

Behind the Mask – Question 1

B2 hits a grounder to F6. Just as F6 starts to throw to first base, R1 on the way to third base, yells at F6, which startles F6, causing the ball to be thrown over F3's head into dead-ball territory.

Behind the Mask – Question 2

B1 chops the ball and causes it to bounce just in front of home plate. F2 fields the ball but does not throw to first base because B1 was running outside the three-foot running lane, and F2 thought that she would hit the runner.

Behind the Mask – Question 3

F6 fakes a tag as R1 approaches second base. R1 decides to continue on to third base where she is thrown out.

Behind the Mask – Table 4

B1 rounds first base on a base hit. F3 is in her way, but B1 does not elect to try for second, because the ball was already at second base. Is this obstruction?

Behind the Mask – Question 5

F2, (a) with the ball, or (b) without the ball, is blocking home plate. R1 slides into F2 and is tagged out.

Behind the Mask – Question 6

With R1 on third base, R2 on first and two outs, B5 hits a fair slow roller toward first base. B5 interferes with F3, who is trying to field the ball. However, R1 scores before the interference. Does the run score since R1 touched home plate before the interference?

Behind the Mask – Question 7

With R1 on second, R2 on first and one out, B4 hits an infield fly. The ball strikes R1 who is (a) near second, or (b) standing on second.

Behind the Mask – Question 8

R1 on third and R2 on second. As B3 swings, F2's mitt is contacted by B3's bat. R2 is advancing, and interferes with F6's attempt to field the batted ball. What's the ruling?

Behind the Mask – Question 9

A throw from F9 draws F2 into the base path of R1. In (a), the ball arrives just before R1 and F2 has it in her possession. Contact then occurs between F2 and R1, F2 drops the ball and R1 scores. In (b), contact occurs just prior to F2 catching the ball. In both cases, the contact is not malicious.

Behind the Mask – Question 10

With one out, R1 on second and R2 on first, B4 hits a ground ball directly to F1 who throws to F5 for the force on R1 at third. F6 grabs R1 to prevent her from advancing to third.

Answers

Question 1 – 2.32.1 Situation A

RULING: R1 is called out immediately for interference. The ball is declared dead. If this interference, in the judgment of the umpire, is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play and it occurs before R1 is put out, the immediate succeeding runner, B2, shall also be called out. (8-6-10d)

Question 2 – 2.32.1 Situation B

RULING: No infraction has occurred and the ball remains live. Interference cannot be called unless F2 actually makes a throw to first base.

Rule 8.2.6 There must be a throw

Question 3 – 2.36 Situation A

RULING: F6 is guilty of obstruction. Faking a tag is obstruction. If in the judgment of the umpire R1 would have reached third base had she not been obstructed, she would be awarded her base. Otherwise she is out. (2-21; 3-6-2; 8-4-3b)

Question 4 – 2.36 Situation B

RULING: Yes. The umpire should call obstruction, but would not advance the runner if, in the umpire's judgment, the runner would not have reached second base had the obstruction not occurred.

Question 5 – 2.36 Situation C

RULING: In (a), R1 is out. In (b), the umpire would call obstruction and signal a delayed dead ball. The runner would be awarded the base, in the umpire's judgment, she would have received had there been no obstruction.

Question 6 – 8.2.7 Situation C

RULING: The run does not score if any runner advanced during action in which the third out was made by the batter-runner before she touched first base. (9-1-1 Exception a)

Question 7 – 8.6.10 Situation C

RULING: In (a) and (b), B4 is out, because of the infield fly rule. In (a), R1 is out and the ball becomes dead. In (b), R1 is not out unless she intentionally interfered. The ball would be ruled dead or live depending on position of the fielder closest to the base. (8-6-10a; 8-2-9)

Question 8 – 8.6.10 Situation G

RULING: The catcher's obstruction resulted in a delayed dead ball and R2's interference resulted in an immediate dead ball. The enforcement of the interference penalty would have precedence over any obstruction. R2 is declared out, and R1 is returned to third base if she has not scored before the interference. B3 is awarded first base. (2-32; 5-1-1e; 8-4-3b; 8-6-10, 14 Penalty)

Question 9 – 8.4.3 Situation F

RULING: In (a), there is no obstruction or interference. This is viewed simply as a collision. The run scores. In (b), F2 has committed obstruction; R1 will be awarded the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction.

Question 10 – 8.4.3 Situation A

RULING: The umpire will signal obstruction when it occurs, and then call time at the end of playing action or when the obstructed runner is put out before reaching the base she would have, in the umpire's judgment, had there been no obstruction. The umpire will award R1 and any other runners the base or bases they would have reached had there been no obstruction. F6 shall also be ejected for unsporting behavior. (2-36; 3-6-13c; 5-1-3; 8-4-3b)