

THE SLIDE RULE

The Rule Itself:

7.08 -- Any runner is out when - **(a) (3)** the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag;

Comments from the Little League Case Book:

“The Right Call” Casebook -- Comment: There is **NO** “must slide” rule. The rule is slide or **attempt** to get around. The key in this situation is “fielder has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.”

From the Little League Rules Instruction Manual:

INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS:

Hurdling or going over the defensive player that has the ball and is waiting to make a tag is a legal maneuver. Rule 7.08(a) (3) does not prevent or make hurdling illegal.

Rule 7.08(a-3) is easily the most misunderstood rule in the book. It is easily broken down as follows:

- (1) The fielder must have the ball in his/her possession; **AND**
- (2) The fielder must be **WAITING** to make the tag;

If **BOTH** of those two criteria are satisfied, then the runner must **EITHER**:

- (1) **Slide**; OR
- (2) **ATTEMPT** to get around the fielder.

Notice that the rule says, “attempt to get around”, not “avoid”. Contact may occur with no penalty assessed.

There is no “Must Slide” rule and no league may create one. No league may modify **Rule 7.08(a-3)**.