

## Technical Bulletin

**Subject: Runner passing a preceding runner, rule interpretation TB\_2020- 2**

**Date: 30/09/2020**

Prior to publication of the newly formatted rule book, WBSC Congress approved the 2018-2021 Playing Rules which included a change to the “Runner passing a preceding runner” rule.

The 2014-2017 Playing rules stated:

**Rule 8 Section 9:** *A runner is out ... f) when he physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been called out. EFFECT Sec 9f. The ball remains in play. EXCEPTION: When the runner passes a preceding runner during a dead ball play the ball will remain dead. If the ball becomes a foul ball or an uncaught fly foul ball, the runner who passes is not out.*

The interpretation of this rule had been that a runner who passes a preceding runner on a home run was called out, even though this is a dead ball situation.

The current 2018-2021 Playing rules state:

**RULE 5.10.3:** *Runners are out a)... vi) they physically pass a preceding runner before that runner has been called out. The ball remains alive. The runner is not out if the ball becomes a foul ball or an uncaught fly foul ball or if a runner passes a preceding runner on a dead ball play. The ball remains dead.*

Under this wording, a runner passing a preceding runner on any awarded bases when the ball is dead, including a home run, *would not* be called out.

Therefore, the following interpretation will be in effect for the remainder of 2018-2021 competition and Playing Rules:

***A runner who passes a preceding runner during a home run will not be called out. The ball remains dead.***

To ensure clarity for this rule, the current rule change will be proposed to the 2022 – 2025 Playing Rules including:

*..... the runner is not out, however all runners must meet all base running responsibilities, including awarded bases being touched in legal order.*

**Brooke Wilkins**  
**Technical Project Coordinator**  
Softball Australia

**Leigh Evans**  
**Umpire in Chief – Technical**  
**National Umpiring Program**  
Softball Australia

This is an Approved Softball Australia Limited Technical Bulletin for use in Australia and is current as of 30/09/2020. For the most current version, visit [www.softball.org.au](http://www.softball.org.au) and go to resources