

Baserunner Responsibilities

Legal & Illegal Slides

Jumping, Hurdling, Diving

Copied from NFHS Powerpoint Presentation

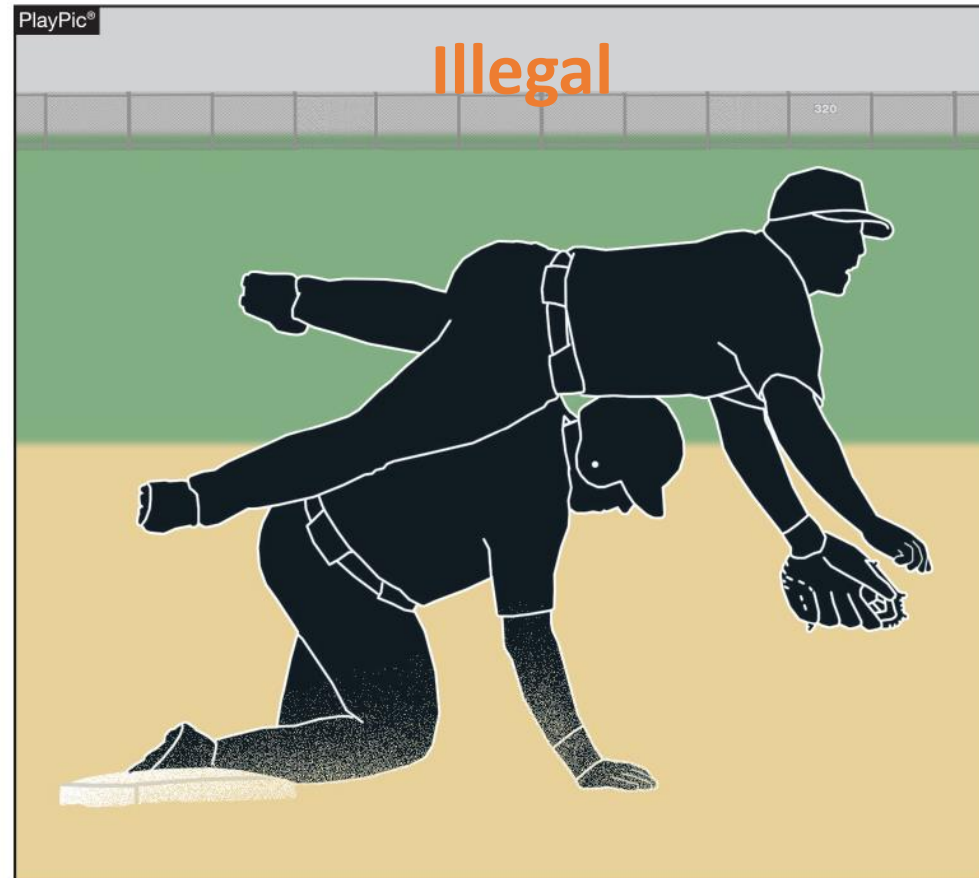
Baserunner's responsibilities

Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, it must be legal. A legal slide can either be feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground.



Baserunner's responsibilities

Runners may not pop-up into the fielder.



Baserunner's responsibilities

Runners may not have a leg raised higher than the fielder's knee.



Baserunner's responsibilities

Except at home plate, runners may not slide through or beyond the base.



Slides at Home Plate

- **Rule 2-32-2c:** ... At home plate, it is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the plate in a straight line (baseline extended).
 - JG Comment: the above is true for force plays and non-force plays
- **Caseplay 2.32.2 SITUATION E:** R2 is on second base with one out. B3 hits a single and R2 scores. After catching the throw, F2 tries to throw to second base. R2's slide was
 - (a) not in a straight line through the plate, or
 - (b) in a straight line into, over and through the plate in the baseline extended.

In both cases his contact hinders F2's throw.

- **RULING:**
 - In (a), the ball is immediately dead ball, R2's run counts and B3 is called out for the interference.
 - In (b), R2's slide is legal.
- **ILLEGAL SLIDES Rule 2-32-2c:** except at home plate, [A slide is **illegal** if:] the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.

Baserunner's responsibilities

Runners may not slide away from a base in the direction of the fielder. But a runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.



Baserunner's responsibilities

The runner is out when he illegally slides and affects the play. On a force play, the runner is also guilty of interference. The batter-runner is also declared out and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.



A Legal Slide with Runner / Fielder Contact

- **Caseplay 2.32.1 SITUATION:** With R1 at first base, a ground ball is hit to F6, who throws to F4 covering at second base. R1 slides late at second, stays in the baseline, but R1 makes contact with F4 who is in front of the base, causing him to overthrow first base.
- **RULING:** Providing the slide is legal and the contact is not malicious, there is no violation.
- **JG comment:** If the fielder is in the legal 'sliding zone' or on top of the base when contact occurs, there is no violation if the slide was otherwise legal.

Baserunner's responsibilities

Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground.



Baserunner's responsibilities

When illegally executed, as shown in the PlayPic, hurdling, jumping or leaping over a fielder supersedes obstruction.



Baserunner's responsibilities

Diving over a fielder is always illegal. Diving supersedes obstruction.

