TIME***; Point and say ***“That’s Runner’s Lane Interference”***

Call BR out for Runner’s Lane Interference

Return R1 to 1st base.

# Questions?

## References:

National Federation of State High School Associations

Rule Book

Case Book

Rules Graphics by Dennis Goodman