

OBSTRUCTION REFERENCE

Obstruction is called when the defense hinders the runners ability to run the bases
There are two different applications of the rule. One causes an immediate dead ball
and the other is delayed dead ball.

Dead ball obstruction:

If a play is being made on a runner who is obstructed by the defense the ball
is immediately dead.

The runner is awarded the base they were advancing to.(regardless of the outcome
of the play.)

Delayed dead ball obstruction:

If no play is being made the ball is delayed dead.

Play situation:

Batter hit a grounder to the short stop and the ball gets past him.

The batter -runner rounds first to go to second base and runs into the first baseman
who is still on the base to receive the throw. this causes the batter-runner to hesitate
and is tagged out sliding into second base on a close play.

Were did the obstruction happen?

When there was contact with the first baseman, but since there was no play being made
the umpire should point at the baseman and say obstruction and let the play finish.

(you only say the words loud enough to be herd by those around you, not so loud you kill
the play.)

When the play ends and in the umpires judgment the runner would have reach second safe
if the obstruction would not have happened you award the runner that base.(regardless of
the outcome of the play.)

The rule book definition is:

OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who,
while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball,
impedes the progress of any runner.

If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in flight directly toward and
near enough to the fielder so he must occupy his position to receive the ball
he may be considered "in the act of fielding a ball."

It is entirely up to the judgment of the umpire as to whether a fielder is in the act of fielding a ball
After a fielder has made an attempt to field a ball and missed, he can no longer be in the
"act of fielding" the ball.

Example:

an infielder dives at a ground ball and the ball passes him and he continues to lie
on the ground and delays the progress of the runner.

He very likely has "obstructed" the runner."

A fake tag is considered obstruction.