



The NFHS rules regarding slides are different from their professional and collegiate counterparts and consists of a combination of rules found in various sections of the rulebook. This summary seeks to simplify the high school slide rules and provide MHSAA baseball umpires with the expectations in enforcement.

Know these key points:

- A runner is **NEVER** required to slide, including on force plays or plays at home plate. (8-4-2b.2)
- If a runner chooses to slide, the slide must be legal.
- Just because a slide is illegal doesn't mean that it is interference or that a runner is out.

In order for a slide to be **LEGAL**...

The runner **MUST** (2-32-1):

- Slide feet first (*i.e., at least one leg and buttock on the ground*) or head first (*i.e., the chest or abdomen on the ground*) before reaching the base or contacting the fielder; and
 - A runner may jump, hurdle or leap over a fielder lying on the ground but may NEVER dive over a fielder under any circumstance. (8-4-2b.2)
- Slide within reach of the base with either a hand or foot or in a direction away from the fielder making a play.
 - If a force play, the runner must slide in a direct line between bases.

And **MUST NOT** (2-32-2):

- Roll or cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder; or
- Raise his foot higher than the fielder's knee (when the fielder is standing); or
- Slide beyond the base; or
- Make an intentional act while sliding such as throwing his arms up in attempt to interfere, slashing, kicking or attempting to injure the fielder.

If the slide does not meet all of the requirements in 2-32-2 or includes any of the restrictions in 2-32-2, it is an **ILLEGAL** slide.

It is interference by a *sliding runner* if he makes an **ILLEGAL** slide *and* makes contact with a fielder or alters the play *or* does not slide in a direct line between bases on a force play. (8-4-2b)

EXCEPTION: A runner that elects to slide is not required to slide in a direct line between bases on a force play if he slides away from the direction of the fielder to avoid contact or from altering the play. (8-4-2b.1)

PENALTY: If a sliding runner is called out for interference, the runner is out, and all other runners return to their bases at the time of the interference. If the interference occurs on a force play, the batter-runner is also out and all other runners return to their bases at the time of the pitch. The batter-runner is the other runner called out, regardless of whether a double play was likely or on who either play was intended. (8-4-2b PENALTY)

NOTE: A runner that chooses not to slide (*i.e., goes into a base standing up*) is not out, even if he makes contact with the fielder, is hit with a throw or alters the play in any other way, unless the umpire believes that his actions were intended to interfere with the play.