

# Oregon School Activities Association

Softball SRI Bulletin / April 13, 2014

SRI Bulletin #8

## Batting Out of Order Simplified

1. **Discovered with wrong batter at bat.**
  - No penalty; place proper batter at bat with wrong batter's count. All advances by runners stand.
2. **Discovered immediately after the wrong batter completes her turn at bat and before the next pitch.**
  - The wrong batter's turn at bat is negated.
  - Any outs made by runners stand. Advances by runners on stolen bases, wild pitches, passed balls and illegal pitches stand.
  - All other runners return to their base at the time of the pitch (TOP).
  - The player who should have batted is declared out.
  - The new proper batter is the name of the player who follows the name in the batting order of the player just declared out.
3. **Discovered after a pitch to the next batter.**
  - All play stands.
  - The first pitch to the batter before the appeal was made legalizes the wrong batter's turn at bat. The new proper batter is the name of the player who follows the just-legalized wrong batter in the batting order.
4. **Only the defensive team may appeal batting out of order after the batter has completed her time at bat.**

## Obstruction of Justice

In **NFHS** the fielder must have **possession of the ball** to be positioned between the base and the runner who is legally running the bases. **If not it is obstruction.** Obstruction also should be called on fielders who impede or hinder a base runner proceeding from or returning to a base. If the runner is impeded or hindered by a fielder, whether it is intentional or unintentional, physical or verbal, the umpire will signal a **delayed-dead ball** and the ball remains **alive**. At the end of playing action, the umpire would award all runners affected by the obstruction the base or bases they would have attained had there been no obstruction. **NFHS 2-36, 5-1-3, 8-4-3b Pen.**

## CASE PLAYS

**Retired Runner Interferes – Play:** R1 is on second and R2 on first with no outs. B3 smashes on one-hopper at F6 moving her to her left. F6 flips the ball to F4 at second for the force on R2, but R2 interferes with an illegal slide on F4 during F4's pivot and throw to first. **Ruling:** Because retired runner R2 interfered with F4, R1, the **closest runner to home is declared out**. B3 is awarded first base. **NFHS 8-6-16c Penalty.**

**Must On-Deck Circle Be Occupied? – Play:** Fast pitch. While umpiring a fast pitch game I noticed that the on-deck circles were frequently unoccupied. Other times the correct batter was not in the on-deck circle. **Is that a violation?** **Ruling:** In **NFHS**, the on-deck circle does not have to be occupied. An offensive desiring to warm up shall use that area provided it is safely away from home plate. **Neither team's players shall warm up in the other team's on-deck circle.** **NFHS 1-1-6**

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