

ART. 2 . . . Any runner is out when the runner:

- a. runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged or to hinder a fielder while the runner is advancing or returning to a base;
 1. This is not an infraction if a fielder attempting to field a batted ball is in the runner's proper path and if the runner runs behind the fielder to avoid interfering with the fielder.
 2. When a play is being made on a runner or batter-runner, the batter-runner's baseline is established as directly between the batter-runner's position and the base toward which the batter-runner is moving.
- b. does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases; or
 1. A runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.
 2. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. (2-32-1, 2-32-2) Jumping, hurdling, and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal.

PENALTY: The runner is out. Interference is called and the ball is dead immediately. On a force-play slide with less than two outs, the runner is declared out, as well as the batter-runner. Runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. With two outs, the runner is declared out. The batter is credited with a fielder's choice.

- c. does not legally attempt to avoid a fielder in the immediate act of making a play on the runner; or

PENALTY: The runner is out, the ball remains live unless interference is called.

- d. dives over a fielder; or

PENALTY: The runner is out and the ball remains live unless interference occurs and is declared.

- e. initiates malicious contact;
 1. Malicious contact always supersedes obstruction. Runner(s) will be awarded appropriate base(s) per umpire's judgment.
- f. as a runner or retired runner, fails to execute a legal slide, or does not attempt to avoid the fielder or the play on a force play at any base; or
- g. intentionally interferes with a throw or a thrown ball; or the runner hinders a fielder on the fielder's initial attempt to field a batted ball. A fielder is not protected, except from intentional contact if the fielder misplays the ball and has to move from the fielder's original location; or the runner's being put out is prevented by an illegal act by anyone connected with the team (2-21-1, 3-2-2, 3-2-3) or by the batter-runner; for runner returning to base (8-2-6); and for runner being hit by a batted ball (8-4-2k). If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner including the batter-runner interferes in any way and prevents a double play anywhere, two shall be declared out (the runner who interfered and the other runner involved). If a retired runner interferes, and