

Rule 7.13: COLLISIONS AT HOME PLATE.

(1) A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the umpire shall declare the runner out (even if the player covering home plate loses possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.

- **Score as Offensive Interference, per rule 10.09(c)(6)**

(2) Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as he is attempting to score. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the catcher without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the umpire shall call or signal the runner safe. Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation of this Rule 7.13 if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw, and the umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.

- **Obstruction (Decisive Error) may be scored, but only if the blocking of the plate call changed what was going to happen – in the opinion of the scorer – if there had been no blocking of the plate, per rule 10.12(c) Comment.**

Rule 10.12(c):

When an umpire awards the batter or any runner or runners one or more bases because of interference or obstruction, the official scorer shall charge the fielder who committed the interference or obstruction with one error, no matter how many bases the batter, or runner or runners, may advance.

Rule 10.12(c) Comment:

The official scorer shall not charge an error if obstruction does not change the play, in the opinion of the scorer.

Consider these examples:

- A. The player is running home and, in the opinion of the official scorer, will be PUT OUT at the plate. The catcher makes the out, but the umpire calls the runner safe due to the catcher blocking the plate. Now the run scores (UR), and the catcher has committed an obstruction error (E2) ***because the play outcome has been changed by his blocking of the plate.***
- B. The player is running home and, in the opinion of the official scorer, will be SAFE at the plate. The catcher makes the out, but the umpire calls the runner safe due to the catcher blocking the plate. Now the run scores, and ***the catcher's illegal action has been nullified,*** so the run scores on the play (eg, RBI).