



Collision Rule 2015

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- Collision rule introduced by Major League Baseball in 2014
- Changes in interpretation during MLB season
 - Process of learning and „unwritten rules“
- Some plays at home plate were reviewed in MLB
 - 92 challenges (91 on request of the umpires)
 - 11 overturned original call *
 - We will not have video reviews during games
- IBAF will introduce rule in 2015
 - IBAF gives additional information
 - Germany (DBV) will introduce new rule in 2015
 - For CEB there is no final decision yet
- Precise OBR wording of the rule for 2015 not official yet

*) <http://baseballsavant.com/apps/replays.php?ddlTypes=home-plate%20collision&ddlTeams=&ddlGameDate=&ddlChallenger=TeamChallenging>




OBR 7.06
Obstruction

OBR 7.13
Collision Plays
(new)

OBR 2.00
Definition of
„Obstruction“

 **IBAF™**
Bulletin
Collision Plays
(new)

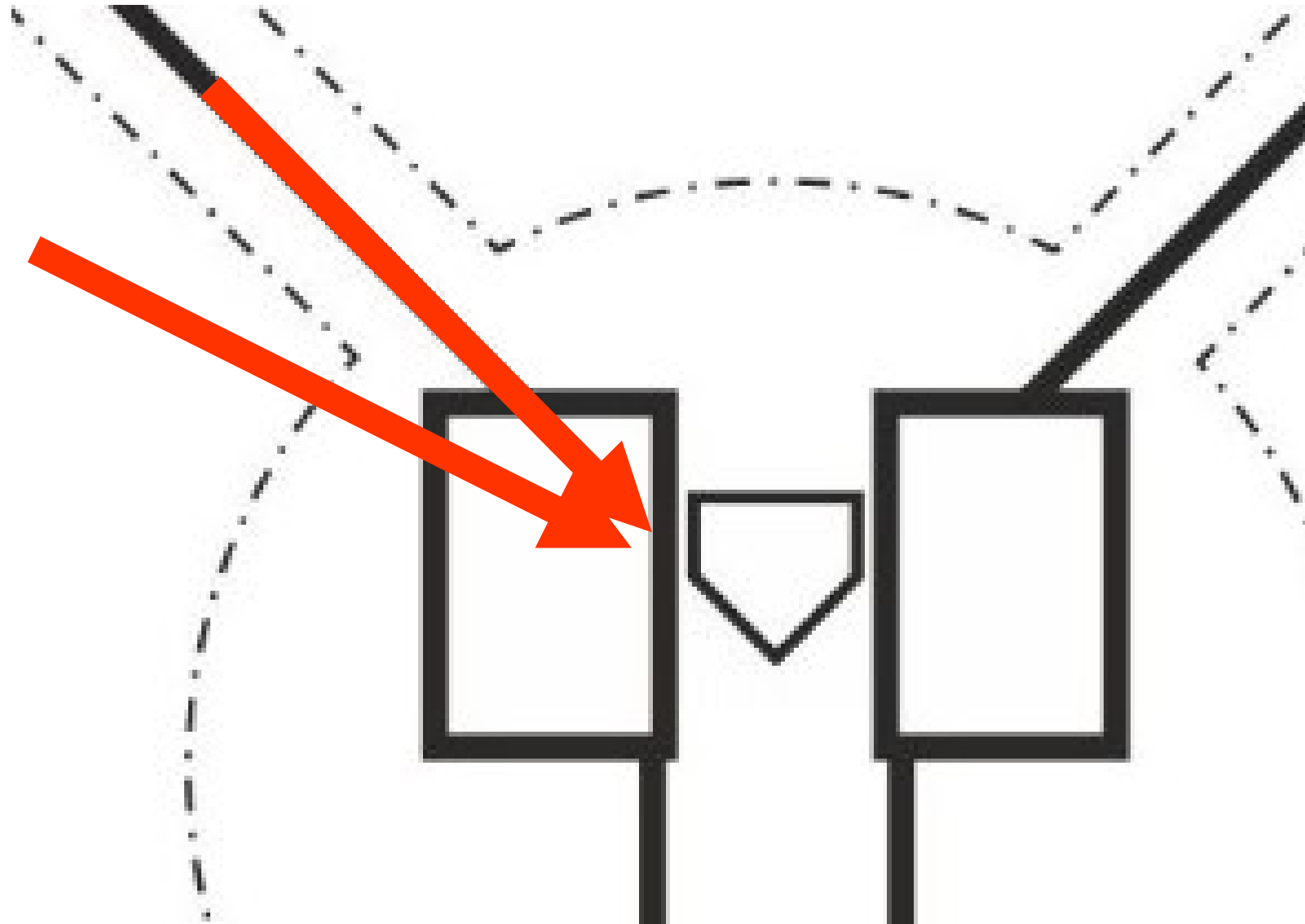


-  Collisions considered as “avoidable” will be sanctioned
-  Runners will be sanctioned for flagrant / malicious contact
-  Runners receive right of “free base bath” (exceptions apply)



- A collision is **avoidable**
 - Runner had a free (not blocked) path to home plate
 - Runner leaving free path for collision: Interference
 - Runner acting flagrantly / maliciously: Ejection

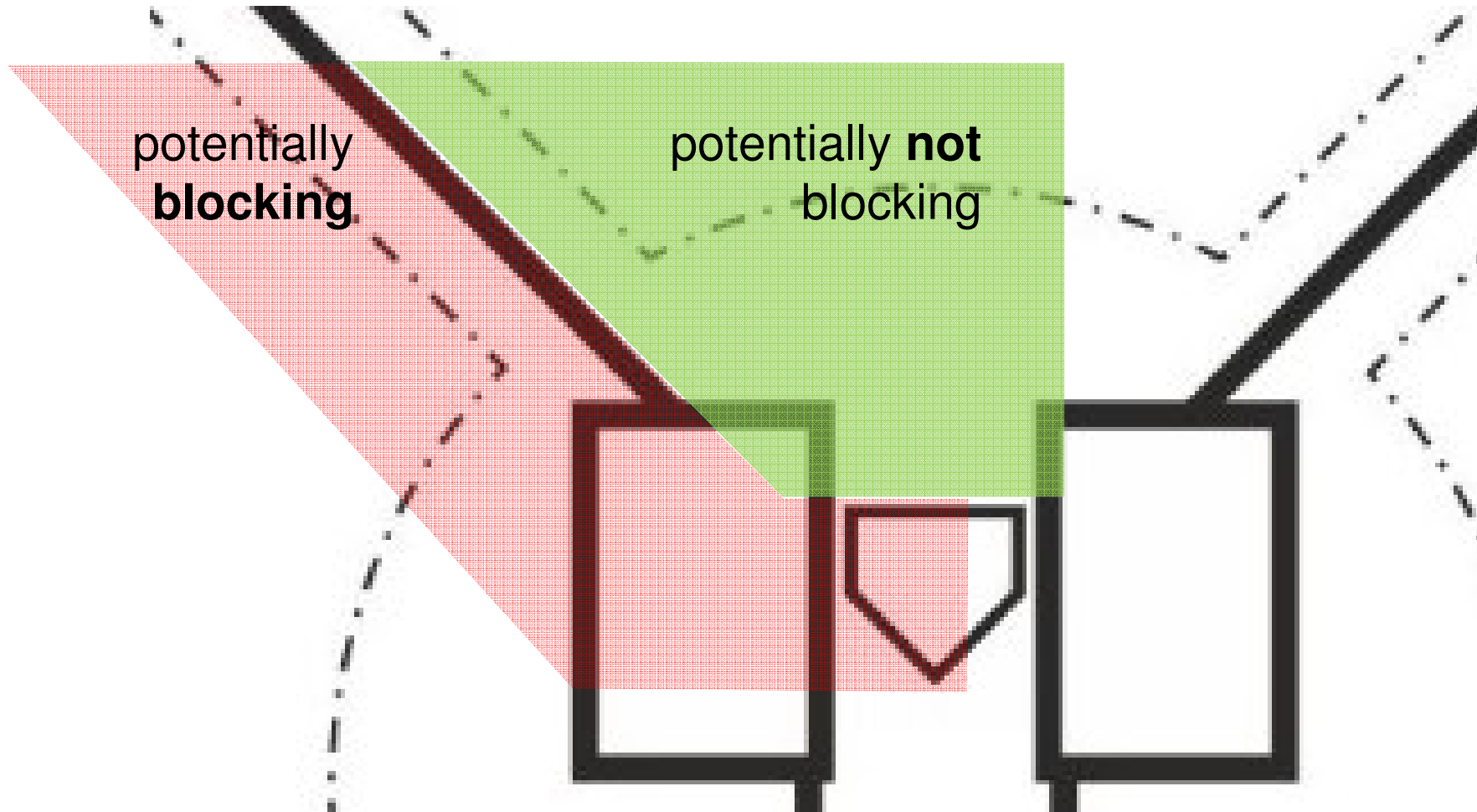
Possible Base Paths





- A collision is **unavoidable**
 - Runner had no free path to home plate (path is blocked).
- Blocking is only legal in two cases
 - Fielder already is in possession of the ball when blocking; or
 - Fielder must assume a blocking position in order to field the batted or thrown ball.
- When blocking is legal: A collision is assumed as unavoidable
 - But still: Runner may not act flagrantly / maliciously
- Blocking without a legal reason: **Obstruction**
 - A collision is not required to call obstruction
 - A brief blocking with the runner still far away will not be called obstruction

Potentially blocking?



Rough orientation only! Depends on individual runner's path!



Flagrant / malicious contact

- Actions primarily performed to dislodge the ball from the fielder including
 - Lowering the shoulder
 - Pushing with hands, arms, elbows
 - Feet-first-slide: Runner's buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher.
 - Head-first-slide: Runner's body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher.
- Violation will be followed by ejection of the runner.
 - Irrespective of an avoidable or unavoidable collision



Interference

- “That’s Interference. Time.” Runner Out. Other runners return to the base last legally touch at the time of the interference.
- All plays before the interference are not affected.

Obstruction

- “That’s Obstruction” – Play continuous until all plays are finished.
- Runner is awarded home plate.
- Other runner’s are placed by the umpire’s judgement.

Flagrant / malicious contact

- Will be sanctioned with an ejection.
- Flagrant contact after a runner was safe at home plate:
 - “Time”. Run counts, but runner ejected.

10 Examples

Each video can be watched using the **Video Link** on each page.

Example #1

0205

25 MAY 2011



🏈 **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ 🏈 **No**

🏈 **Runner**

🏈 Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ 🏈 **Yes**

🏈 Flagrant or malicious contact _____ 🏈 **Yes**

That's Interference. Runner out. Runner ejected.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/v15201733/must-c-collision-cousins-posey-collide-at-the-plate/>

Example #2

0188

17 OCT 2013



🏈 **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ 🏈 **No**

🏈 **Runner**

🏈 Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ 🏈 **Yes**

🏈 Flagrant or malicious contact _____ 🏈 **Yes**

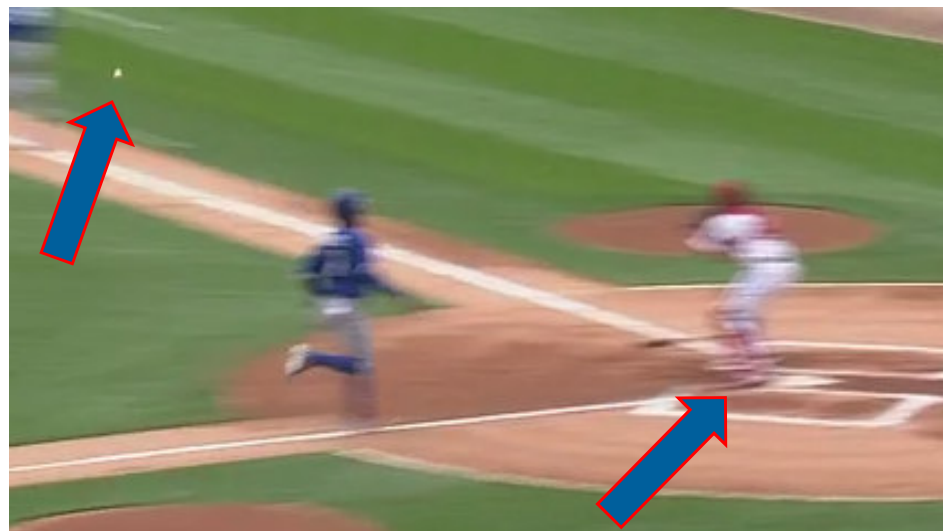
That's Interference. Runner out. Runner ejected.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/11493214/v31156483/must-c-collision-avila-ross-collide-at-the-dish/>

Example #3

0206

17 AUG 2014



- **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ ● **Yes**
- Bad throw / Catcher fielding the ball _____ ● **No**
- Catcher already in possession of ball when blocking ____ ● **No**
- **Runner**
- Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ ● **No**
- Flagrant or malicious contact _____ ● **No**

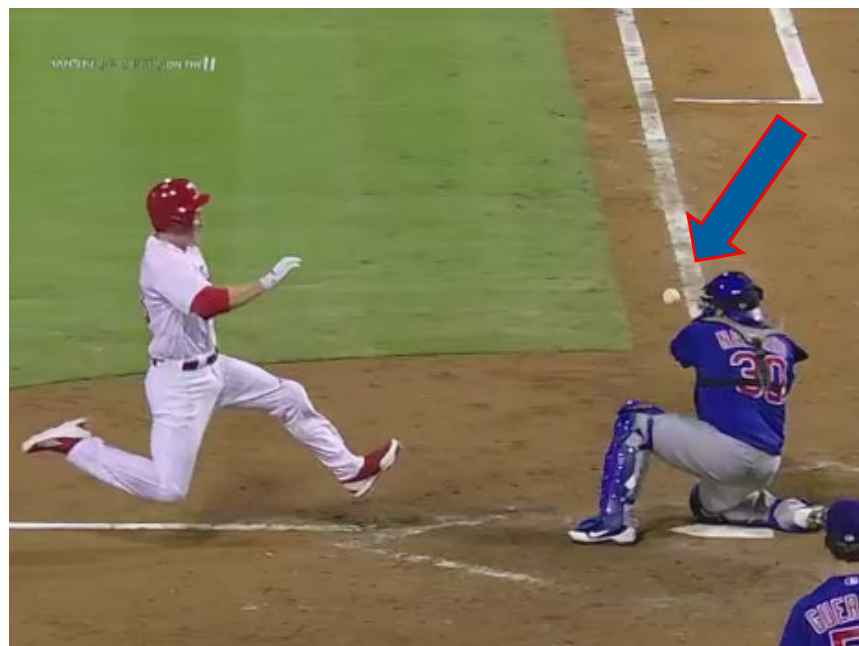
That's Obstruction. Time. Runner safe at the plate.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/63817564/v35440661/torcws-umpires-review-out-overturned-in-1st/>

Example #4

0207

07 AUG 2013



- **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ ● **Yes**
- Bad throw / Catcher fielding the ball _____ ● **No**
- Catcher already in possession of ball when blocking ____ ● **No**
- **Runner**
- Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ ● **No**
- Flagrant or malicious contact _____ ● **Yes**

That's Obstruction. Time. Runner safe at the plate. Runner: Ejection.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/v29511343/chcphi-navarro-holds-on-after-collision-exits-game/>

Example #5

0201

22 SEP 2014



Fielder blocking base path to home plate _____ No

Runner

Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ No

Flagrant or malicious contact _____ No

Safe. Nothing. Collision unavoidable.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/v36502245/seator-maurer-stays-in-game-after-plate-collision/>

Example #6

0189

24 SEP 2014



- **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ ● **Yes**
- Bad throw / Catcher fielding the ball _____ ● **No**
- Catcher already in possession of ball when blocking ____ ● **Yes**
- **Runner**
- Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ ● **No**
- Flagrant or malicious contact _____ ● **No**

Out – Tag Play. A collision would be unavoidable. Possession of the ball.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/63817564/v36558053/laoak-out-call-stands-after-calhouns-laser-throw/>

Example #7

0197

25 SEP 2014



- **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ ● **Yes**
- Bad throw / Catcher fielding the ball _____ ● **Yes**
- Catcher already in possession of ball when blocking ____ ● **No**
- **Runner**
- Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ ● **No**
- Flagrant or malicious contact _____ ● **No**

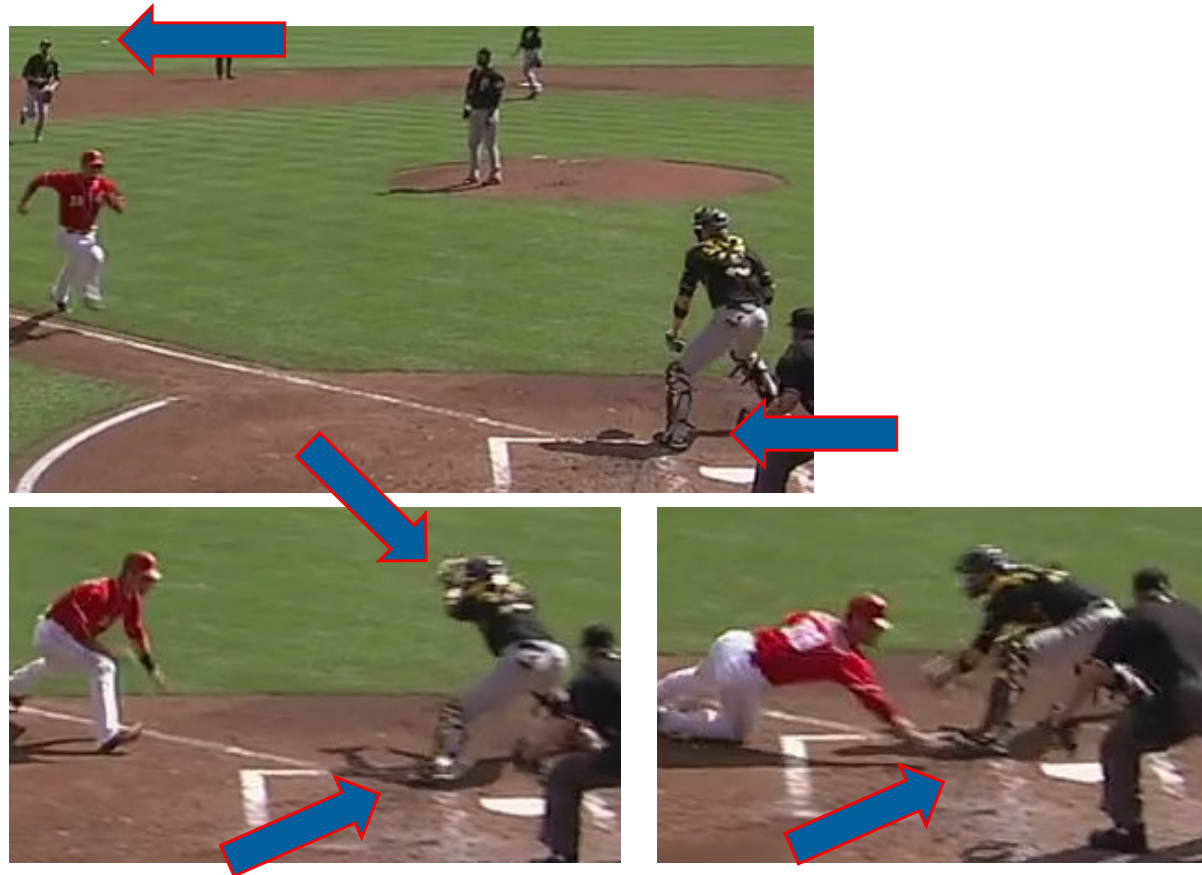
Out – Tag Play. A collision would be unavoidable. Fielding the ball.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/63817564/v36583211/milcin-call-at-home-confirmed-after-review-in-4th/>

Example #8

0199

27 SEP 2014



🏈 **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ 🏈 **No**

🏈 **Runner**

🏈 Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ 🏈 **No**

🏈 Flagrant or malicious contact _____ 🏈 **No**

Out – Tag Play. Hard to see – but no blocking involved.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/63817564/v36644617/pitcin-out-call-stands-no-violation-of-rule-713/>

Example #9

0202

09 SEP 2014



- **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ ● **Yes**
- Bad throw / Catcher fielding the ball _____ ● **Yes**
- Catcher already in possession of ball when blocking ____ ● **No**
- **Runner**
- Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ ● **No**
- Flagrant or malicious contact _____ ● **No**

Out – Tag Play. A collision would be unavoidable. Fielding the ball.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/63817564/v36096131/tbnny-umps-confirm-no-violation-of-713-in-5th/>

Example #10

0204

20 SEP 2014



- **Catcher** blocking base path to home plate _____ ● **Yes**
- Bad throw / Catcher fielding the ball _____ ● **Yes**
- Catcher already in possession of ball when blocking ____ ● **No**
- **Runner**
- Leaving free base path / Attempt to dislodge ball _____ ● **No**
- Flagrant or malicious contact _____ ● **No**

Out – Tag Play. A collision would be unavoidable. Fielding the ball.

Video Link: <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/63817564/v36446193/wshmia-out-call-confirmed-at-the-plate-in-the-7th/>

Play Ball!

Appendix

Plays at Home Plate: Decision Criteria



Collision?					
yes			no		
Blocking?			Possession?		
yes			yes		
no			no		
Possession?		avoidable – possible INTERFERENCE	Blocking?		
yes			yes		
no			no		
Fielding?			Fielding?		
yes		unavoidable	yes		Nothing
no		OBSTRUCTION	no		OBSTRUCTION
					Nothing

Flagrant or malicious contact is always prohibited!

7.13 Collision Rule – MLB 2014



7.13 COLLISIONS AT HOME PLATE.

- (1) A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the umpire shall declare the runner out (even if the player covering home plate loses possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.

Rule 7.13(1) Comment: The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the plate, the runner's lowering of the shoulder, or the runner's pushing through with his hands, elbows or arms, would support a determination that the runner deviated from the pathway in order to initiate contact with the catcher in violation of Rule 7.13. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 7.13. A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner's buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. In the case of a head first slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if his body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher.

- (2) Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as he is attempting to score. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the catcher without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the umpire shall call or signal the runner safe. Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation of this Rule 7.13 if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw, and the umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.

The IBAF is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions primarily with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. **The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid such collisions whenever possible.**

- (1) When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:
 - a) Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (**could the runner have reached the plate without colliding**) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the plate was blocked);
 - b) **Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the plate or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder; or**
 - c) Whether the runner was using flagrant contact to maliciously dislodge the ball.

Penalty

- ❖ If the runner **attempted to dislodge the ball**, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- ❖ If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the plate, the runner **MAY** make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a **legitimate attempt** to reach the plate.
- ❖ If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner was before the runner's touching the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead immediately. All other base runners shall return to the bases they occupied at the time of the interference.

Penalty (...)

- ❖ If the contact was after a preceding runner had touched home plate, the preceding runner will be ruled safe, the ball becomes dead immediately and all other base runners will return to the base they had last touched prior to the contact.
- ❖ If the runner is safe and the collision is malicious, the runner shall be ruled safe and ejected from the game.

(2) If the defensive player blocks the plate or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called.

The umpire shall point and call, “That’s obstruction.” the umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in Rule 2 of the Official Rules of baseball. The obstructed runner is awarded at least one base beyond the base last touched legally before the obstruction.

- ❖ If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.
- ❖ If the runner’s path to the base is blocked and all stipulations above are fulfilled, it is considered unavoidable contact.