

BULLETIN #9
INTERFERENCE AND OBSTRUCTION – CONTACT WITH A FIELDER OR RUNNER
INTERPERTATION

Interference: - The act of offensive player or team member who *impedes, hinders, or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play.*

Obstruction: The act of a fielder who *impedes the progress of a batter-runner or runner who is legally running the bases while: 1) not in possession of the ball.*

HOW TO INTERPRET WHETHER INTERFERENCE OR OBSTRUCTION:

Interference and obstruction are judgement call. However, with interference, as with obstruction there has to be a reaction by the non-offending player.

- A) In cases of interference, the defensive player has to be hindered, impeded or confused by the actions of the offensive player. So there must be an act by the offensive player and a reaction by the defensive player that results in the defensive player being hindered, impeded or confused in their attempt to make a play.
- B) In the case of obstruction, there is a need for an action by the Defensive player that hinders or prevents a batter striking at or hitting a ball or impedes the progress of a batter-runner or runner. A defensive player is standing in front of base or in a base path, is not by itself obstruction. The action of the defensive player must result in the progress of batter-runner or runner's being impeded.

It is essential to understand the elements that must exist in order for there to be Interference or Obstruction. An umpire must wait to see the reaction to the action before judging whether Interference or Obstruction occurred.