

**Play #1:** Fast Pitch - B2, the batter-runner has bunted the ball and runs towards 1B. The throw from F1 is offline and is launched into the corner of right field. B2 continues running and is obstructed at 3B by F5, who is standing on the inside corner of third base, watching F9 retrieve the ball. The obstruction causes B2 to stumble while rounding 3B. Once they regain their stride, B2 intentionally removes their helmet approximately halfway between 3B and home, but they continue towards home. The catcher, who is set up on the first baseline, catches the ball before B2 arrives and attempts a tag, but B2 jumps over the glove and touches home plate before the tag is applied. The PU calls the runner “safe!” After the play is over, the defensive coach comes out and asks the umpires to get together and talk about the player removing their helmet. The two umpires meet and agree there was obstruction at 3B by F5. They signalled and verbalized it when it happened. They both agree that B2 intentionally removed their helmet, but are uncertain if that matters. They agree because B2 scored that there is “No Violation.” After conferring with each other, the PU tells the Defensive coach that there is no violation. The coach protests the ruling and asks for a UIC.

**Ruling:** Once the UIC arrives, they go over the play with both umpires. They confirm the great work of the umpires to signal and verbalize the obstruction. The UIC asks if the removal of the helmet was intentional, and they both agree that, in their judgment, it was intentional. The UIC shows them in the rule book, **Rule 3, Section 5E** (effect: *Wearing the helmet improperly or removing the helmet during a live ball play and judged by the umpire to be a deliberate act shall cause the violator to be declared out immediately. The ball remains live. Calling a runner out for removing a helmet does not remove force play situations.*)

The umpires ask the UIC if that means B2 is out?

- The UIC explains that when B2 deliberately removed their helmet, causing B2 to be called out by rule, they should have called “Time” and killed the play.
- Why? Because the obstructed runner was now OUT between the two bases where they were obstructed, because of the obstruction at 3B.
- The UIC then explains that they need to determine what base B2 would have reached, based on when the obstruction occurred, had there been no obstruction. The UIC gives the umpires time to determine where B2 should be placed.
- They then bring both coaches together and explain that the umpires signaled and verbalized the obstruction properly.
- The umpires did not correctly enforce the penalty for deliberately removing the helmet, but have now determined, based on their judgment, where B2 will be placed or awarded based on the obstruction at 3B.
- The result of the play is based on the judgment of the umpires; B2 could be placed on 3B or awarded home. (3-5E, 8-5-2 Effect 1&2)

**Play #2:** Slow Pitch - In a Women's Open game between two normally competitive teams, the home team jumps out to an early lead and in the bottom of the third inning makes the score 23-3. The umpires call the game, and the players start walking towards each other to shake hands. The visiting coach yells out, "Hey, blue, are you sure the game is over?"

**Ruling:** (Incorrect Ruling) Starting in 2026, **Rule 5, Section 9A[3B]** reads that the run rule for Men's A, B, Women's Open & Seniors is 20 after four innings, 15 after five innings. Since no run-ahead rule has been met, the game should continue.

**Play #3:** All Games - A very intense, highly competitive game between two rival teams ends in an appeal play that ends the game. The losing team is furious! As the umpires walk towards the gate to leave the field, one of the players spits on the umpires and threatens to come out to the parking lot to further share their displeasure. The veteran umpire of the pair immediately signals an ejection and announces, "You're out of here!" The player laughs, gestures inappropriately, and says, "The game's over, get out of here!" Does the ejection hold any weight?

**Ruling:** Yes, starting in 2026, **Rule 4, Section 8B** states: A participant may be ejected at any point from the time the umpire crew enters and until they leave the field of play. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have no contact with the umpires or participants in the game. The ejected participant is restricted from having contact with the team and is suspended for one additional game. The ejected participant is not permitted to sit in the stands, dugout, or general locality of the field in the next game.