



TM

Obstruction

- **Definition**
- **Home Plate Obstruction**
- **Examples of Runner Obstruction**
- **Catcher's Obstruction**

OBSTRUCTION

The act of a **DEFENSIVE** player **WITHOUT POSSESSION** of the ball who impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases

Note: **Contact is NOT necessary** to impede the progress of the runner or batter-runner

It is **NOT** Obstruction when the defensive player is:

- In possession of the ball

OR

- In the act of fielding a **BATTED** ball

Observe the videos in this presentation and take note of the different examples of obstruction.....observe the umpires in each situation.

- Did he/she use the **proper mechanic**?
- Was the mechanic **implemented correctly**?
- **Reflect** on your own appearance

Home Plate Obstruction



Once Obstruction Has Occurred



- **Delayed** Dead Ball Signal
- Firmly Verbalize **“OBSTRUCTION”**
- Drop Arm / Do Not Hold the Signal

Play continues UNTIL the obstructed runner is put out....THEN

- **Dead Ball** Signal
- Verbalize **“Dead Ball”**
- **Enforce Obstruction** as Determined

The obstructed runner and all other runners shall be awarded the base or bases they would have reached in the umpire’s judgement had there been no obstruction

KEY POINT

An obstructed runner may not be called out between the two bases where obstruction occurred**UNLESS**

1. The obstructed runner is put out **after passing** the base which would have **been reached** had there been no obstruction or advanced beyond the two bases where the obstruction occurred....
 - **The ball remains live**
 - **The obstructed runner is called out**

NOTE: HOWEVER - Use Good Judgement! If it is an obvious extra base hit and the runner would have made the base beyond the two bases where the obstruction occurred...**award that base but not back!**

WHY?

Key Point

WHY?

If you believe that the runner would have made a base beyond the two bases where the obstruction occurred...**then you must award that base and not a previous base once you call the runner out!**

Putting her back to a previous base **clearly contradicts** the rule of the runner advancing beyond the bases where the obstruction occurred and being liable to be called out!

In the next video pay attention to the trailing runner as she rounds 3rd base...Did the umpire handle the call correctly? The award?

Base Runner Obstruction



Base Runner Obstruction

Base runner obstruction often occurs on extra base hits when a fielder instinctively moves to “their bag” even though there is no chance of a play being made on the base runner. **As umpires we must be aware of all base runners as they are approaching and rounding the bases....**

- **Did they have a clear path to the base or not?**
- **Was the runner impeded from advancing?**

Run Down Obstruction



Catcher's Obstruction

When the catcher obstructs a batter's attempt to hit a pitched ball

1) If **ALL** runners, including the batter runner, **DO NOT** advance at least one base

Effect:

- The offensive coach has the option of taking the result of the play

OR

- Enforcing obstruction by awarding the batter first base
- Runners are advanced one base **IF FORCED**

Catcher's Obstruction

2) If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely or has passed that base and is considered to have reached it, **AND all other runners have advanced at least one base**

Effect:

- **Obstruction is cancelled**
- **All action as a result of the batted ball stands**
- **No option is given**

Catcher's Obstruction



RECAP

PRE GAME with your partner the mechanics and correct order of procedures for Obstruction calls, the different types and you will be better mentally prepared should the situation arise!

- **Delayed** Dead Ball Signal
- **Firmly Verbalize “OBSTRUCTION”**
- **Drop Arm / Do Not Hold the Signal**

Play continues UNTIL the obstructed runner is put out....**THEN**

- **Dead Ball Signal**
- **Verbalize “Dead Ball”**
- **Enforce Obstruction as Determined**