

RULES MOST OFTEN MISINTERPRETED

- Interference and Obstruction. Know the difference. Verbal and Physical.
- Infield Fly Rule.
- Bat Throwing. Intentional vs. careless vs. accidental.
- Overrunning 1st Base.
- Dropped 3rd Strike Rule.

Interference and Obstruction: Interference is an action of a base runner that prevents a defensive player from fielding a batted ball. This action may be physical or verbal. Base runners must avoid a fielder that is fielding a batted ball even if the fielder is in the baseline. Runner must go out of the base line. There is a mandatory no collision rule. A runner intentionally running into a defensive player will probably be called out and if the foul is considered to be malicious the player may be ejected. Base runners must avoid a fielder fielding a hit ball even if the fielder is in the base line. A defensive player may not block any base or baseline to impede the runner unless they are in full control of the ball. A fielder may not make a “fake tag”. Obstruction will be called in either case or the fielder and the Manager will receive a warning. Obstruction, like interference, may be physical or verbal.

Infield Fly Rule: Runners on 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd with less than two outs and there is a reasonable expectation that the fielder should be able to make the catch. The batter is out and runners may advance at own risk.

Bat Throwing: Intentional bat throw will result in immediate ejection. Accidental throw will receive a warning. If it occurs a second time, the batter may not bat again but they may play defense in the field. If the Umpire feels that the catcher is in possible jeopardy, he may restrict the batter from batting after the first offense.

Overrunning 1st Base: The batter/runner may overrun 1st base and return to 1st base with no liability to be put out if they make no attempt or feint toward 2nd base and return directly to first base. It makes no difference which way the runner turns as long as they do not make a break for 2nd and return directly to 1st.

Dropped 3rd Strike Rule: A batter may run if there is no runner on 1st base or if there are two outs and a runner on 1st. If a coach instructs a runner to try to reach 1st when they are not eligible to, they may be called out for interference and the lead runner may also be called out. Example: 1st base is occupied and the batter runs to draw a throw so another runner may score. The batter is out on strikes and the lead runner is also called out.