Two – Man System of Umpiring “Special Situations”

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Special Situations

- Force Play Slide Rule
- Collision Rule
- Obstruction
- Appeals
- Weather
- Balks
- Batter Hit by Pitch
- Bench Decorum
- Confrontations
Force Play Slide Rule

Don’t be too quick to call interference on a slide, “near” the bag, that does not make contact nor alter the play.

### Exception: If this is a play at the plate it is legal even if there is contact
Collisions
Collisions

When the ball and runner arrive at the same time it is possible, and not against the rules, that a collision will happen.

Look for arm action – extending of the arms or throwing the elbow.

If you see a possible collision play developing, warn the catcher and runner by telling them to go easy.
Obstruction

Fielders are not permitted to block the base path of a runner unless they have the ball.

The runner must have “Access” to the bag.

We should be alert for obstruction on pick-off plays.

We should look for obstruction on pick-off plays and plays at the plate.

Note: Obstruction is a delayed dead ball and the obstructed runner is awarded a minimum of one base beyond the base last touched. The direction in which he is running does not matter.
For the Purpose of Discussion

What is the Call?
Appeals

Check Swing    Missed Base    Leaving too Soon
Appeals – Check swing.

Call what you see.

Ask right away on a questionable swing on strike 3.

We probably don’t want to change the call if something crazy happens before we rule on the appeal.
Appeals

Missed Base or Leaving too Soon
Live ball appeals may be made by any fielder by touching the base or by tagging the runner. There are no accidents.

There must be a tag or a touch and a verbal statement.

Dead ball appeals may be made verbally by a coach or a player. No tag or touch is necessary.

If the bag is your responsibility, you make the call.

BUT

Make eye contact with your partner first!
Balks
Balks

Both umpires should be watching the pitcher.

Look for obvious balks such as but not limited to:

1. Not coming to a complete stop.

2. Turning the shoulder towards 1st base after bringing the hands together.

3. A left hander’s step that is not towards 1st base.

4. A right hander’s spin move that does not gain ground toward 1st base.
Batter hit by a pitch

Hitters must make an attempt to get **out of the way** of a pitch.

If the pitch is in the batters box, give the benefit of the **doubt** to the hitter.

**Never permit the hitter to chase the pitch with a body part.**

Call **“TIME”** say **“YOU STAY HERE”** and call the pitch a strike or **most likely** a ball.

**This is a tough call, but a good umpire will be able to handle it!**
Bench Decorum
Bench Decorum

Keep players in their bench areas.

Have lines drawn to help determine bench areas.

Do not allow any negative remarks directed towards the opponents, fans, or umpires.

No objects are to be used as noise makers.
Weather
Weather

Error on the side of caution when dealing with inclement weather conditions. If you:

1. See lightening.

2. Hear thunder.

3. Hear a lightening detector sound.

Get the teams off the field into safe shelter and wait the prescribed amount of time before resuming (30 minutes from the last bolt in ALL cases).
The PIAA Game Ending Procedure

Once the game has started, if play is halted because of weather, darkness, or light failure, we have a suspended game to be continued from the point of interruption at a later date.

**Exception:** If at least 4 1/2 innings have been completed and the home team is ahead, the game is over because a winner can be determined.

**Suggestion:** If you are in the fourth inning of a close game, and it is raining, get the teams off of the field until conditions improve.
Gentlemanly disagreements

Coaches are entitled to ask for clarifications and explanations, if they approach you with respect and do not abuse the privilege.

If necessary, meet as a crew to get it right.

Before you do this, notify both coaches to return to their dugouts.

Inform them that you are meeting and when you reach a decision there will be no further discussions.

Since this is the only form of protest allowed by the PIAA, Go to the rule book, if you have to.

BUT

DO SO OUT OF SIGHT
Confrontations
Confrontations

This is a one on one situation. Umpires not involved in the play are to police the area.

**Do not** shout, point, nor touch.

**Do not** prolong the discussion. Sometimes it is best to let the other person have the last word. Especially if he is walking away and is not disrespectful.

Never chase after a coach or prevent him from walking away

**Do** draw your personal line and if the coach crosses it, eject him.

**Do not** forfeit a game. Terminate the game and let the District or PIAA decide the consequences.
Thank you for your Attention
AND
Please Remember
TO
Call Strikes!