

Force Play Slide Rule

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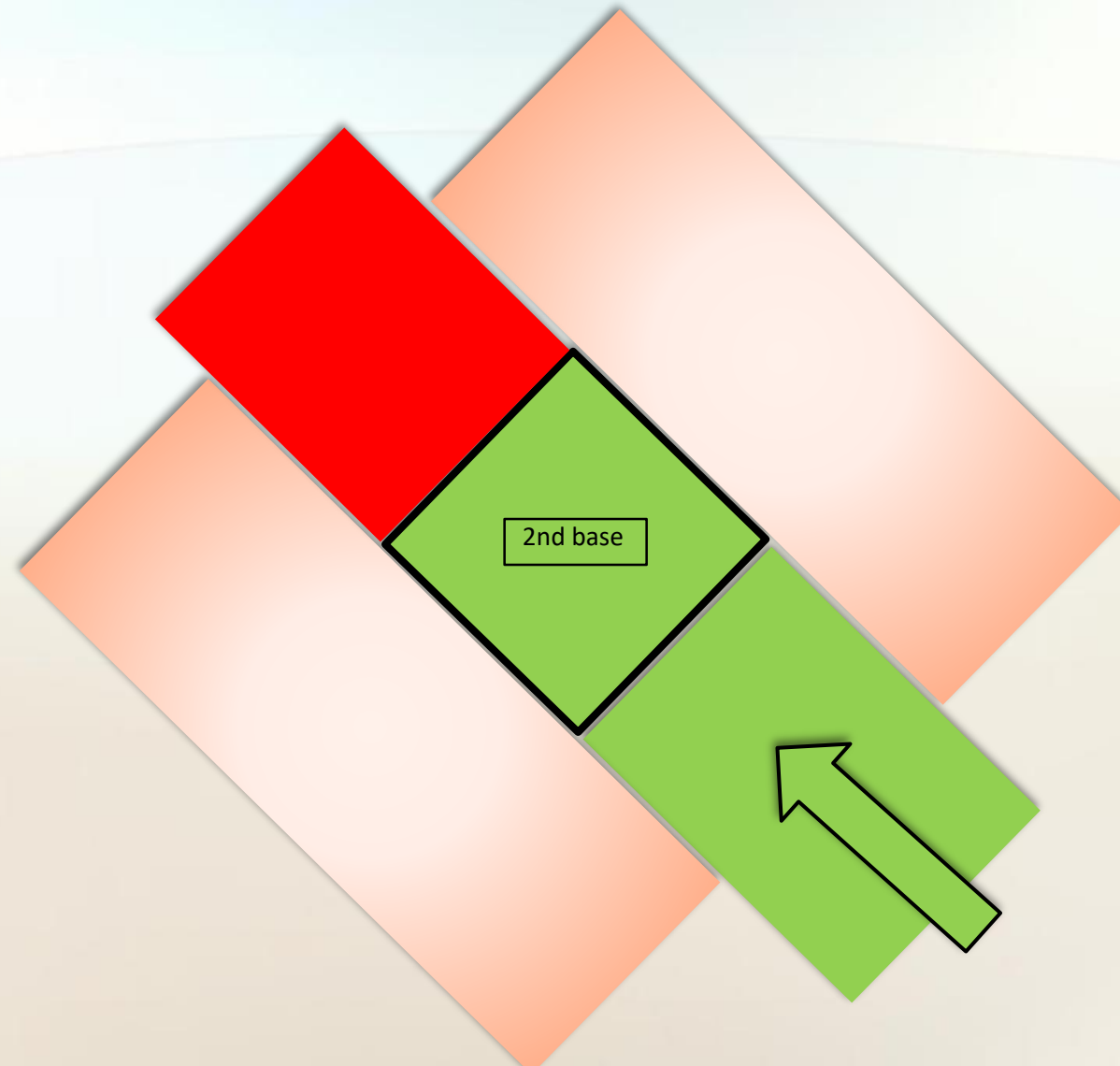
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Force Play Slide Rule 8-4-2b

Assume a runner at 1st base and the defense attempting a force at 2nd:

- If the runner chooses to go into 2nd base, he must:
 - Slide into the base
 - The slide must be legal
 - He must slide **directly** into the 2nd base
 - this is the extra requirement for the Force Play Slide Rule
 - 'Directly' means on a line directly between 1st and 2nd base
- The runner is not required to slide; he may instead:
 - Stop where he is, or
 - Retreat to 1st base, or
 - Run or slide away from 2nd base while avoiding the fielder

Directly into the base...



Contact is LEGAL in
Green areas

Avoiding Contact and/or Altering the Play

- If a runner does not slide directly into the base, or
 - Slides past the base
- AND
- Contacts the fielder or alters the play
 - Then both the runner and the batter-runner are out.

BUT

- If no contact or no alteration of play, then the runner's action is ignored.

Legal Slides

- Runners are not required to slide, but if they choose to slide, the slide must be legal.
- A slide can be feet first or head first
- Feet first slides
 - At least 1 leg and buttock shall stay in contact with the ground

A slide is ILLEGAL if:

- The runner uses a rolling, cross-body, or pop-up slide INTO THE FIELDER, or
- If the runner's leg is higher than the fielders knee, or
- **If the runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with the fielder or alters his play (except at home plate)**
- If the runner slashes or kicks the fielder, or
- If the runner intentionally tries to injure the fielder

Who is watching the action at 2nd base

- Initially, it is the base umpire
 - Focus first on the catch and tag of base
 - While also noting how the runner approaches the base
 - Once the fielder commits to throw to 1st base...
 - The base umpire pivots and looks for the play at 1st
- The plate umpire stays with the play at 2nd base
 - Until you are sure no further interference is possible there
 - To observe the play, move from behind home plate towards 'C' position

Slides Into Home Plate – New Rule for 2017

- At Home Plate, a runner may slide through (past) the plate and
 - Contact the fielder and/or
 - Alter the play
- But, If it is a force play, the runner is still bound by the Force Play Slide Rule (FPSR):
 - FPSR: If the runner goes into home plate:
 - He must legally slide
 - He must slide in a direct line between 3rd base and home plate
 - But, he may slide past home plate