

Technical Bulletin

Subject: **Incidental Contact by Batter Runner or Runner with a Fielder, Not Creating Interference Clarification TB_2019-2**

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The interpretation of incidental contact by a Batter Runner or Runner, in relation to physical contact with a fielder executing a play, that does not create interference, has been clarified.

The Umpire must watch for the reaction of the defensive player as a result of the action of the offensive player. Then the umpire must judge if the offensive player impedes, hinders or confuses a defensive team member attempting to make a play. If this contact creates interference, then the umpire should call a dead ball and rule interference. A mere brushing against a defensive player by a runner may not be interference if the defensive player can still easily make the play.

Umpire Mechanics:

To 'hesitate before making the call here is appropriate', while the umpire takes in all the elements; this is not a delayed dead ball situation.

Case Play:

R1 is on 3rd base with one out. B4 hits a fair fly ball which F5 should catch with little effort. R1, while leading off brushes the arm of F5 accidentally. F5 still makes an easy catch. R1 easily returns to 3rd base.

Ruling:

As the umpires did not believe the action of R1 was intentional, and this contact did not interfere with F5's opportunity to make the play, B4 is called out on the fly ball and R1 is safe at 3rd base. Not all contact is interference. The umpire must make a judgement at the time of the play, by hesitating to gather all the information to determine the result. This is not a delayed dead ball situation.

Rule 5.1.30, Rule 5.10.3 c) iii & iv

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