**OBSTRUCTION**

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**Unlike interference, obstruction is when either the catcher or fielders get in the way of the offense. And, unlike interference, the action continues until the play is finished. When a catcher obstructs a batter, usually the batter’s bat on a swing, or a fielder impedes the progress of a runner, it is obstruction.**

**DROP IT**

Umpires should give a delayed dead-ball signal, verbally announce, “Obstruction,” and then drop the signal before moving.

**RIGHT OF WAY**

If a runner is returning to tag up on a caught fly ball, the fielder cannot hinder that runner from reaching the base.

**UMPIRING TIP**

The ball is live during obstruction until the umpire declares the ball dead, if necessary. If the runner(s) reach a base(s) they would have reached without obstruction, drop the delayed dead ball signal and the ball remains live.

**BASERUNNER’S RIGHTS**

* A runner is protected to the base they would have reached if there was no obstruction.
* In most cases, a runner cannot be called out between the two bases that they were obstructed between.
* When a runner obtains the base they would have reached if no obstruction occurred, and there is a subsequent play, they are no longer protected if she leaves that base.

When a runner is obstructed by a fielder without the ball or by a fielder without the ball faking a tag, that’s obstruction. An obstructed runner and all other runners affected are placed on the bases they would have reached, in the umpire’s opinion, had there been no obstruction.

**FORGET ABOUT IT... UNLESS**

For catcher’s obstruction, if the batter hits the ball and reaches base safely, and all other runners advance at least one base, cancel the obstruction. All action stands. However, if the batter does not hit the ball or reach base safely, the offense can take the result of the play or have the obstruction enforced. The batter is placed on first and runners advance only if forced.