



"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute messages designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be The Referee" features MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl's insights on officiating.

You Make The Call – Does The Run Count?

Let's do a You Make The Call, which is the same for both Baseball and Softball today.

A runner is on third base with two outs and an 0-2 count on the batter. The batter swings and misses for what looks like it's strike three on a pitch that's in the dirt. As the ball gets away from the catcher, the batter-runner now takes off for first base given that the third strike was not caught.

As the catcher is retrieving the ball, the runner on third base touches home plate and scores. The catcher then fires the ball down to first, just ahead of the runner, in which the umpire calls the runner out for the third out.

Here's the question – does that run count?

The answer is no. Even though the runner scored before the third out was made, the third out was a force out at first base, which means no other runs can score.

(5/30/16)