



Force-Play-Slide Rules

The following is a summary of how the Force-Play-Slide Rule is to be enforced at each level of play. Please review closely and ensure you have a thorough understanding of the rule at all level(s) you will work.

American Legion Baseball:

The intent of the Force-Play-Slide Rule is to ensure the safety of all players. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

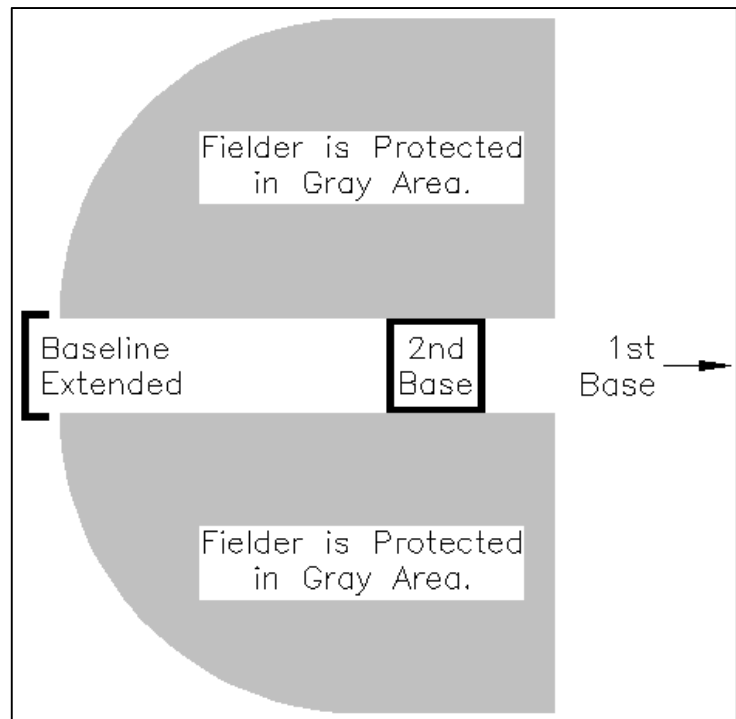
1. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.

Exception: A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference will not be called.

- a. "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and one buttock on the ground.
 - b. "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk, and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.
2. Contact with the fielder is legal, and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.
 3. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:
 - a. The runner slides or runs out of a direct line between the two bases in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of the fielder (with or without contact).
 - b. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.
 - c. The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position.
 - d. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg.
 - e. The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

Penalty for a-e:

1. With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
2. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
3. If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the game.



Bottom Line:

- The Runner has 2 options:
 1. Slide legally, or
 2. Give himself up and peel off and away from the fielder.
- If the Runner goes into the base standing up and makes contact, it is Interference.
- Pop-up slides are considered legal as long as contact is on top of the base and the contact is not intentional or flagrant. A Pop-up slide anywhere else will be considered an act of intentional interference and is illegal.
- The Runner is still required to adhere to all other interference rules.
- With less than two outs, the batter-runner is out regardless if he was going to be safe or not (slow dribbler, fast runner, etc.). No need to interpret his status in the play, he is automatically out.

South Dakota Amateur Baseball:

See American Legion Baseball Force-Play-Slide Rule.

South Dakota High School Baseball:

Rule 8-4-2b: A runner is out when he does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases; or

1. A runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.
2. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. Jumping, hurdling, and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal.

Rule 2-32-1: A legal slide can be either feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground. If a runner slides, he must slide within reach of the base with either a hand or a foot. A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.

Rule 2-32-2: A slide is illegal if:

- a. The runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder; or
- b. The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in the standing position; or
- c. Except at home plate, the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder. At home plate, it is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the plate in a straight line (baseline extended); or
- d. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or
- e. The runner tries to injure the fielder; or
- f. The runner, on a force play, does not slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases.

Bottom Line:

- This is essentially the same rule as the American Legion Rule except:
 - Pop-up slides are not allowed. NO POP-UP SLIDES.
 - The runner cannot slide through the base (baseline extended) and make contact or alter the play. He must stop his slide at the base.

South Dakota A Baseball:

See American Legion Baseball Force-Play-Slide Rule. For 12U and under, see www.sdumpires.org.

VFW Baseball:

See South Dakota High School Baseball Force-Play-Slide Rule. For 12U and under, see www.sdumpires.org.