

DISTRICT #4'S "RUHLE OF THE WEEK"

This week's question:

True or False?

The runner must always slide on a close play.

Answer: False!

Rule book reference 7.08(a)

The Runner is never required to slide. Although it is suggested, sliding is just one of the options a runner has.

If they choose not to slide, they can retreat, surrender, or attempt to get around the fielder.

NOTE for WMLL Leagues: check your league's local rules. For most lgs at WMLL, the above ruling applies, but if the runner makes contact with the fielder while not sliding, the umpire may call him out. Thus, many coaches teach runners to slide on all close plays and remove any doubt.

"Ruhle of the week" is named after District #4 Umpire-in-Chief Rob Ruhle. It is designed to increase overall knowledge for Players, Coaches and Parents alike.

If you would like to see your question posted here, please contact Rob at 608-243-1154.

The rulings provided in this post are the interpretations from Little League Rule Book. Other leagues and levels may play under different rules and interpretations.

Week 2 (2010)