

### Dead Ball (Immediate/Delayed)

**Presentation** 

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### Pitching Pitch Touches Batter

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rules:** 5.05(b)(2) & Approved Ruling; 5.09(a)(6); Definition of Terms

**Summary of Rules** 

The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out when he is touched by a pitched ball which he is not attempting to hit unless

- ▶ (A) The ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or
- (B) The batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball;

When the batter is touched by a pitched ball which does not entitle him to first base, the ball is dead and no runner may advance.

A STRIKE is a legal pitch called by the umpire, which touches the batter as he strikes at it.

A batter is out when he attempts to hit a third strike and the ball touches him.

## Pitching Pitch Touches Runner

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rules:** 5.06 (c)(8); 5.09(a)(14)

Summary of Rules

The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base when any legal pitch touches a runner trying to score; runners also advance.

#### Exception

With two out, a runner on third base, and two strikes on the batter, the runner attempts to steal home base on a legal pitch and the ball touches the runner in the batter's strike zone. The umpire shall call "Strike Three," the batter is out and the run shall not count; before two are out, the umpire shall call "Strike Three," the ball is dead, and the run counts;

### Pitching Balks

Type of Dead Ball: OBR – Delayed; Ripken – Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.02(a)(1-13)

Summary of Balk Rule (OBR)

With a runner or runners on base, it is a balk when:

- A pitcher, while in contact with the rubber:
  - After making a motion to deliver a pitch, fail to complete his delivery.

**Comment:** If pitcher's free foot passes the back edge of the rubber, he is required to pitch expect for a 2<sup>nd</sup> base pickoff throw.

- While in contact with rubber feints a throw to 1st or 3rd base.
- Fails to step directly to a base before throwing to the base.

**Comment:** Pitcher is to step directly to a base and is required to throw (except 2<sup>nd</sup> base). With runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base it is a balk when while in contact with the rubber the pitcher steps towards 3<sup>rd</sup> base and does not throw as a means to bluff the runner on 1<sup>st</sup> base.

Feints or throws to an unoccupied base.

**Comment:** Not applicable on throws attempting to make a play on an advancing runner.

### Pitching Balks

#### Summary of Balk Rule 6.02(a)

With a runner or runners on base, it is a balk when:

- A pitcher, when in contact with the rubber:
  - Accidently or intentionally has the ball slip or fall from his hand or glove.
- A pitcher:
  - Makes an illegal pitch (See Pitching Prohibitions OBR 6.02[c])

**Comment:** A quick pitch is an illegal pitch. With nobody on base it is a ball to the batter.

- Delivers a pitch while not facing the batter.
- Makes any motion associated with his delivery while not touching the rubber.
- Unnecessarily delays the game.

**Comment:** Balks shall not be awarded when giving a warning. On subsequent violation pitcher is ejected, balk is also enforced.

- Without the ball straddles the rubber, or while off the rubber feints a pitch.
- After coming to a legal pitching positions, remove one hand from the ball, expect to pitch or make a throw.
- While giving a IBB, delvers a pitch while the catcher is not in the <u>catcher's box</u>.

### Pitching Balks

#### Summary of Balk Rule 6.02(a)

With a runner or runners on base, it is a balk when:

- A pitcher, when in the Set Position:
  - Delivers a pitch without coming to a stop.

**OBR Game Penalty**: Ball is (delayed) dead and all runners advance one base (without liability), unless the batter reaches 1sty base on a hit, error, base on balls, hit batter, or otherwise; and all runners advance one base. In which case play continues without reference to the balk.

Ripken Game Penalty: Ball is (immediately) dead and all runners advance one base without liability.

**Approved Ruling(s):** Runners may advance past awarded base at their own risk. A runner who misses the first base they are advancing to and is called out on appeal shall be considered to have advanced one base for the purpose of this rule.

**Comment:** Purpose of the balk rule is prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt, the 'intent' of the pitcher shall govern the umpire's judgement.

### Pitching Illegal Pitch

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 6.02(b)

Summary of Rule

If the pitcher makes an illegal pitch with the bases unoccupied, it shall be called a ball unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.

**Comment:** A ball which slips out of a pitcher's hand and crosses the foul line shall be called a ball; otherwise it will be called no pitch. This would be a balk with men on base.

### Pitching Pitching Prohibitions

Type of Dead Ball: Prior to Pitch (Immediate); Pitch Delivered (Delayed)

**OBR Rule:** 6.02(c)(1-9)

Summary of Rule

The Pitcher shall not:

- Within the 18 ft circle touch the ball after touching their mouth/lips with their hand, pitcher my wipe/dry hand prior to touching ball.
- Touch their mouth/lips while in contact with the rubber.

**Exception:** If agreed by both coaches prior to game start, the umpire may allow pitchers to blow on their hands in cold weather games.

**Penalty for above bullets:** Ball removed from the game. Subsequent violations would result in the pitcher be a ball. If pitch is hit and batter reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base the play stands.

- Spit on the ball.
- Rub the ball in his glove, clothing, or person.
- Apply a foreign substance to the ball.

## Pitching Pitching Prohibitions (cont.)

#### **Summary of Pitching Prohibition Rule**

The Pitcher shall not:

- Deface the ball in any manner.
- Deliver an altered ball. Pitcher is allowed to rub ball with his bare hands.
  - **Comment:** Pitcher may not attach anything to either hand or finger.
- Intentionally delay the game by throwing to any fielder other than catcher when batter is ready.
  - **Penalty:** Warning to the pitcher, then ejection for same violation
- Intentionally pitch at Batter
  - Umpire may eject or give both team managers warning.

**NOTE(s):** Except where noted pitcher shall be ejected for pitching prohibitions. For any play following the violations, the offensive coach has the choice of electing the play. It shall be immediate.

Even though team elects to take the play, violation shall be recognized and penalty enforced. If batter reaches base the play proceeds without reference to violation. If not elected, ball to batter and balk enforced.

### Pitching Lodged Pitched Ball

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule: 5.06**(C)(7)

Summary of Rule

The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases, without liability to be put out, when:

A pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or paraphernalia and remains lodged;
 runners advance one base.

Comment: If a pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or paraphernalia, and remains out of play, on the third strike or fourth ball, then the batter is entitled to first base and all runners advance one base. If the count on the batter is less than three balls, runners advance one base.

## Batting Illegal Bats (OBR)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.03(a)(5)

Summary of Rule

A batter is out for illegal action when:

- He uses or attempts to use a bat that, in the umpire's judgment, has been altered or tampered with in such a way to improve the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the baseball.
- No advancement on the bases, except those not caused by the illegal bat, will be allowed and any out or outs made during a play shall stand. In addition to being called out, the player shall be ejected from the game and may be subject to additional penalties.

**Comment:** A batter shall be deemed to have used or attempted to use an illegal bat if he brings such a bat into the batter's box.

## Batting Illegal Bats (Ripken)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**Ripken Rule:** Bat Restrictions

Summary of Rule

Coaches are responsible for checking all bats before playing in a tournament. Ripken's guidelines for bats:

- 9u to 13u: All bats must have either the BPF 1.15, USA Baseball, or BBCOR designation. There are no weight or size restrictions for any of these age groups. The only exception is players cannot use Coach Pitch bats.
- 14u to 18u: Bats must have BBCOR designation and -3 differential (length to weight) only.

**Penalty:** If discovered when batter enters box or during an at-bat, batter is out (even if a pitch has not been thrown). If discovered after the ball is in play, **but before the next pitch to the next batter**, the defensive team has the choice 1) result of the play, or 2) batter being called out and runners return to base occupied at time of pitch. If bat legality appeal is not done before next pitch to next batter, the play stands.

**Second Offense:** If second offense by same team for this penalty occurs (same game or tournament), same penalty enforced and manager ejected, and possible face further suspension.

### Batting Intentional Base on Balls

Type of Dead Ball: Manager's Request - Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 5.05(b)(1) & Definitions of Terms

Summary of Rule

A BASE ON BALLS is an award of first base granted to a batter following a signal from the defensive team's manager to the umpire that he intends to intentionally walk the batter. If the manager informs the umpire of this intention, the umpire shall award the batter first base as if the batter had received four pitches outside the strike zone.

**Comment:** A batter who is entitled to first base because of a base on balls, including an award of first base to a batter by an umpire following a signal from a manager, must go to first base and touch the base first when a substitute runner is put into the game to replace him.

## Batting Batter's Interference

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 6.03(a)(3-4); 5.09(b)(8)

Summary of Rule

A <u>batter</u> is out for <u>illegal action</u> when:

- He interferes with the catcher's fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box or making any other movement that hinders the catcher's play at home base.
- He throws his bat into fair or foul territory and hits a catcher (including the catcher's glove) and the catcher was attempting to catch a pitch with a runner(s) on base and/or the pitch was a third strike.

**Exception:** Batter is not out if any runner attempting to advance is put out, or if runner trying to score is called out for batter's interference.

**Comment:** For batter interference all runners return to the batter last occupied at the **time of infraction**.

Runner is out when batter interferes with the play at home base before two are out. With two out, the interference puts the batter out and no score counts

## Batting Backswing Interference

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.03(a)(3-4) Comment

Summary of Rule/Comment.

If a batter strikes at a ball and misses and swings so hard he carries the bat all the way around and, in the umpire's judgment, unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball in back of him on the backswing, it shall be called a strike only (not interference). The ball will be dead, however, and no runner shall advance on the play.

**Clarification:** If intentional this is grounds for 'Batter Interference'. Follow penalties and exceptions for rules accordingly.

### Batting Catcher's Interference

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 5.05(b)(3); 6.01(c)

Summary of Rule

A batter becomes a runner and is entitles to 1st base without liability when:

The catcher (or any fielder) interferes with him. If a play follows the interference, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire that he <u>elects to decline</u> the interference penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batsman, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base, the play proceeds without reference to the interference.

**Comment:** If catcher's interference is called with a play in progress the umpire will allow the play to continue because the manager may elect to take the play. If the batter-runner misses first base, or a runner misses his next base, he shall be considered as having reached the base and is liable to be called out on appeal.

## Batting <u>Catcher's Interference (Steal of Home)</u>

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(c)

Summary of Rule

If, with a runner on third base and trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal, the catcher or any other fielder steps on, or in front of home base without possession of the ball, or touches the batter or his bat, the pitcher shall be charged with a balk, the batter shall be awarded first base on the interference and the ball is dead.

## Batting Refusing to Enter the Box

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 5.04(b)(3)

Summary of Rule

If the batter refuses to take his position in the batter's box during his time at bat, the umpire shall call a strike on the batter. The ball is dead, and no runners may advance. After the penalty, the batter may take his proper position and the regular ball and strike count shall continue. If the batter does not take his proper position before three strikes have been called, the batter shall be declared out.

**Comment:** The umpire shall give the batter a reasonable opportunity to take his proper position in the batter's box after the umpire has called a strike pursuant to this rule and before the umpire calls a successive strike.

### Runner Runner's Interference (Batted Ball)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 5.09(b)(3); 6.01(a) Penalty; 6.01(a)(6)

#### Summary of Rule

 The batter is entitled first base without liability to be put out when a fair ball touches a runner in fair territory before touching a fielder.

**Penalty:** The runner is out and the ball is dead. All other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the infraction.

If, in the judgment of the umpire, a base runner willfully and deliberately interferes with a batted ball with the obvious intent to break up a double play, the ball is dead. The umpire shall call the runner out for interference and also call out the batter-runner because of the action of his teammate. In no event may bases be run or runs scored because of such action by a runner.

## Runner Runner's Interference (w/ Fielder)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate w/exception

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(a) Penalty; 6.01(a)(10); 5.09(b)(3)

#### Summary of Rule

- Runner fails to avoid a fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball.
- If two or more fielders attempt to field a batted ball, and the runner comes in contact with one or more of them, the <u>umpire shall determine</u> which fielder is entitled to the benefit of this rule.
  - Umpire shall not declare the runner out for coming in contact with a fielder other than the one the umpire determines to be entitled to field such a ball.
- If the base runner's interference is adjudged not to be intentional, the batter-runner shall be awarded first base if ball is fair at the end of playing action.

**Penalty:** The runner is out and the ball is dead. All other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the infraction.

### Runner Runner's Interference (Thrown Ball)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 5.09(b)(3); 6.01(a)(10)

#### Summary of Rule

- Runner is out if he **intentionally** interferes with a thrown ball. The is no interference if runner's act is not intentional, play is still live.

**Penalty:** The runner is out and the ball is dead. All other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the infraction.

**NOTE:** If throw is an attempt to retire another runner (including batter-runner), that runner shall also be called out.

## Runner's Interference (<u>Force Play Slide</u>)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(a) Penalty; 6.01(j)

#### Summary of Rule

- If a runner does not engage in a bona fide (legal) slide, and initiates (or attempts to make) contact with the fielder for the purpose of breaking up a double play, he should be called for interference.
- Bona fide slides include:
  - Beginning slide before reach the base, being able to reach base with hand or foot, staying on base (except home) after completing slide, Sliding within reach of base
- Sliding acts not bona fide:
  - Roll blocking, making intentional contact with fielder, elevating foot above fielders knee, throwing arms or upper body.

**Penalty:** Ball is dead, runner and batter-runner, or runner being played on is out. However, is runner is already out runners play is being make on is out.

## Fielder Obstruction (<u>Play on Runner</u>)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(h)(1)

#### Summary of Rule

- If a play is being made on the obstructed runner, or if the batter-runner is obstructed before he touches first base, the ball is dead and all runners shall advance, without liability to be put out, to the bases they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, if there had been no obstruction.
- The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base he had last legally touched before the obstruction.
- Any preceding runners, forced to advance by the award of bases as the penalty for obstruction, shall advance without liability to be put out.

**Comment:** When a play is being made on an obstructed runner, the umpire shall signal obstruction in the same manner that he calls "Time". The ball is immediately dead when this signal is given; however, should a thrown ball be in flight before the obstruction is called by the umpire, the runners are to be awarded such bases on wild throws as they would have been awarded had not obstruction occurred.

## Fielder Obstruction (No Play on Runner)

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(h)(2)

Summary of Rule

If no play is being made on the obstructed runner, the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call "Time" and impose such penalties, if any, as in his judgment will nullify the act of obstruction.

**Comment:** When the ball is not dead on obstruction and an obstructed runner advances beyond the base which, in the umpire's judgment, he would have been awarded because of being obstructed, he does so at his own peril and may be tagged out. This is a judgment call.

## Fielder Throws – Dead Ball Territory

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 5.06(b)(4)(G)

Summary of Rule

Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out, advance:

- Two bases when, with no spectators on the playing field, a thrown ball goes into the dead ball territory
  - When such wild throw is the first play by an infielder, awarding of bases shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time of pitch;
  - In all other cases base awards shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time of throw.

**APPROVED RULING**: If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first play after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the runners when the wild throw was made.

## Fielder Detached Equipment (Batted Ball)

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 5.06(b)(4)(B,C)

Summary of Rule

Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out, advance:

- Three bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a fair ball with his cap, mask or any part of his uniform detached from its proper place on his person. The ball is in play and the batter may advance to home base at his peril;
- Three bases, if a fielder deliberately throws his glove at and touches a fair ball. The ball is in play and the batter may advance to home base at his peril;

**COMMENT:** A penalty shall not be invoked against a fielder whose glove is carried off his hand by the force of a batted ball, or when his glove flies off his hand as he makes an obvious effort to make a legitimate catch.

## Fielder Detached Equipment (Thrown Ball)

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 5.06(b)(4)(D,E)

Summary of Rule

Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out, advance:

- Two bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a thrown ball with his cap, mask or any part of his uniform detached from its proper place on his person. The ball is in play;
- Two bases, if a fielder deliberately throws his glove at and touches a thrown ball. The ball is in play;

**COMMENT:** A penalty shall not be invoked against a fielder whose glove is carried off his hand by the force of a thrown ball, or when his glove flies off his hand as he makes an obvious effort to make a legitimate catch.

### Batter-Runner Interference (Batted Ball)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.01 (a) (7)

Summary of Rule

The batter-runner is out when:

- If, in the judgment of the umpire, a batter-runner willfully and deliberately interferes with a
  batted ball, with the obvious intent to break up a double play.
  - batter-runner out for interference and the runner who had advanced closest to the home plate is out regardless where the double play might have been possible. In no event shall bases be run because of such interference.

### Batter-Runner Interference (Fielder)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(a)(7,10)

Summary of Rule

The batter-runner is out when:

- If, in the judgment of the umpire, a batter-runner willfully and deliberately interferes with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball, with the obvious intent to break up a double play.
  - batter-runner out for interference and the runner who had advanced closest to the home plate is out regardless where the double play might have been possible. In no event shall bases be run because of such interference.
- He fails to avoid a fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball.

**COMMENT**: When a catcher and batter-runner going to first base have contact when the catcher is fielding the ball, there is generally no violation and nothing should be called.

## Batter-Runner Interference (Running Lane)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 5.09(a)(11); 6.01(a)(11)

Summary of Rule

The batter-runner is out when:

- In running the last half of the distance from home base to first base, while a thrown ball is being fielded to first base, he runs outside (to the right of) the three-foot line, or inside (to the left of) the foul line.
- He may run outside (to the right of) the three-foot line or inside (to the left of ) the foul line a fielder attempting to field a batted ball
- In the event the batter-runner has not reached first base, all runners shall return to the base last occupied at the **time of the pitch**; provided, however, during an intervening play at the plate with less than two outs a runner scores, and then the batter-runner is called out for interference outside the three-foot lane, the runner is safe and the run shall count

## Other Situations Offensive Interference (Other than Runner)

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(b)

Summary of Rule

Players, coaches or any member of a team at bat shall vacate any space (including both dugouts or bullpens) needed by a fielder who is attempting to field a batted or thrown ball.

- If a member of the team at bat (other than a runner) hinders a fielder's attempt to catch or field a batted ball, the ball is dead, the batter is declared out and all runners return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch.
- If a member of the team at bat (other than a runner) hinders a fielder's attempt to field a thrown ball, the ball is dead, the runner on whom the play is being made shall be declared out and all runners return to the last legally occupied base at the time of the interference.

## Other Situations Umpire Interference

Type of Dead Ball: Delayed

**OBR Rule:** 5.06(c)(2)

Summary of Rule

It is a dead ball (delayed) when

The plate umpire interferes with the catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base or retire a runner on a pick-off play; runners may not advance.

**NOTE:** The interference shall be disregarded if the catcher's throw retires the runner.

**Comment:** Umpire interference may also occur when an umpire interferes with a catcher returning the ball to the pitcher. In this case the ball is dead and no runners may advance.

# Other Situations Spectator Interference

Type of Dead Ball: Immediate

**OBR Rule:** 6.01(e)

Summary of Rule

When a spectator interferes with any thrown or batted ball (in the field of play), the ball shall be dead at the moment of interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference.

**APPROVED RULING:** If spectator interference clearly prevents a fielder from catching a fly ball, the umpire shall declare the batter out.

**COMMENT:** No interference shall be allowed when a fielder reaches over a fence, railing, rope or into a stand to catch a ball. The fielder does so at their own risk.

### **Dead Ball Charts**

	Dead Ball (I	Delayed)	
Trigger/Infraction	Situation	Penalty / Award	Rule
Obstruction	Play not being made on runner	Umpire imposes penalties, in their judgement, to nullify the act of obstruction.  Comment: When ball is not dead and runner advances passed the bases, in umpire's judgement, they would have been awarded, runner does so at his own peril.	6.01(h)(2) & Comments
	Pitched Ball	One bases from time of infraction; runners may advance past base awarded at their own risk.	5.06(b)(3)(E)
Ball touched by detached equipment	Batted Ball	Three bases from time of pitch, batter may advance home at their own risk	5.06(b)(4)(B,C)
	Thrown Ball	Two Bases from time of infraction, ball is still in play. Runners may advance past bases awarded at their own risk.	5.06(b)(4)(D,E)
Illegal Pitch	No runners on base	Ball to batter, unless batter reaches 1st base on hit, error, hit batter or otherwise	6.02(b)
Umpire Interference	Catcher's throw attempting a play on a runner	Runners return to base at time of infraction, unless throw retires the runner	5.06(c)(2)
Batter Interference	Hinders catcher's fielding or throwing play on a runner, including home plate	Batter is out, runners return to base at time of interference. Exceptions: 1. Batter not out if throw retired runner	6.03(a)(3) Exceptions & Comments; 5.09(b)(8)

Dead Ball (Immediate)						
Trigger/Infraction	Situation	Penalty / Award	Rule			
Pitch Touches	Batter	Batter awarded first base; unless: A) The ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter B) The batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit by the ball	5.05(b)(2) & Approved Ruling; Definition of Terms			
	Runner stealing home	Runners advance one base; exceptions:  1. When two strikes on batter, two outs and pitch is in strike zone when runner is touched, strike three charged to batter, three outs no run scores.  2. Before two out; strike three to batter, run scores.	5.06(c)(8), 5.09(a)(14)			
Illegally batted ball	Batter	Batter is out; no runners may advance.	5.06(c)(4)			
Illegal Bat	OBR game	Batter is out whether he/she uses or attempts to use an altered bat. In the case of using an illegal bat 'discovery/appeal' must be made before the next pitch. Any outs recorded stand.  Comment: Batter is deemed to have used an illegal bat if he brings it into the batter's box.	6.03(a)(5)			
Ripkı	Ripken Tournament Game	Batter enters batter box and discovered - Batter is out. (*) After ball is put in play (but before next pitch) - Defensive has the choice; result of the play or OBR illegal bat penalty. (*)	2019 Ripken Tournament Rules (*) - Second Offensive - Manager Ejected			
		Batter is out; no runners may advance Exceptions:				

Located on the HCUA Website (www.hcuamd.com)

Member Portal - Resources/Training Library

### Questions?



Comments!