Play of the Week #4

With R1 on first base and no outs, B2 has a 0-2 count when they swing at the next pitch that F2 does not catch.

B2 as a normal reaction to a dropped third strike begins running to first base, the plate umpire announces, “Batter is out, Batter is out”.

R1 seeing the ball is dropped attempts to steal second base. F2 throws the ball toward F3 but overthrows them resulting in the ball ending up in right field.

R1 seeing the overthrow continues to third base, B2 realizes about halfway to first base that they are out and begins moving toward the first base dugout.

What’s your call?

Answer: Interference or not?

Rule 8-6-16c has an exception that it is not interference if a batter-runner mistakenly runs on a dropped third strike and draws a throw.

As long as B2 only drew a throw and did not commit an act of interference (example: being hit by the throw to F3 attempting to make a play on R1 coming back to first base) they would not be guilty of interference. (8-6-16c)

There was no play on R1 so B2 did not commit interference. The ball remained live and the advancement by R1 was legal.