**DOUBLE BASES**

**One base is good, but two is better, especially when it comes to safety. That’s why the NFHS allows a double first base to be used by state association adoption and why it is required in USA Softball. The defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner must use the colored portion of the base when a play is being made on the batter-runner. The batter runner is out when a play is being made and she touches the white portion only.**

**COMMON SITUATION**

B1 hits a grounder to F6, who throws to F3 attempting to retire B1. B1 touches the white portion of the base and collides with F3, who is about to receive the ball while standing on the white portion of the base. When that happens, the base umpire should call “dead ball” and declare B1 out for interference. If there are any other runners on base, they must return to the last base occupied at the time of the interference.

**MYTH**

The batter-runner can only use the colored portion of the double base.

**REALITY**

The runner can use either portion of the base when: advancing on a ball hit to the outfield; no plays are being attempted on the base; returning to first base; tagging up to advance on a fly ball; or returning to the base on an attempted pickoff. The defense also can use both portions on those plays.

***OBSTRUCTION IS CALLED ON THE DEFENSE WHEN THERE IS A FORCE PLAY ON THE BATTER-RUNNER, WHO TOUCHES ONLY THE COLORED PORTION AND COLLIDES WITH THE FIELDER ABOUT TO CATCH A THROWN BALL WHILE ALSO ON THE COLORED PORTION OF THE BASE.***

**IT’S OK**

The batter-runner may touch the white base without penalty on a force-play attempt from the foul side.

***IF THE BATTER-RUNNER TOUCHES THE WHITE PORTION ONLY OR COLLIDES WITH THE FIELDER WHEN A PLAY IS BEING MADE, IN ORDER TO GET AN OUT THE DEFENSE MUST APPEAL BEFORE SHE RETURNS TO EITHER THE WHITE OR COLORED BASE.***