



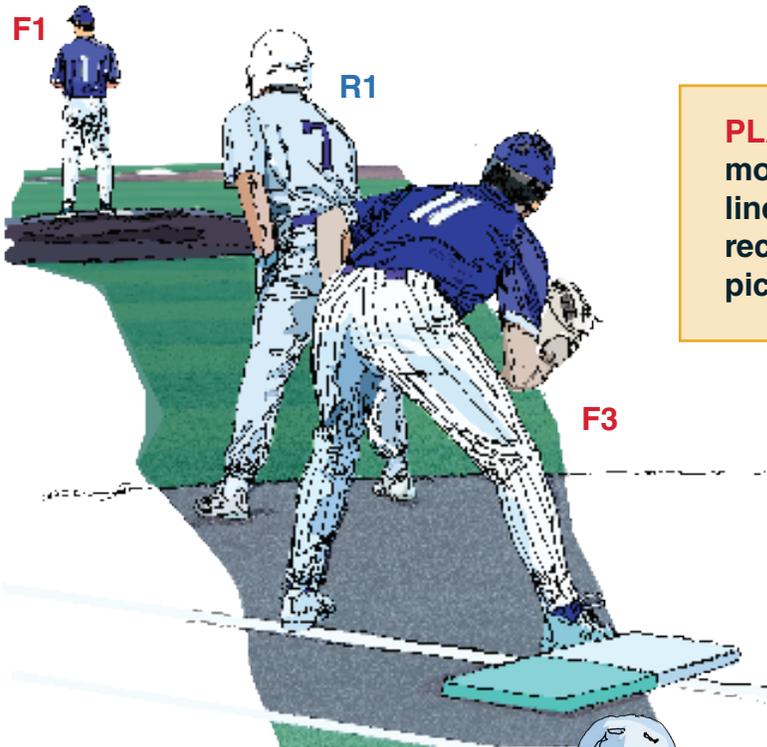
March 18, 2026

NFHS Baseball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Baseball is a revered, mature sport rich with nuance and strategy from pitching and batting to baserunning. This week's interpretation addresses a coaching technique in which a runner attempts to gain an advantage by obstructing the pitcher's access during a pickoff attempt at first base. While this maneuver may appear subtle, it limits the defense and constitutes interference under NFHS rules. We trust this clarification will be received as helpful and constructive.

We have attached the illustration as a combined document for your use and for ease of distribution. These materials serve as excellent discussion tools for both first year and veteran umpires. Thank you for your continued support and professionalism throughout the season, and best wishes for a successful baseball season.

**LEADING OFF FIRST BASE-
 (8-4-2g 8.4.2 Situation F)**



PLAY: R1, leading off first base, moves up to the front of the base-line, effectively screening F3 from receiving the ball on an attempted pickoff by F1.

PLAY: R1 is blocking F3 from receiving the pickoff attempt from F1.

RULING: R1, shall be called (OUT) for interference. The runner gains an advantage not intended by rule. This maneuver taught by some coaches shall be penalized.

