

# Force Outs and Plays at First

# Force Plays

- Runners and Batter-Runner are treated differently in the rules
  - Although plays are similar
- Runners are forced to advance due to Batter becoming a batter-runner
  - Lose right to occupy the base (2-29-3, 8-2-8)
- Batter becomes a runner (8-1-1)
  - Fair batted ball
  - Third strike
    - Uncaught with two out and first base occupied -- Force
  - Base on balls, HBP, Catcher's obstruction

# Force Out

- Ball held by fielder while touching the base (8-4-1f, 8-4-2j)
  - Foot, hand, elbow, head
- Tagging runner/batter-runner
- Put out of following runner/batter-runner removes the force
  - Including caught fly ball
- No run can score if third out made by force-out or batter-runner before first base (9-1-1a, 9-1-1b)

# Judging a force play or play at first

- Proper positioning
  - A position
  - Working area
- Determine accuracy of the throw
- Watch the base (batter-runner's foot), listen for catch
  - Fielder pulled foot or off the base
- Pause for completion of the play
  - Fielder has possession in glove or hand
- Signal result

# Force Reinstated

- If a runner successfully acquires the base to which he is forced, and then attempts to return to a previous base, the force is reinstated.
  - Tag runner or base for put-out
  - Case play 2.29.3
  
- R1, one out. R1 stealing on the pitch. B3 hits long fly ball to RCF. R1 reaches second and, thinking the ball will be caught, attempts to return to first. Ball drops for a hit, and F9 throws to F6 standing on second. R1 is between first and second. Ruling: R1 is out on the force.

# Missed base

- An appeal of a missed base to which the runner was forced to advance, results in a force out regardless of any intervening play(s)
- If the appeal is the third out, no runs will score.
  - 8-2-6k
  - 9-1-1d
  - Case Play: 8.2.2.1