



BULLETIN

Bulletin #: 2026-20

Date: June 1, 2026

To: All Members

CC: Board of Directors, Minor Coordinators, Men's & Women's Coordinators, Slo Pitch Coordinators, District Umpire In Chiefs and Staff

From: Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

Subject: Important Safety Directive: Preventing Base-Running Collisions and Ensuring Defensive Compliance

Dear Association Presidents,

As we progress through the season, our primary priority remains ensuring a safe, competitive, and respectful environment for all athletes. Recently, we have noted an increase in reported collisions on the basepaths and at home plate.

While softball is a dynamic sport and incidental contact can happen, many of these collisions are preventable. We are directing all associations to ensure their coaches immediately hold targeted discussions with their athletes on safe play. Please instruct your coaches to focus on the following two areas:

1. Offensive Play: Safe Base Running & Avoiding Contact

- **Slide or Avoid:** Coaches must reinforce proper sliding techniques and decision-making. Runners must be taught to slide or actively attempt to avoid a collision when a tag play is imminent.
- **Bracing for Impact:** Choosing to run through a fielder or "bracing for a collision" instead of sliding or avoiding is unacceptable because it is dangerous and may result in injury to one or both players. Ejection from the game and/or other disciplinary consequences may also result.

2. Defensive Play: Proper Positioning & Obstruction

- **Respect the Pathway:** Conversely, defensive players must be taught proper positioning. If there is no immediate play at a base or at home plate, fielders **must not** block the baseline or obstruct the runner's path.
- **Give Ground:** Coaches must instruct fielders on how to safely position themselves to make a play without creating an unnecessary physical barrier that forces a runner into a collision scenario.

It is the fundamental responsibility of all coaching staff to teach these specific skills. Safety is not secondary to scoring a run or making an out.

Please ensure this message is disseminated to all coaches in your association immediately so we can maintain a safe environment for all involved.

Thank you.