



April 22, 2026

NFHS Baseball Weekly Rule Interpretations

I hope this weekly interpretation finds you well and probably starting your post season. The Force Play Slide Rule is one that is steeped in player safety similar to last week's malicious contact topic.

The high school rule is different at other levels because we are dealing with a variety of skill levels among children who could range from 15-19 years of age. The high school baseball rule is designed to protect defensive players from dangerous contact during force plays, particularly at second base. Unlike other levels, we do not want the base runner taking out the short stop to break up a double play at first base. Briefly, a runner advancing on a force play must either slide directly into the base or attempt to avoid contact with the defensive player.

The overarching principle is player safety. Umpires are expected to address such actions decisively to maintain a safe and sportsmanlike environment.

We trust this interpretation will be received as helpful, practical, and constructive.

For your convenience, we have attached the illustration as a combined document to support ease of use and distribution. These materials serve as excellent discussion tools for both relatively new and veteran umpires alike.

Thank you for your continued support and professionalism throughout the season, and best wishes for a successful baseball post season.