



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Date: 28/09/09

Subject: SAL TB 2009-1 v1.1
Clarification and interpretation of Interference by a Batter Runner or Runner with a Defensive Fielders view while fielding a batted ball.

Background.

Following a review of International reports from Australian umpires attending International events and the subsequent interpretation clarification from the ISF Director of umpires and ISF Regional Umpire Coordinators on runner interferences, Australia's interpretation has been revised. Australia's interpretation has been to call a runner out if he runs directly in front of a fielder and at that precise time the fielder errors the batted ball.

Rules.

There are several ways by rule a runner can interfere with a fielders opportunity to field a batted ball.

Listed below are relevant runner interferences from the rule book but not limited to:

1. When he is struck with an untouched fair-batted ball in fair territory while off base and in the umpire's judgment, any fielder had an opportunity to make an out.
2. When he intentionally kicks a ball that a fielder has missed.
3. When he interferes with a fielder attempting to field a fair-batted ball, regardless of whether the ball has first been touched by another fielder, including the pitcher, or intentionally interferes with a thrown ball.

In all these cases the runner is out and the ball is dead.

Clarification.

Providing the runner does not break stride, stop or change direction and in the umpire's judgment intentionally interfere with the vision of the fielder it is not interference, even if the fielder errors the ball, providing he does not physically interfere with the fielder.

Note: While we do not want to call a runner out for merely running in front of a fielder fielding a batted ball, there is a case where interference could be called without contact.

If in the umpires judgement there was a genuine attempt to field a batted ball and at the precise time the fielder is about to glove the ball, he lifts his head to avoid collision.

Ruling.

A runner merely running to the next base in front of the fielder attempting to field a batted ball is no longer to be interpreted as interference, even if there is a subsequent error.

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