In the 2014–2017 Playing Rules, Rule 8 Section 9 stated “A runner is out f) when he physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been called out. EFFECT Sec 9f. The ball remains in play. EXCEPTION: When the runner passes a preceding runner during a dead ball play the ball will remain dead. If the ball becomes a foul ball or an uncaught fly foul ball, the runner who passes is not out.

This was interpreted as a runner who passed a preceding runner on an out-of-the park home run was to be called out, even though this is a dead ball situation.

In the transition to the 2018–2021 Playing Rules, the rule was written as RULE 5.10.3 Runners are out a) vi “they physically pass a preceding runner before that runner has been called out. The runner is not out if the ball becomes a foul ball or an uncaught fly foul ball or if a runner passes a preceding runner on a dead ball play. The ball remains dead.”

Under this wording a runner passing a preceding runner on an out-of-the park home run would not be called out.

While this was not introduced as a specific rule change at the 2017 Rules Congress, the 2018–2021 Playing Rules were adopted by Congress.

Because this is a debatable issue, the following interpretation will be in effect for the 2018-2021 Playing rules:

In relation to Rule 5.10.3 a) vi) A runner who passes a preceding runner during an out-of-the park home run will not be called out, provided the correct order of touching bases is re-established prior to the passing runner touching the next base. The ball remains dead.

In order to clearly state the rule, the following rule change proposal will be made to the 2022 – 2025 Playing Rules:

“5.10.3 a) vi) they physically pass a preceding runner before that runner has been called out. Exceptions: When the runner passes a preceding runner on a declared foul ball, an uncaught fly foul ball, an out of the park home run or an award of bases, the ball remains dead and the runner is not out. A runner who passes a preceding runner during an out of the park home run, must re-establish the running order prior to the passing runner touching the next base. Runners must meet all base running responsibilities including awarded bases being touched in legal order.