

NCAA FORCE-PLAY-SLIDE RULE (NCAA Rule 8, Section 4):

The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of all players. This is a safety and an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

- a. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground before the base and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.
Exception - A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference shall not be called.
 1. "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground before the base.
 2. "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.
- b. Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.
A.R. - If contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a "pop-up" slide, this contact is legal.
- c. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:
 1. The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of a fielder (with or without contact).
 2. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of a fielder;
 3. The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position;
 4. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or
 5. The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

Penalty for 1-5

1. With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner (s) shall advance.
2. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
3. If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the contest.
A.R. - If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made, and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

K. NCAA COLLISION RULE (NCAA Rule 8, Section 7):

***with the exception of home plate, where MLB rule 7.13 will be followed (See section L)

The rules committee is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid such collisions whenever possible. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:

If the defensive player blocks the base (~~plate~~) or base line with clear possession of the ball, the runner may make contact, slide into or make contact with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base (~~plate~~). Contact above the waist that was initiated by the base runner shall not be judged as an attempt to reach the base or plate.

1. The runner must make an actual attempt to reach the base (~~plate~~).
Penalty – If the runner attempts to dislodge the ball or initiates an avoidable collision, the runner shall be declared out, even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
2. The runner may not attempt to dislodge the ball from the fielder. Contact above the waist shall be judged by the umpire as an attempt by the runner to dislodge the ball.
Penalty – If the contact is flagrant or malicious before the runner touches the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball is immediately dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

3. The runner must attempt to avoid a collision if he can reach the base without colliding.
Penalty – If the contact is flagrant or malicious after the runner touches the base (plate), the runner is safe, but is ejected from the contest. The ball is immediately dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the contact. If the contact occurs after the preceding runner touches home plate, the preceding runner is safe. The ball is immediately dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the contact.
4. If the runner's path to the base is blocked and 1, 2 and 3 are fulfilled, it is considered unavoidable contact.

L. MLB collision rule applies to home plate ONLY, rule 7.13

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.

Rule 7.13 Comment: The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the plate, the runner's lowering of the shoulder, or the runner's pushing through with his hands, elbows or arms, would support a determination that the runner deviated from the pathway in order to initiate contact with the catcher in violation of Rule 7.13. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 7.13. A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner's buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. In the case of a head first slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if his body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher.

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.