

ADDENDUM TO CITY LEAGUE RULES

CATCH/NO CATCH: A. A catch is a legally caught ball, which occurs when the fielder catches a batted, pitched or thrown ball with the hand(s) or glove/mitt. 1 To establish a valid catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove control of it and/or that the release of the ball is voluntary. 2 If the ball is merely held in the fielder's arm(s) or prevented from dropping to the ground by some part of the fielder's body, equipment or clothing, the catch is not completed until the ball is in the grasp of the fielder's hand(s) or glove/mitt. 3 The fielder's feet must be within the field of play, touching the "out of play" line or in the air after leaving live ball territory in order to have a valid catch. A player who is "out of play" and returns must have both feet touching live ball territory or one foot touching and the other in the air, for the catch to be legal. B. It is not a catch: 1 If a fielder, while gaining control, collides with another player, umpire or a fence, or falls to the ground and drops the ball as a result of the collision or falling to the ground. 2 If a ball strikes anything other than a defensive player while it is in flight it is the same as if it struck the ground. 3 When a fielder catches a batted or thrown ball with anything other than the hand(s) or glove/mitt in its proper place.

CATCH AND CARRY: A legal catch followed by a defensive player carrying the ball into dead ball territory.

13 - CRASHING INTO A FIELDER WITH THE BALL (Interference) In an effort to prevent injury and protect a defensive player attempting to make a play on a runner, a runner must be called out when they remain on their feet and crash into a defensive player who is holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. To prevent the out ruling, the runner may slide, jump over the defender holding the ball, go around the defender or return to the previous base touched. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender is ejected. A runner may slide into the fielder. A. When a runner is called out for crashing into a fielder holding the ball, the ball becomes dead. Each runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the crash as this constitutes interference. B. When, as in A above, the runner crashes into a fielder holding the ball before being put out and, in the judgment of the umpire, it was an attempt to break up an obvious double play, the immediate succeeding runner is also called out. (Rule 8, Section 7J) C. When a crash occurs after the runner is called out, the runner closest to home plate is also out. (Rule 8, Section 7P) D. When an obstructed runner crashes into a fielder holding the ball, the obstruction is ignored, and the runner is out. (Rule 8, Section 7Q) This type of award, Rule 8, Section 5B[2 & 3], does not give the runner the right to violate Rule 8, Section 7Q. E. When a runner runs outside the three-foot running lane to avoid a crash with a defender holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag, the runner should be called out. F. When a defensive player is fielding a thrown ball and the flight of the ball carries or draws them into the path of the base runner, it is not a crash.

Loose equipment, miscellaneous items or a detached part of a player's uniform, other than that being legally used in the game at the time, should not be within live ball territory. Official

equipment which may be in live ball territory with no penalty includes the batter's bat, the catcher's mask, umpire paraphernalia, a helmet which has inadvertently fallen off an offensive or defensive player during play or any equipment belonging to a person assigned to the game. Loose equipment, miscellaneous items or detached uniform parts which are in live ball territory and are not being legally used in the game at the time could cause a blocked ball or interference. A. Thrown Ball. 1 When a thrown ball hits loose equipment belonging to the team at bat, the ball is dead immediately. If such action interferes with a play, interference should be ruled. The runner being played on at the time of the interference is called out, and each runner must return to the last base touched prior to the interference. If a play is not apparent, a blocked ball should be ruled, no one is called out, and all runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the dead ball. 2 When the loose equipment belongs to the team in the field, it becomes a blocked ball and the overthrow rule applies. B. Batted Ball. 1 A batted foul ball touching loose equipment is a foul ball. 2 A batted fair ball touching loose equipment belonging to: RULES SUPPLEMENT 130 a The offense, it is a dead ball and runners return, unless they are forced to advance when the batter-runner is awarded first base on a base hit, or b The defense, it is a dead ball and all runners, including the batter-runner, are awarded two bases from their position at the time of the pitch.

A fake tag occurs when a fielder without the ball deceives the runner by impeding their progress; for example, causing a runner to slide, slow down or stop running. A. Obstruction is called when a fake tag is made as mentioned above. The umpire should signal delayed dead ball and let the play continue to its completion. The obstructed runner, and each runner affected by the obstruction, should always be awarded the base or bases they would have reached had the obstruction not occurred. Again, RULES SUPPLEMENT **Each runner is awarded only the base or bases that in the judgment of the umpire they would have reached had there not been obstruction.** B. **The umpire should rule obstruction on all fake tags. Continued fake tags should result in ejections. In flagrant cases where the sliding player gets hurt, the offending player should be ejected without warning.** C. When a fielder fakes a tag, but the runner continues on to the next base without sliding or breaking stride, there is no rule violation since the runner's progress was not impeded. However, a warning should be given.

INTERFERENCE

Interference is the act of an offensive player or team member that impedes, hinders or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play. Interference may be in the form of physical contact, verbal distraction, visual distraction, or any type of distraction that hinders a fielder in the execution of a play. Defensive players must be given the opportunity to field the ball anywhere on the playing field or throw the ball without being hindered. A. Runner interference includes: 1 A runner or batter-runner who interferes with a fielder executing a play, including the batter-runner touching the white portion of the double base at first base and colliding with the fielder trying to catch a thrown ball from a fielder, a When a runner interferes with a fielder, the umpire must determine if the interference occurred before or after the runner who

interfered was put out and then apply the appropriate rule. **Merely running in front of a batted ball or jumping over a batted ball is not interference, even if it may be distracting to the fielder.**

In order for a runner to be called out they must commit an act of interference. b When a runner is hit by a fair batted ball, it is interference if it occurred before the ball passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher, and provided the runner was not in contact with the base. It is interference if the batted ball deflects off one defensive player and the runner intentionally interferes with any defensive player who has an opportunity to make an out. c A runner could be standing on a base and a defensive player bumps the runner while watching the flight of the ball. If the defensive player fails to make a catch on a ball that could have been caught, it is the umpire's judgment whether or not interference should be called. The rule provides that a runner must vacate any space needed by a fielder to make a play on a batted ball, unless the runner has contact with a legally occupied base when the hindrance occurs. In this case, the runner should not be called out unless the hindrance is intentional. d If interference occurs by the runner on a foul fly ball not caught but, in the umpire's judgment, could have been caught with ordinary effort had interference not occurred, the runner is out and the batter is also out. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the foul fly ball could not have been caught with ordinary effort, a strike is called, the ball is dead, and the batter remains at bat. (Slow Pitch) If on the third strike, the batter is out. e For crash interference, refer to RS #13. 2 A runner or batter-runner who is hit by a fair touched or untouched batted ball, or 3 Interfering with a thrown ball. B. Batter interference occurs while the batter is at bat and before the ball is batted. It occurs in fast pitch when the batter interferes with the catcher's throw on an attempted steal or when the batter interferes with the catcher on a play at the plate. The batter's box is not a sanctuary for the batter when a play is being made at the plate. Interference could also occur when a batter releases the bat in a manner that it hits the catcher and prevents them from making a play. If the batter merely drops the bat and the catcher trips over it, there is no interference. Batter interference is also discussed in RS #24B. C. Offensive players in the dugout may be charged with interference if they interfere with a fielders' opportunity to make an out on a fly ball. D. On-deck batters may be charged with interference if they interfere with a throw, a possible tag on a runner, or a fielder's opportunity to make an out on a fly ball. E. **Coach's interference occurs when a base coach runs toward home and draws a throw or when they interfere with a fielder attempting to catch or throw a ball. The coach's box is not a sanctuary.** F. Spectator interference occurs when a spectator: 1 Enters the field and interferes with a play. Effect: The batter and runner(s) should be placed at the bases that they would have reached had spectator interference not occurred. The field belongs to the fielder and the stands belong to the spectator. Or 2 Reaches onto the field from the stands and prevents a fielder from catching a fly ball in the field of play. Effect: A dead ball is ruled and the batter is out. All runners should be placed at the bases they would have reached had the interference not occurred. It is not interference if the fielder reaches into the stands. G. Umpire interference occurs: 1 When an umpire is hit by a fair, untouched batted ball before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher.

The batter-runner is awarded first base. This is an exception to the statement that someone must be called out for interference. 2 (Fast Pitch & Slow Pitch with Stealing) When an umpire interferes with a catcher's attempt to put out a runner stealing, or an attempted pick-off from the catcher to any base. It is interference only if the runner is not put out; in which case runners are returned to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. Umpire interference may not be called in any other case. When batter, batter-runner, runner, on-deck batter or coach interference occurs, the ball is dead, someone must be called out, and each other runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference. H. Offensive team interference occurs when a thrown ball strikes loose equipment left in live ball territory; but only when play is actually affected (RS #17). I. **Batter-Runner interference occurs when the batter-runner steps back while running to first base to avoid a tag by a defensive player, or when running to first base, runs outside the three-foot running lane over fair or foul territory and interferes with a thrown ball to first base.**

OBSTRUCTION

Obstruction is the act of a fielder: A. Not in possession of the ball, or B. Not in the act of fielding a batted ball, which impedes the progress of a batter-runner or runner who is legally running the bases. It is obstruction if a defensive player is blocking the base or base path without the ball and the runner or batter-runner is impeded. In past years, coaches taught their players to block the base, catch the ball and make the tag. Now defensive players must catch the ball, block the base and then make the tag. Whenever obstruction occurs, whether or not a play is being made on a runner, the umpire should declare obstruction and signal a delayed dead ball. The ball remains live. If the obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the base they would have reached had obstruction not occurred, a dead ball is called and the obstructed runner, and all other runners affected by the obstruction, shall be awarded the base(s) they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, had obstruction not occurred. An obstructed runner may be called out between the two bases that the runner was obstructed if the runner is properly appealed for missing a base or leaving a base before a fly ball is first touched. If the runner committed an act of interference after the obstruction or passed another runner, this also would overrule the obstruction. When an obstructed runner is awarded a base that they would have reached had obstruction not occurred and a preceding runner is on that base, the obstructed runner shall be awarded that base and the runner occupying it is entitled to the next base without liability to be put out. When an obstructed runner safely obtains the base they would have been awarded, in the umpire's judgment, had obstruction not occurred and there is a subsequent play on a different runner, the obstructed runner is no longer protected between the two bases where they were obstructed. That runner may now be put out anywhere on the base paths. RULES SUPPLEMENT 140 It should also be clear that the statement "a runner cannot be called out between the two bases the runner was obstructed" does not apply when the runner committed another violation and that violation is being played upon. EXAMPLE: A runner leaving second base too soon on a fly ball is returning after the ball is caught and is obstructed between second base and third base. If the runner would not have made it back to second base

prior to the throw arriving, the runner remains out. Should the obstructed runner be put out after passing the base they would have reached had obstruction not occurred, the runner is advancing at their own risk and, if tagged, should be called out. The ball remains live and other plays may be made. When the runner is obstructed during a rundown, a delayed dead ball is declared and signaled. If the runner is tagged out after being obstructed, a dead ball is called and the runner is awarded the base they would have made had obstruction not occurred. Should the ball be overthrown after the obstruction, the runner may advance. The runner may not be called out between the two bases where they were obstructed. Catcher Obstruction is a delayed dead ball call. Should catcher obstruction be called when the batter hits the ball and the batter-runner reaches first base safely and all other runners advance at least one base, the obstruction is canceled. All action as a result of the batted ball stands. Should the batter not reach first base, or if one of the other runners does not advance at least one base, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or taking the award. The award is, place the batter at first base and runners are advanced ONLY if forced because of the award to the batter. Note: The batter must be given the opportunity to hit the ball. Should the batter delay their swing, and clearly the attempt is no longer to hit the ball but rather to interfere with the catcher's throw on a steal attempt, interference should be called on the batter.

OVERTHROWS

Runners are always awarded two bases on balls that are overthrown or become blocked as a result of hitting loose equipment that belongs to the defensive team and should not be on the field (RS #17). Regardless of who made the throw, two bases are awarded from the last base touched at the time the thrown ball was released. The runner's direction of movement has no effect on the award. When an overthrow is made on a runner returning to a base, the runner is awarded two bases from that base. Exception: When the runner is returning to first base and the throw is from the outfield, it leaves the outfielder's hand while the runner is between 2B and 3B, but the runner is between 1B and 2B when the ball goes out of play, the runner is awarded home plate. **When two runners are between the same bases at the time of the award, the award is determined by the position of the front runner. *Two runners between first base and second base will be awarded second base and third base; however, if two runners are between second base and third base, both will be awarded home plate.*** Should the umpire err in the award of bases, after one pitch, legal or illegal, the umpire may not change the award. When a fielder loses possession of the ball on an attempted tag and the ball then enters dead ball territory or becomes blocked, all runners are awarded one base from the base last touched at the time the ball entered dead ball territory or became blocked.

RUNNERS ARE ENTITLED TO ADVANCE WITHOUT LIABILITY TO BE PUT OUT

When a **fielder intentionally contacts or catches a fair batted, thrown or pitched ball with any part of the uniform or equipment that is detached from its proper place.** Effect: Delayed dead ball. **The batter and runners are entitled to: 1 Three bases from the time of the pitch on a**

batted ball. 2 Two bases from the time of the throw on a thrown ball. 3 One base from the time of the pitch on a pitched ball. If the illegal catch or touch is made on a fair batted ball which, in the umpire's judgment, would have cleared the outfield fence in flight, the batter-runner shall receive a four base award.