

1. What is the rule about runners and fielders at second base?

SECOND BASE – Why we have a rule

- At times, second base can become congested with a shortstop and/or extra outfielder.
- Therefore, there is a greater chance of a collision and injury when a runner is going into second base.
- We don't want collisions or injuries. That is why we have the following rules to help minimize the chance of injury:

GMSS RULES (8) RUNNER

2. When **advancing**, a runner may over-run second & third base.

He may touch the base, or if he expects to be played on, **must run by either side of the base** (GMSS version of the Utley Rule) **to be in his legal base path**. If he makes any movement to advance and then decides to return to the previously acquired base, he is subject to a normal tag-out play (see 8.C). He does not have to return to the bag to advance.

10. The runner is responsible for avoiding a collision if fielder is realistically trying to field a batted ball or catch a thrown ball. **Fielder will bear shared responsibility in preventing collisions** if the thrown ball is off target and he makes a sudden move to catch it which puts him into the path (see rule 2 above) of the runner's legal base path (may be called obstruction). Running into a fielder otherwise is an automatic out.

NOTE: We are giving the umpire more discretion in making the call as to whether it is obstruction or interference.

2. What should an infielder do if there is no play at his base?

- It is the fielder's responsibility to get out of the way so the runner can round the base if he wants to. It is best for the fielder to stand still, however, if the runner is close as he is already running to miss the fielder and the fielder's late action in moving out of the way might put the fielder into the runner's base path - the fielder could be called for obstruction.