



TM

# Interference

- **Definition**
- **Runner**
- **Retired Runner**
- **Batter**

# Interference

Is when an **OFFENSIVE** runner **interferes** with a fielder

1. **attempting to FIELD** a **batted** fair ball or a foul fly ball
2. **attempting to THROW** the ball
3. **OR** the runner interferes with a thrown ball

## Effect:

- The ball is dead
- The runner is out
- The batter/runner is awarded first base
- The runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference

**NOTE:** There **DOES NOT have to be contact** for interference to be called!

# Once Interference has Occurred



- **Immediate** Dead Ball Signal
- **Firmly Verbalize** “DEAD BALL”
- Point to the runner that interfered
- **Firmly Verbalize** “RUNNER INTERFERENCE”
- Signal Routine Out
- **Firmly Verbalize** “RUNNER IS OUT”

**NOTE:** Return runners to the last base touched at the time the interference occurred...batter/runner is awarded first base

# Runner Interference



# Runner Interference

Many times runner interference involves the middle infielders...umpires should be **pre-pitching the possibility** of this happening!

## What can a runner do in this situation to avoid interference?

- **Stop...Allow the Fielder SPACE** to attempt fielding the batted ball
- Continue on behind the fielder within reason
- What about crossing in front of the fielder??

Understanding what a runner can and cannot do creates a clear picture when the interference occurs and allows us to effectively communicate what happened should we be asked by a coach

# Is this Runner Interference?



# Retired Runner Interference

Is when, **after being declared out**, an **OFFENSIVE** player interferes **with a defensive player's opportunity** to make a play on another runner.

A runner continuing to run and drawing a throw may be considered a form of interference **BUT** this **DOES NOT** apply to a batter runner who is entitled to run on the dropped third strike rule

## **EFFECT: Rule 8-7P**

- The ball is dead
- **The runner CLOSEST TO HOME is out**
- Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference

Watch the next video...Was the situation handled correctly?



# Retired Runner Interference



# Batter Interference

When **hindering the catcher** from catching or throwing the ball **by stepping out of the batter's box**

**EFFECT: 7-6R**

- The ball is dead
- **THE BATTER IS OUT**
- Each runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference

**Exception:** If no play is being made and the batter accidentally makes contact with the catcher's return throw to the pitcher...the ball is dead and any advancement of runners shall be nullified

# Batter Interference



# RECAP

Prepare by pre-gaming and pre-pitching!

Communication is extremely important

- **Immediate** Dead Ball Signal
- **Firmly Verbalize** “DEAD BALL”
- **Firmly Verbalize** “Interference”

**Know which runner(s) are out** depending on the type of interference

**REMAIN CALM AND IN CONTROL**

