

A group of baseball umpires and a player are gathered on a field. One umpire on the left is holding a clipboard and talking to a player in a white uniform. Other umpires are standing around them, some with their hands on their hips. The background is a green field with a red dirt base path.

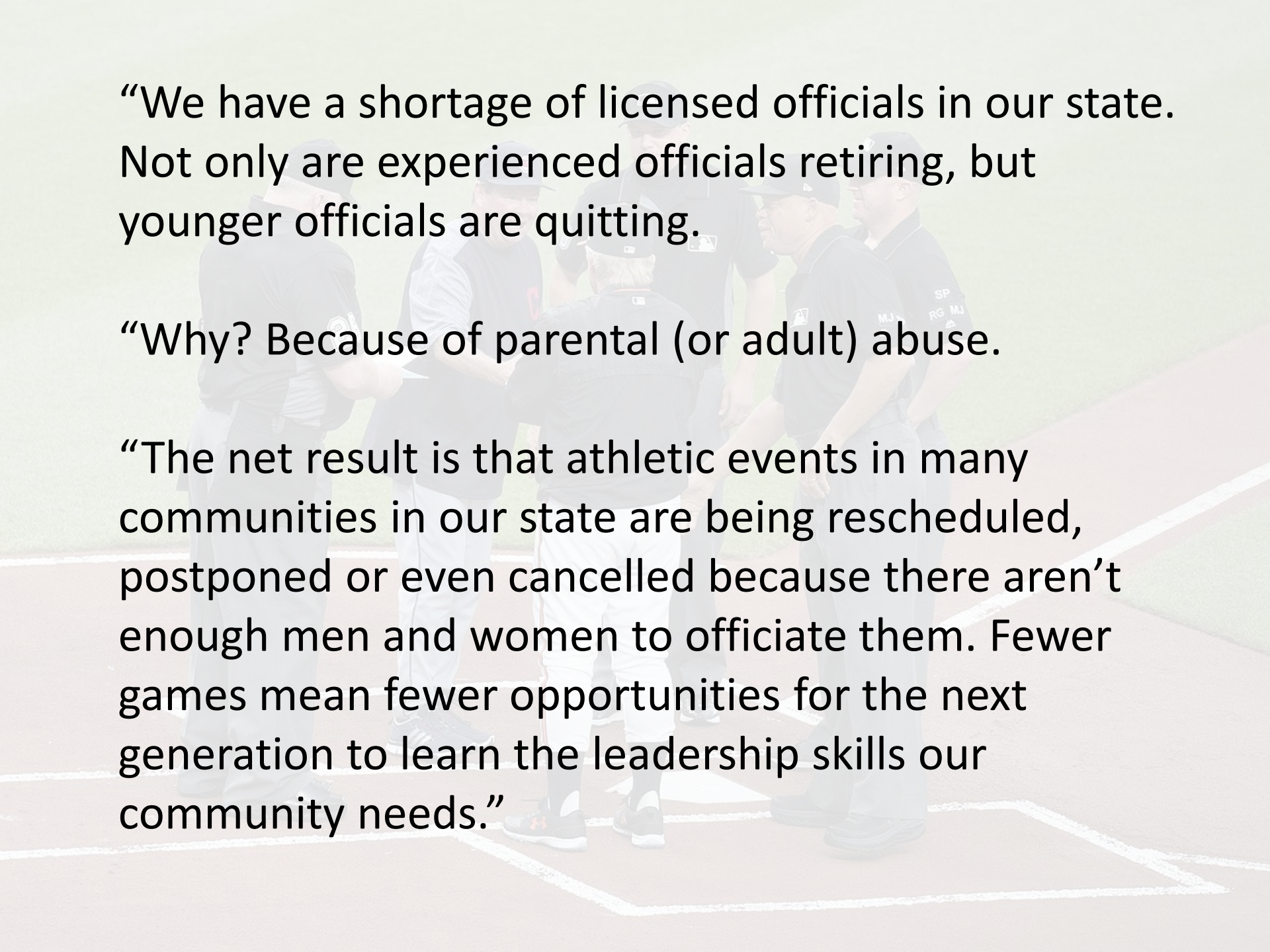
Umpires

The Epidemic & The Rules



The Columbus Dispatch

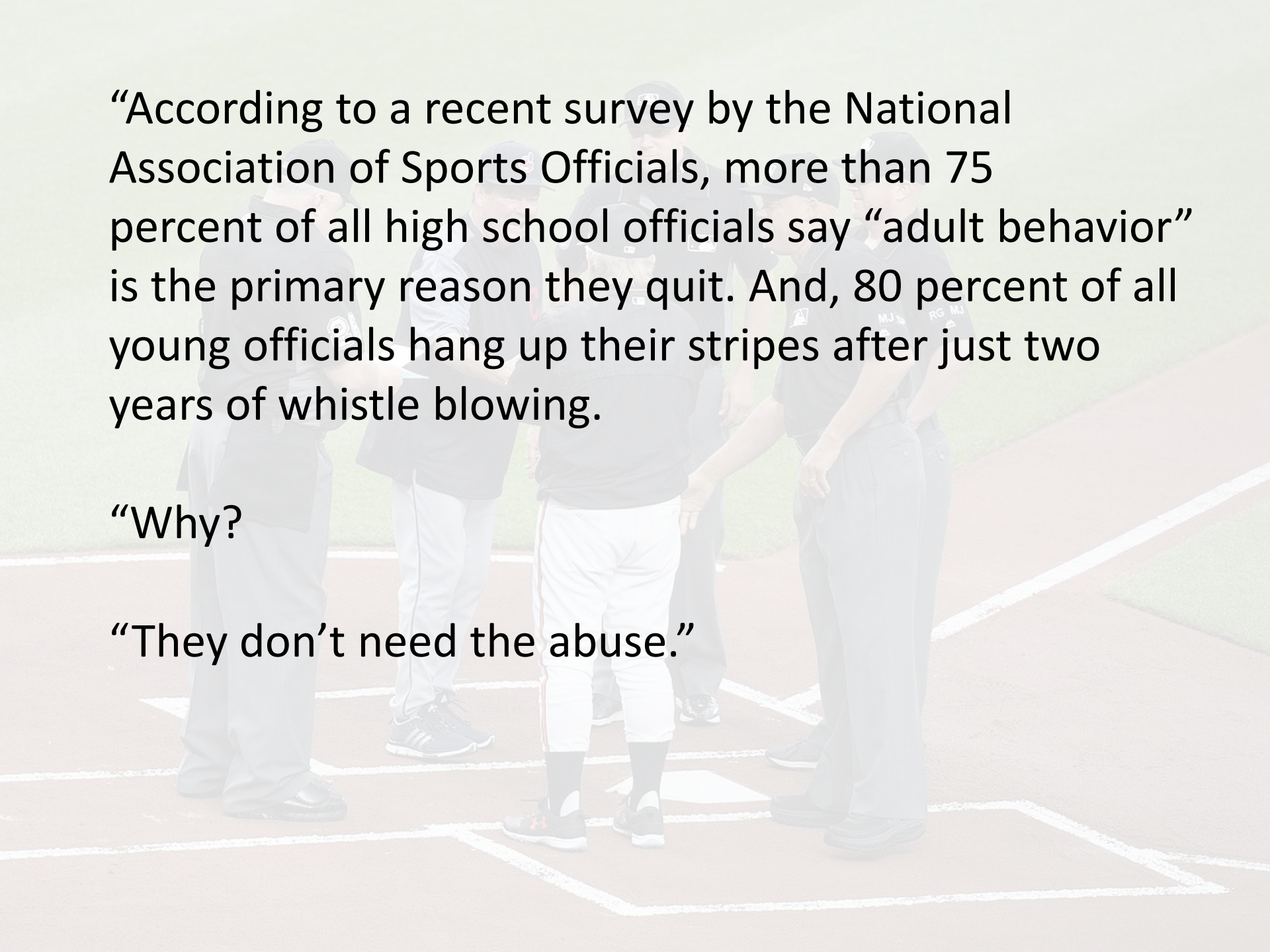
Ohio High School Athletic Association
Executive Director Jerry Snodgrass

A group of baseball players and coaches are gathered on a field. The players are wearing dark jerseys and light-colored pants, while the coaches are in dark polo shirts and caps. They appear to be in a huddle or discussion. The background is a blurred green field and a white base path.

“We have a shortage of licensed officials in our state. Not only are experienced officials retiring, but younger officials are quitting.

“Why? Because of parental (or adult) abuse.

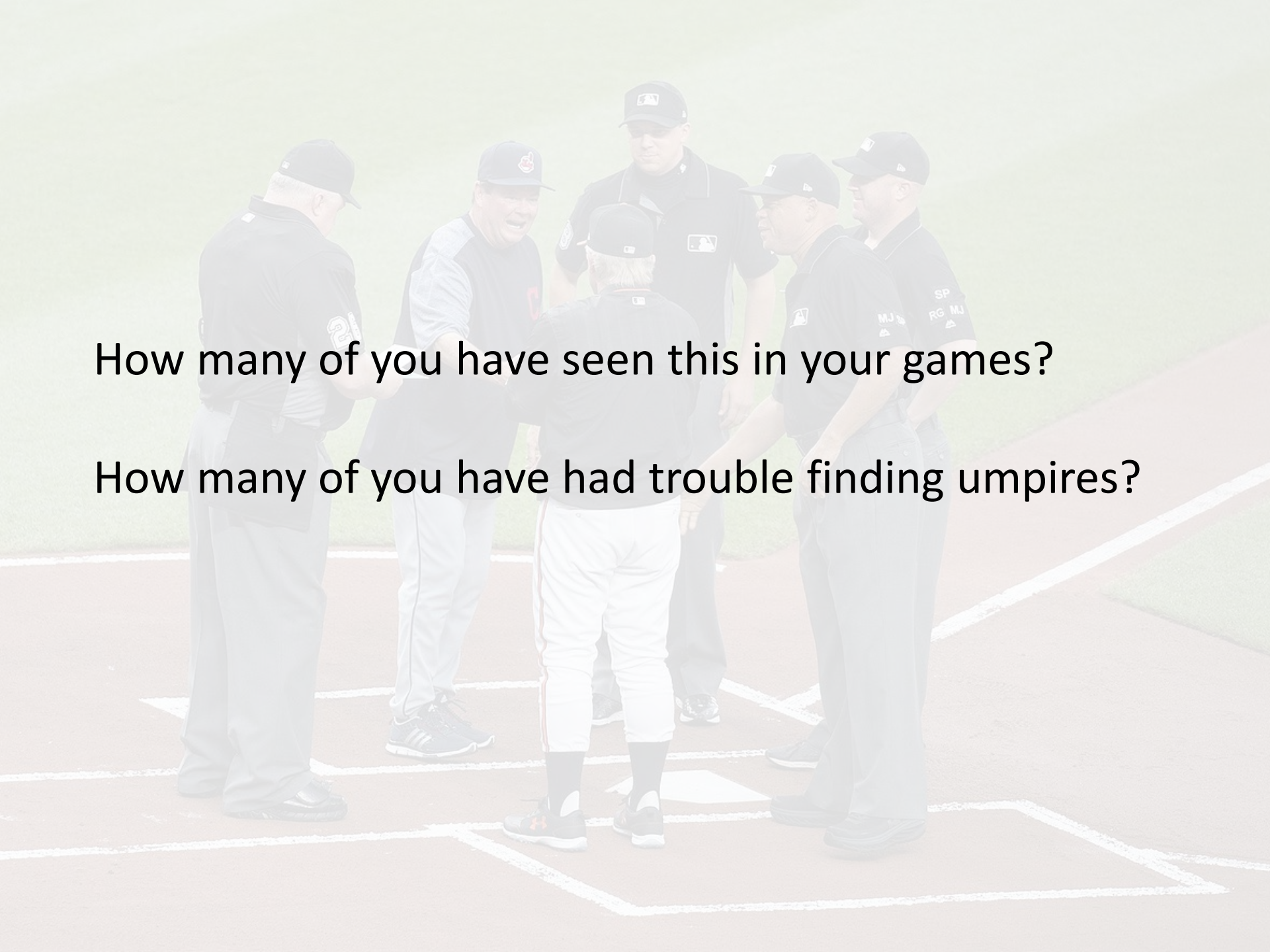
“The net result is that athletic events in many communities in our state are being rescheduled, postponed or even cancelled because there aren’t enough men and women to officiate them. Fewer games mean fewer opportunities for the next generation to learn the leadership skills our community needs.”

A group of baseball officials and players on a field. The officials are wearing dark uniforms with "MJ" and "RG MJ" on the back. The players are wearing white pants and dark jerseys. They are standing on a dirt field with white chalk lines.

“According to a recent survey by the National Association of Sports Officials, more than 75 percent of all high school officials say “adult behavior” is the primary reason they quit. And, 80 percent of all young officials hang up their stripes after just two years of whistle blowing.

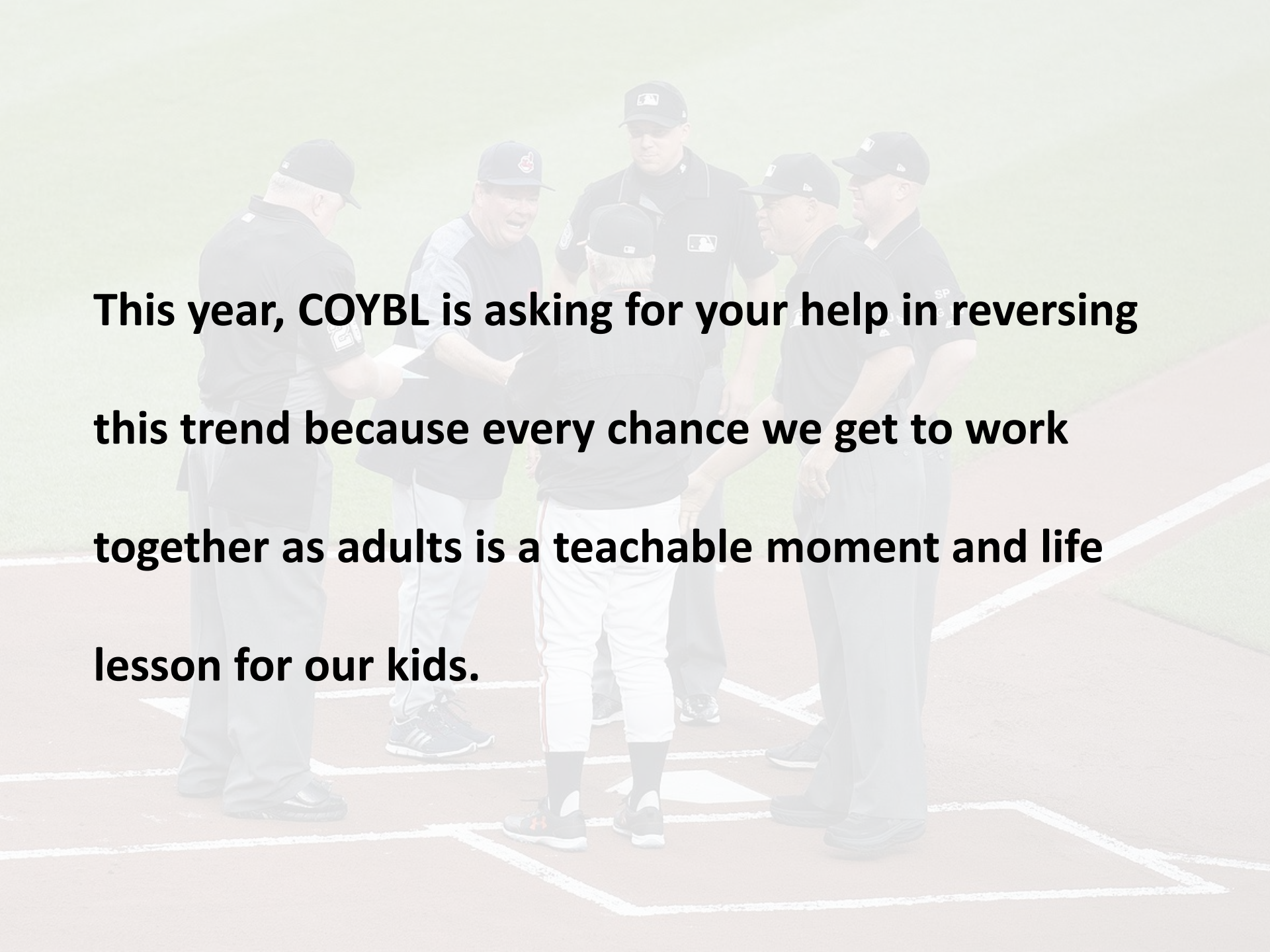
“Why?”

“They don’t need the abuse.”



How many of you have seen this in your games?

How many of you have had trouble finding umpires?

A group of six men, including coaches and a young player, are gathered on a baseball field. They are wearing dark uniforms and caps. One man in the center is holding a clipboard and talking to the others. The background is a green field with a white base visible.

This year, COYBL is asking for your help in reversing this trend because every chance we get to work together as adults is a teachable moment and life lesson for our kids.

Reasons for ump issues in COYBL

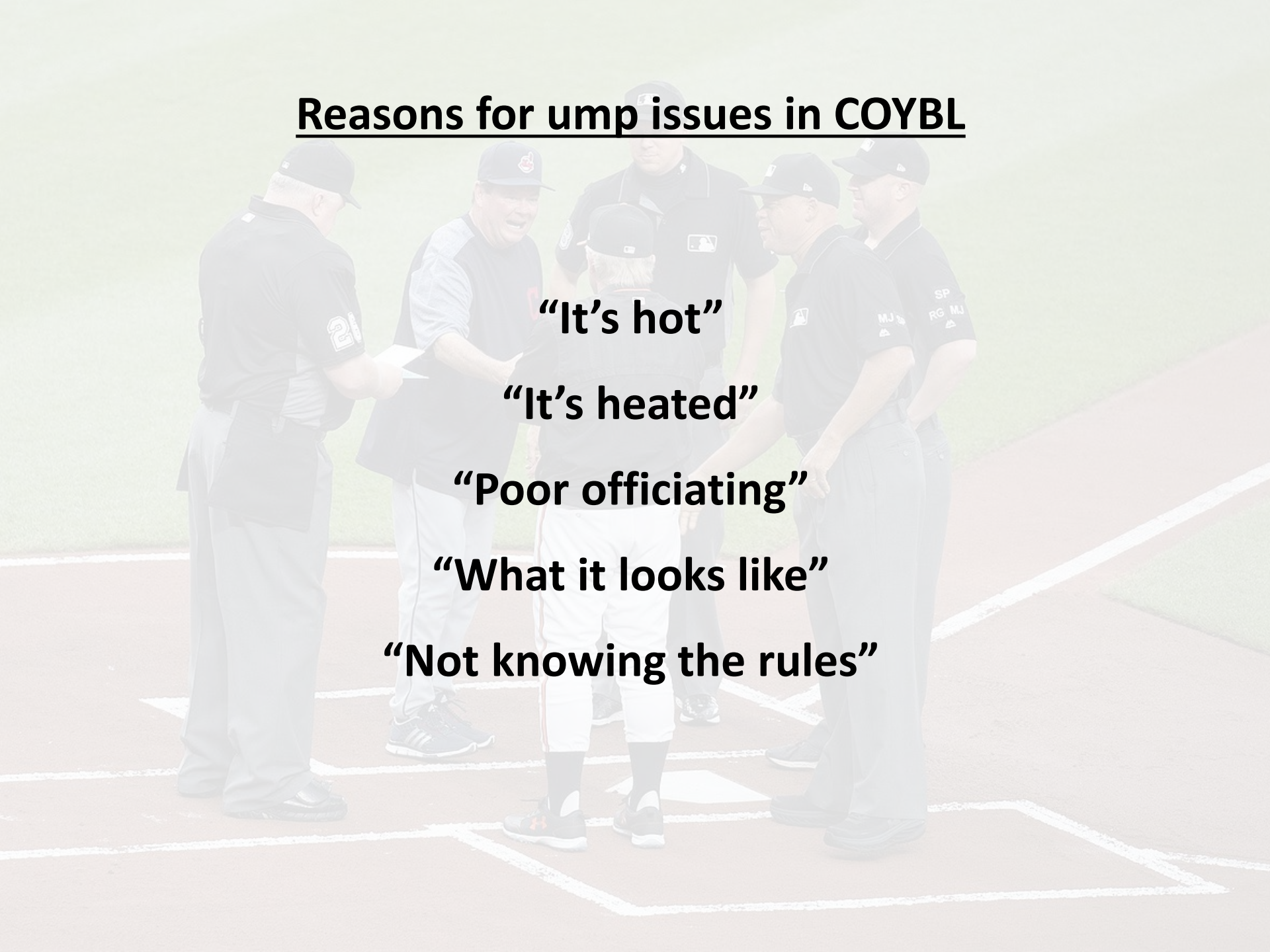
“It’s hot”

“It’s heated”

“Poor officiating”

“What it looks like”

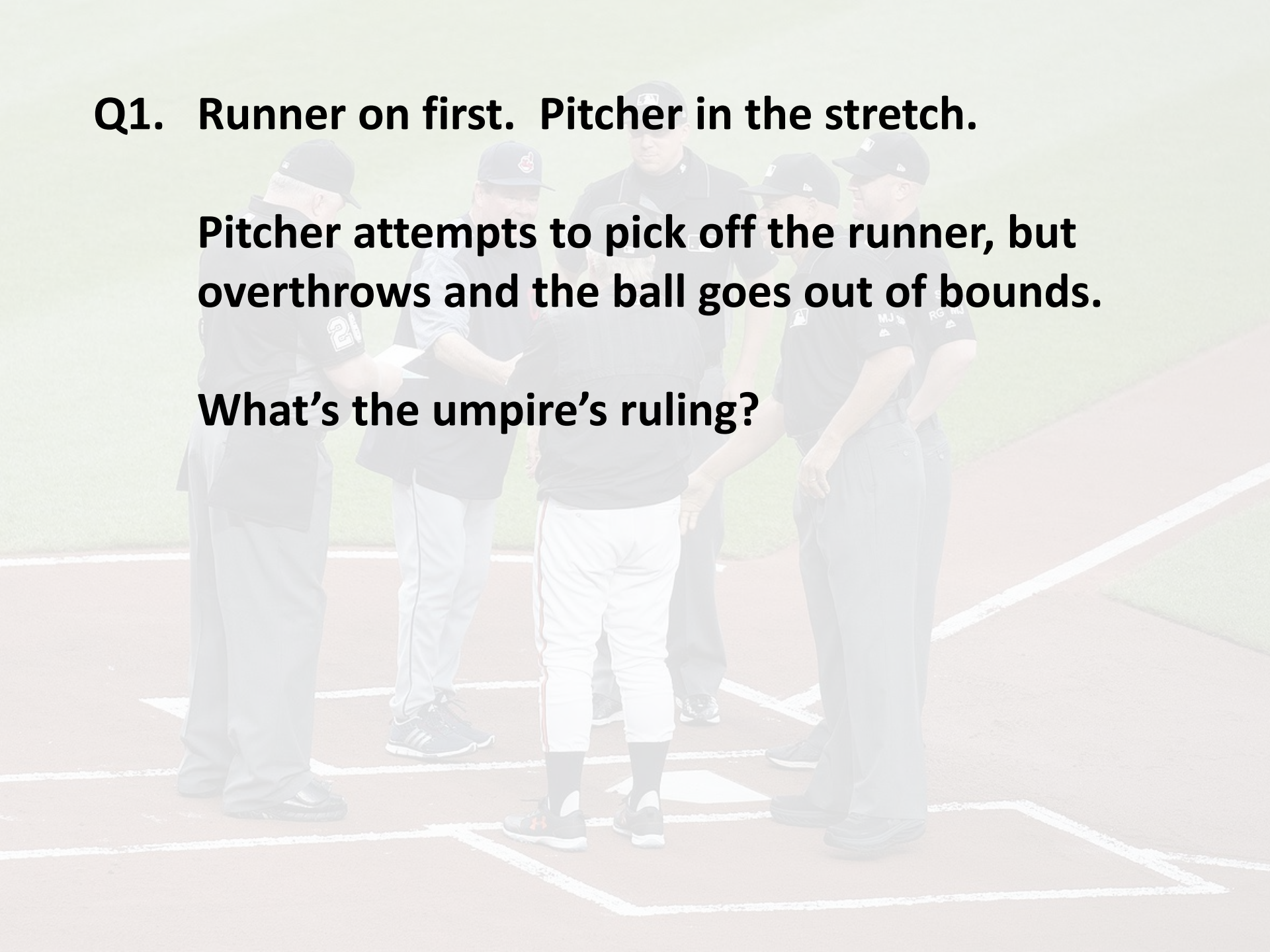
“Not knowing the rules”



Q1. Runner on first. Pitcher in the stretch.

Pitcher attempts to pick off the runner, but overthrows and the ball goes out of bounds.

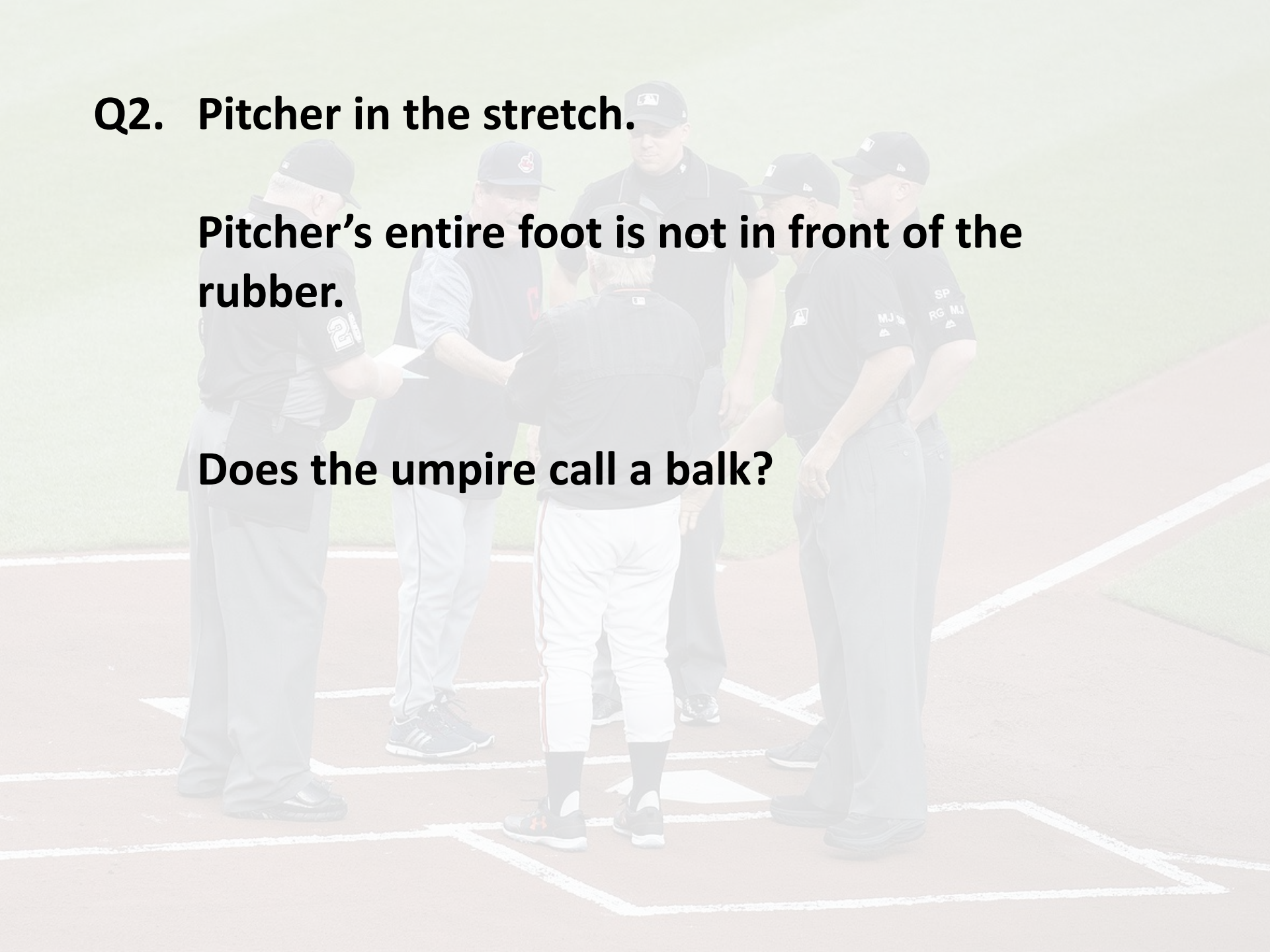
What's the umpire's ruling?



Q2. Pitcher in the stretch.

Pitcher's entire foot is not in front of the rubber.

Does the umpire call a balk?

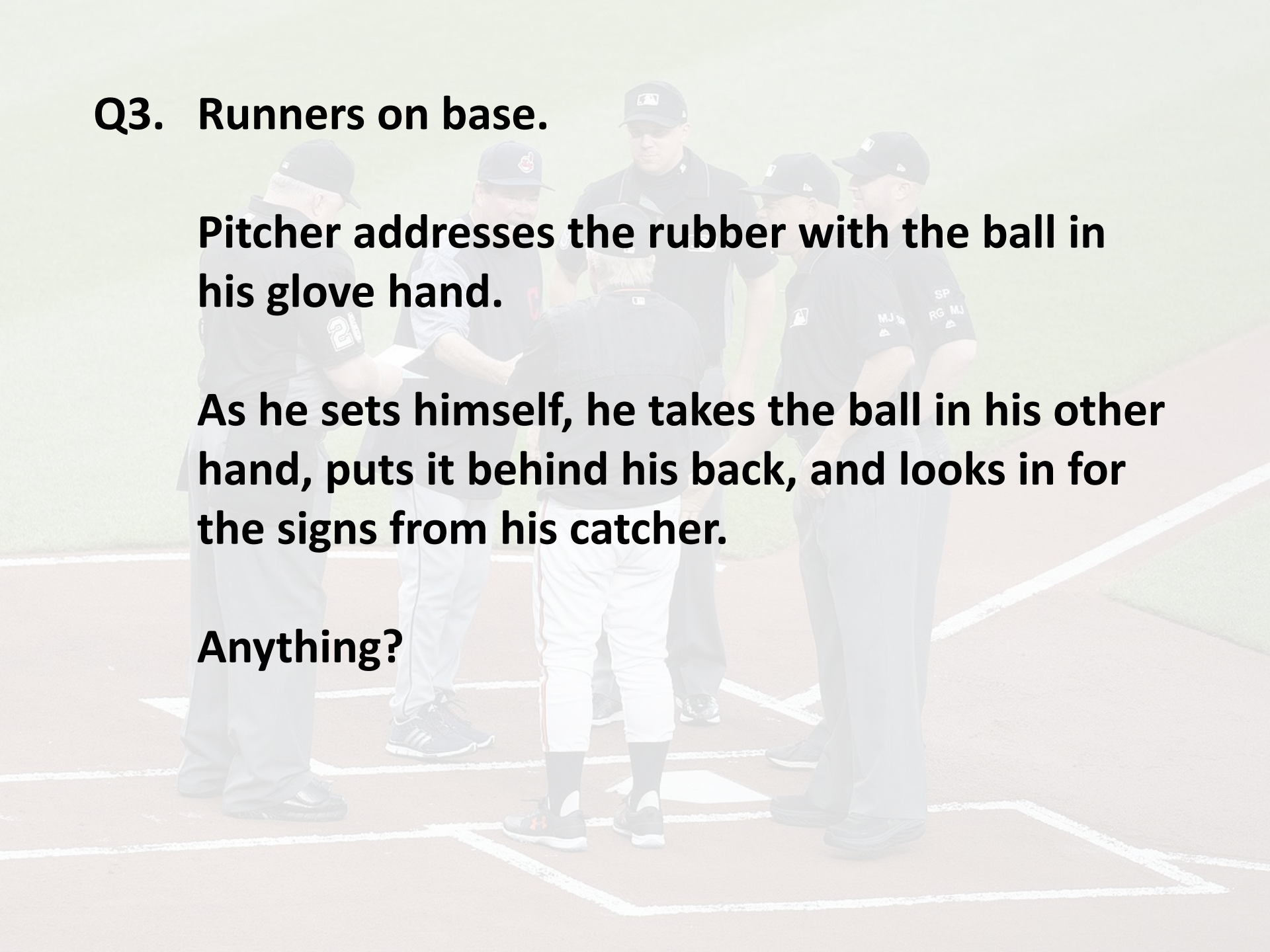


Q3. Runners on base.

Pitcher addresses the rubber with the ball in his glove hand.

As he sets himself, he takes the ball in his other hand, puts it behind his back, and looks in for the signs from his catcher.

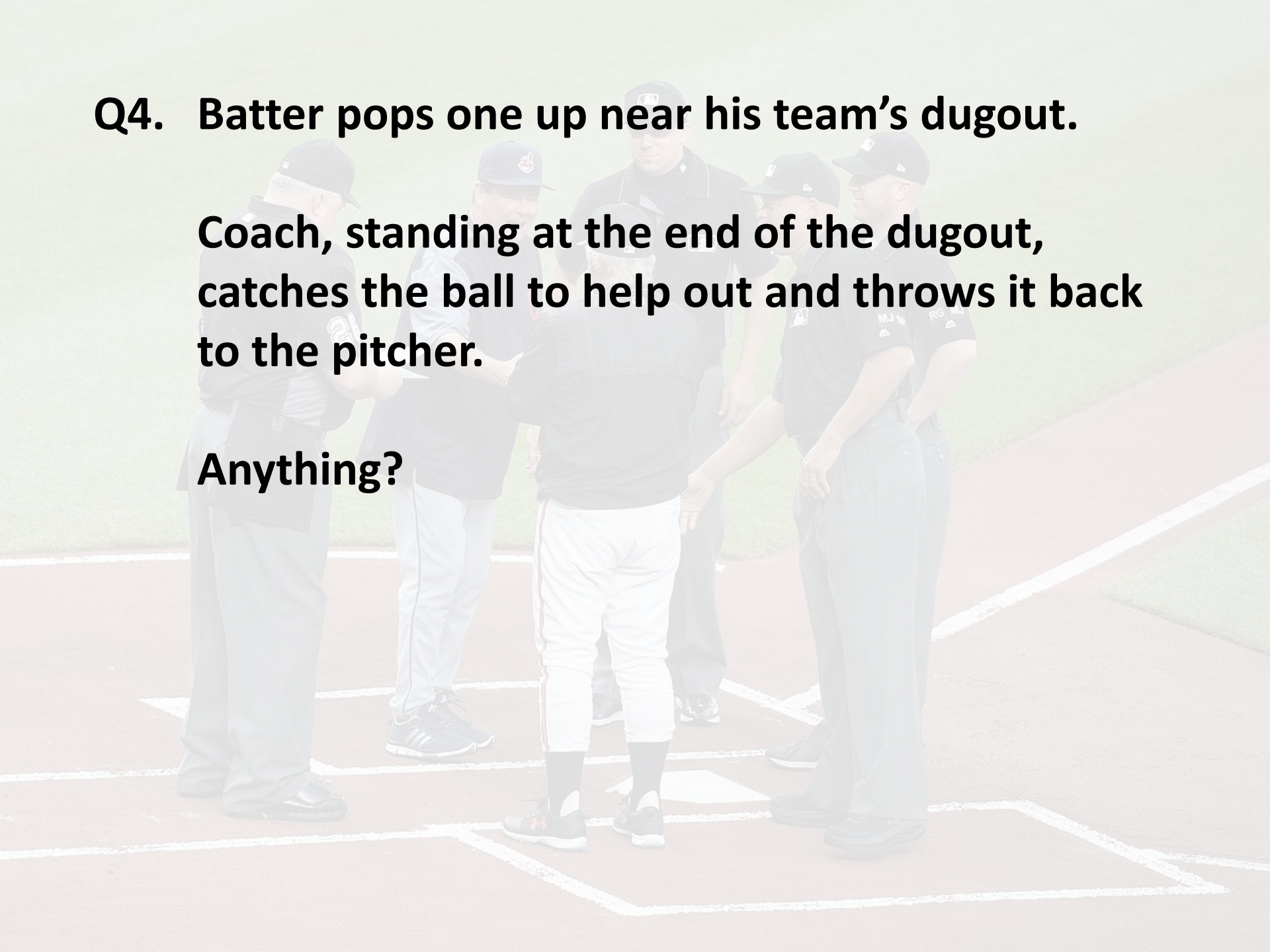
Anything?



Q4. Batter pops one up near his team's dugout.

Coach, standing at the end of the dugout, catches the ball to help out and throws it back to the pitcher.

Anything?

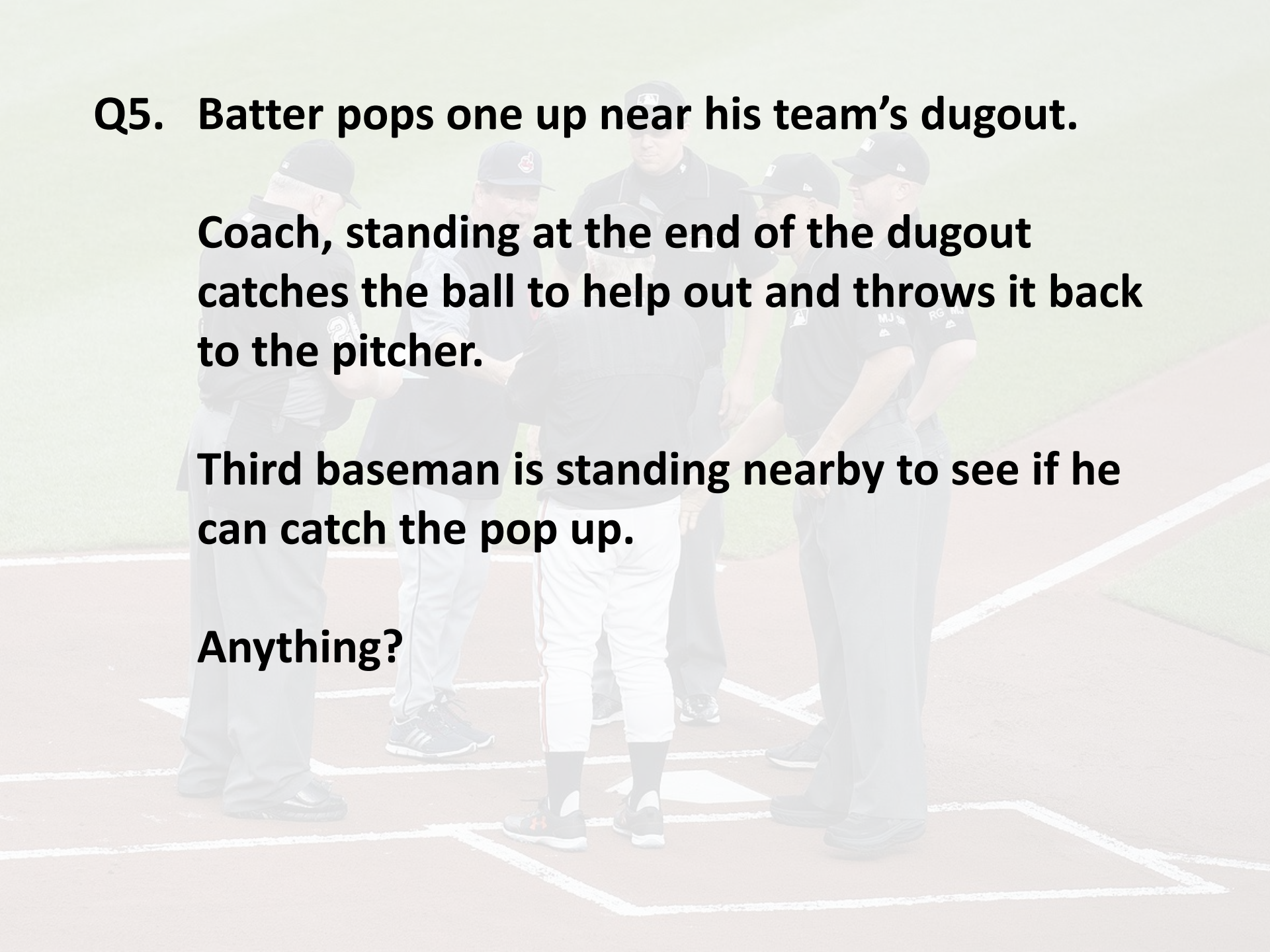


Q5. Batter pops one up near his team's dugout.

Coach, standing at the end of the dugout catches the ball to help out and throws it back to the pitcher.

Third baseman is standing nearby to see if he can catch the pop up.

Anything?

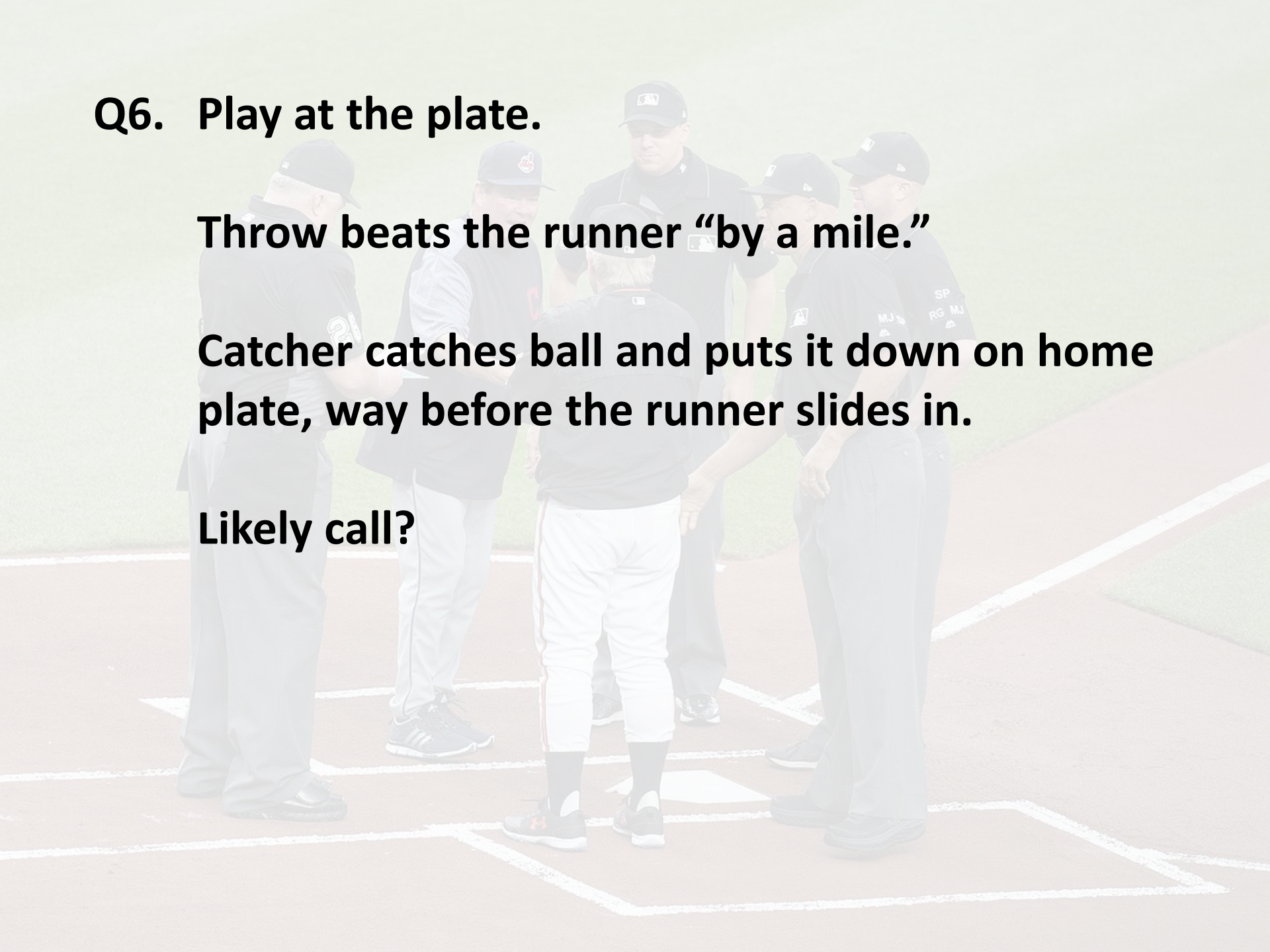


Q6. Play at the plate.

Throw beats the runner “by a mile.”

Catcher catches ball and puts it down on home plate, way before the runner slides in.

Likely call?

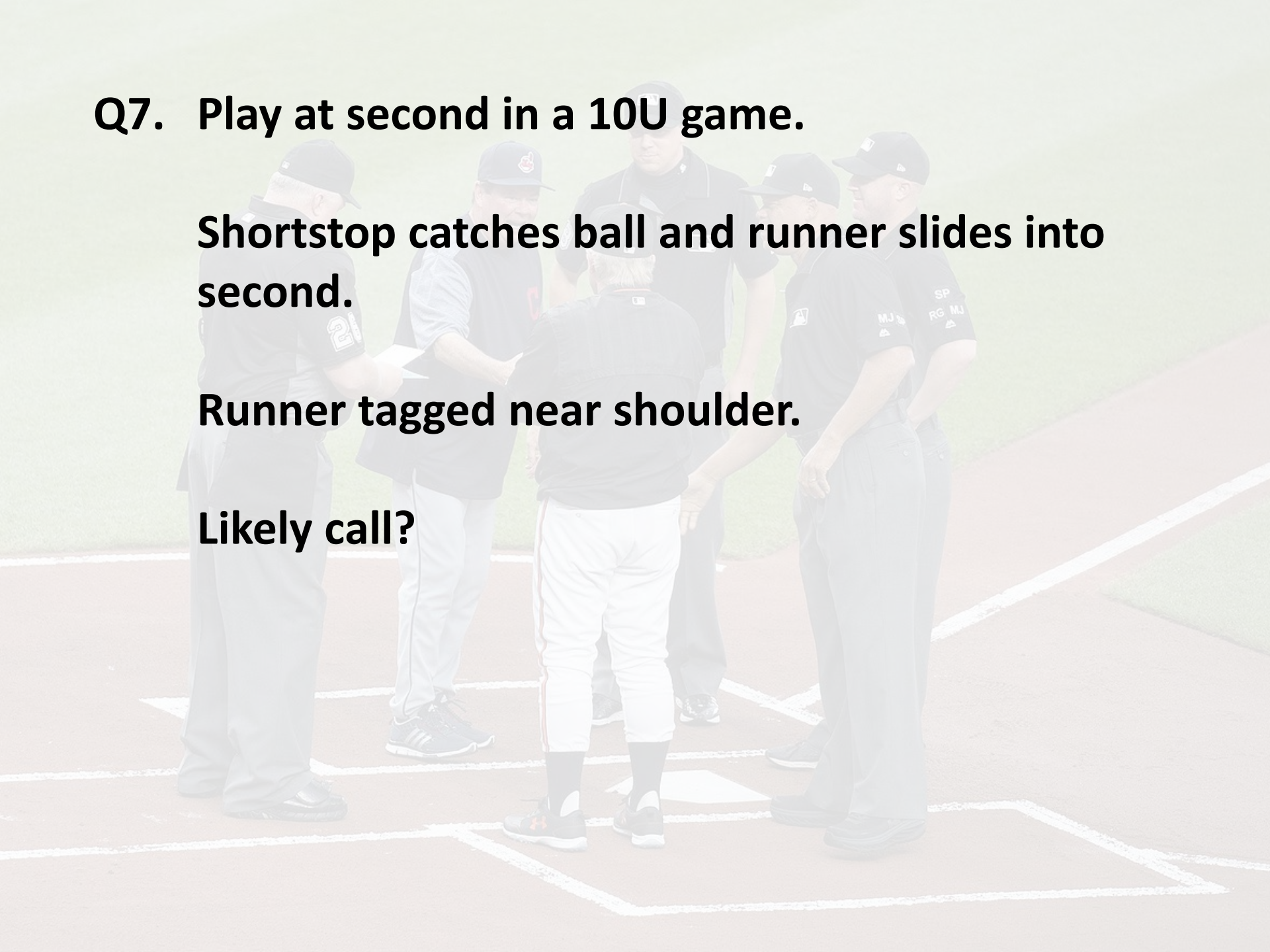


Q7. Play at second in a 10U game.

Shortstop catches ball and runner slides into second.

Runner tagged near shoulder.

Likely call?

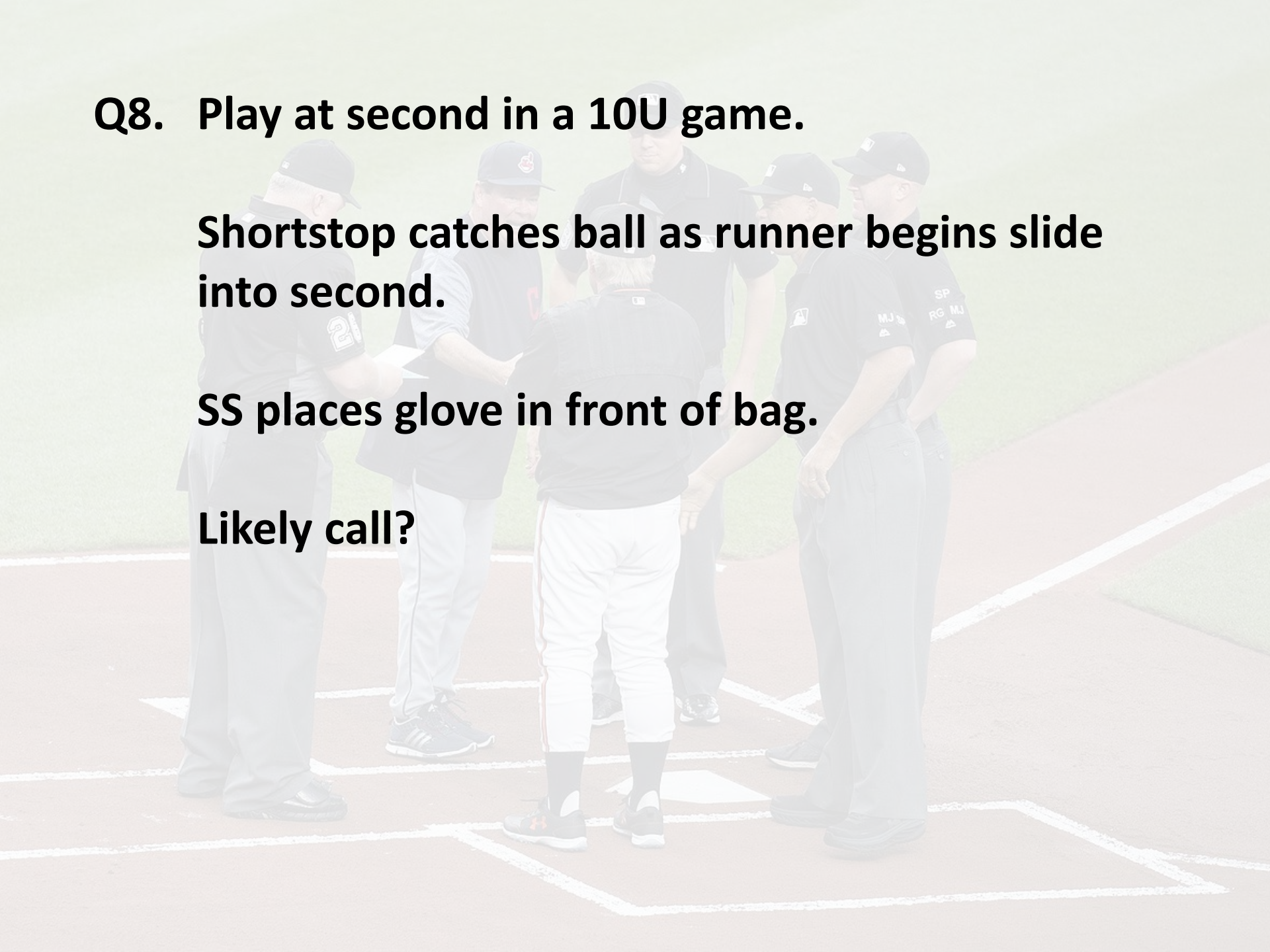


Q8. Play at second in a 10U game.

Shortstop catches ball as runner begins slide into second.

SS places glove in front of bag.

Likely call?



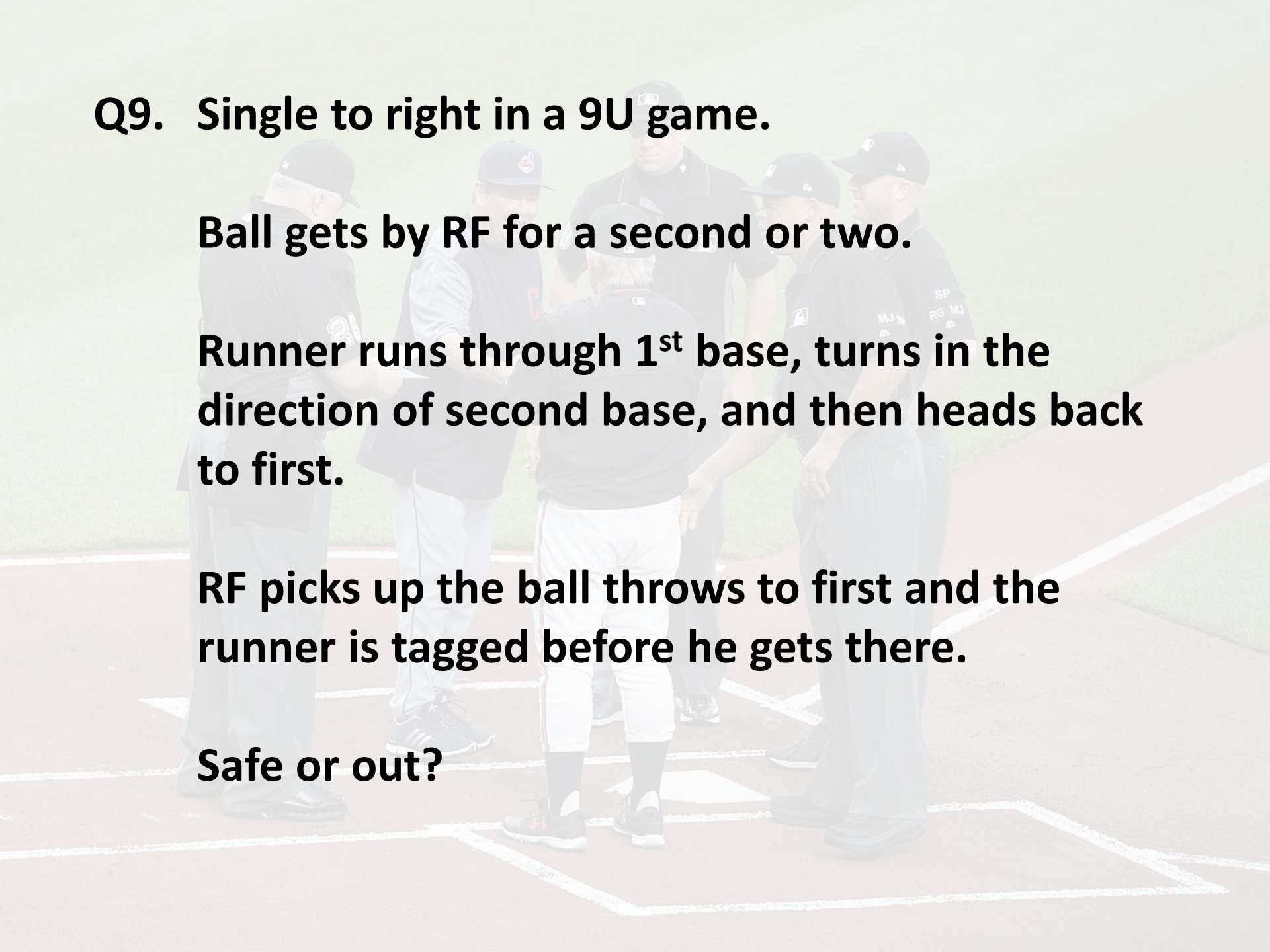
Q9. Single to right in a 9U game.

Ball gets by RF for a second or two.

Runner runs through 1st base, turns in the direction of second base, and then heads back to first.

RF picks up the ball throws to first and the runner is tagged before he gets there.

Safe or out?

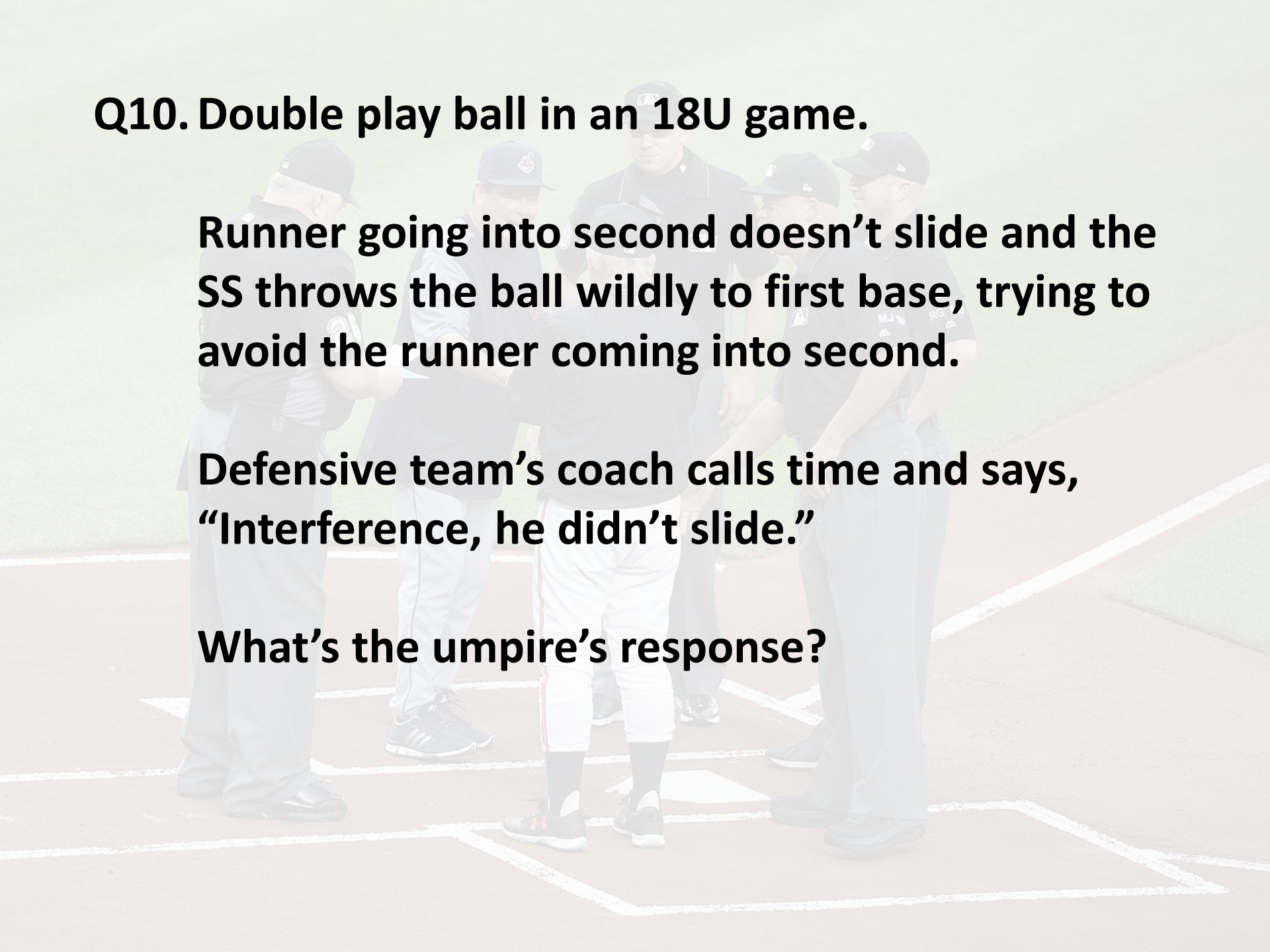


Q10. Double play ball in an 18U game.

Runner going into second doesn't slide and the SS throws the ball wildly to first base, trying to avoid the runner coming into second.

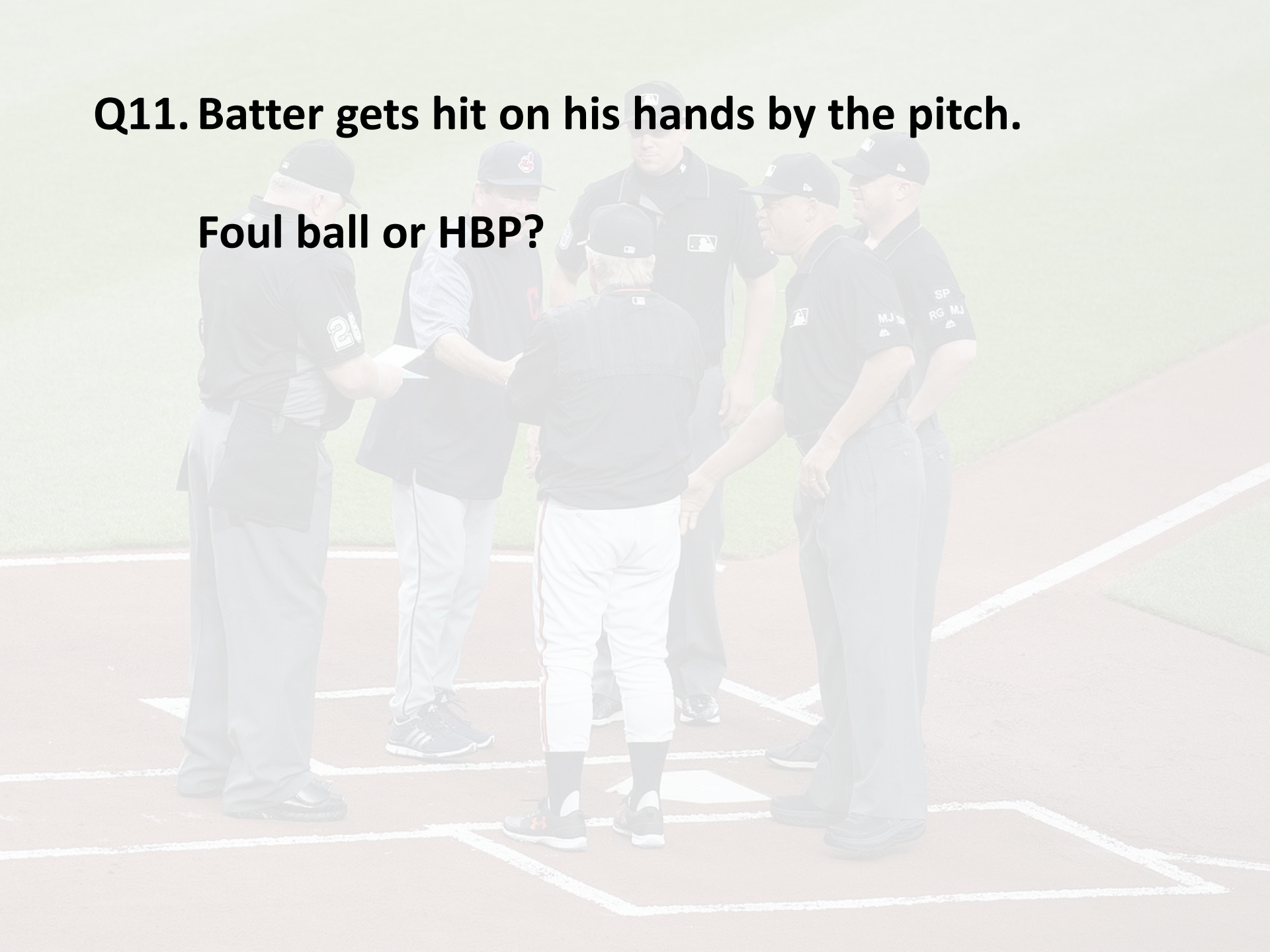
Defensive team's coach calls time and says, "Interference, he didn't slide."

What's the umpire's response?



Q11. Batter gets hit on his hands by the pitch.

Foul ball or HBP?

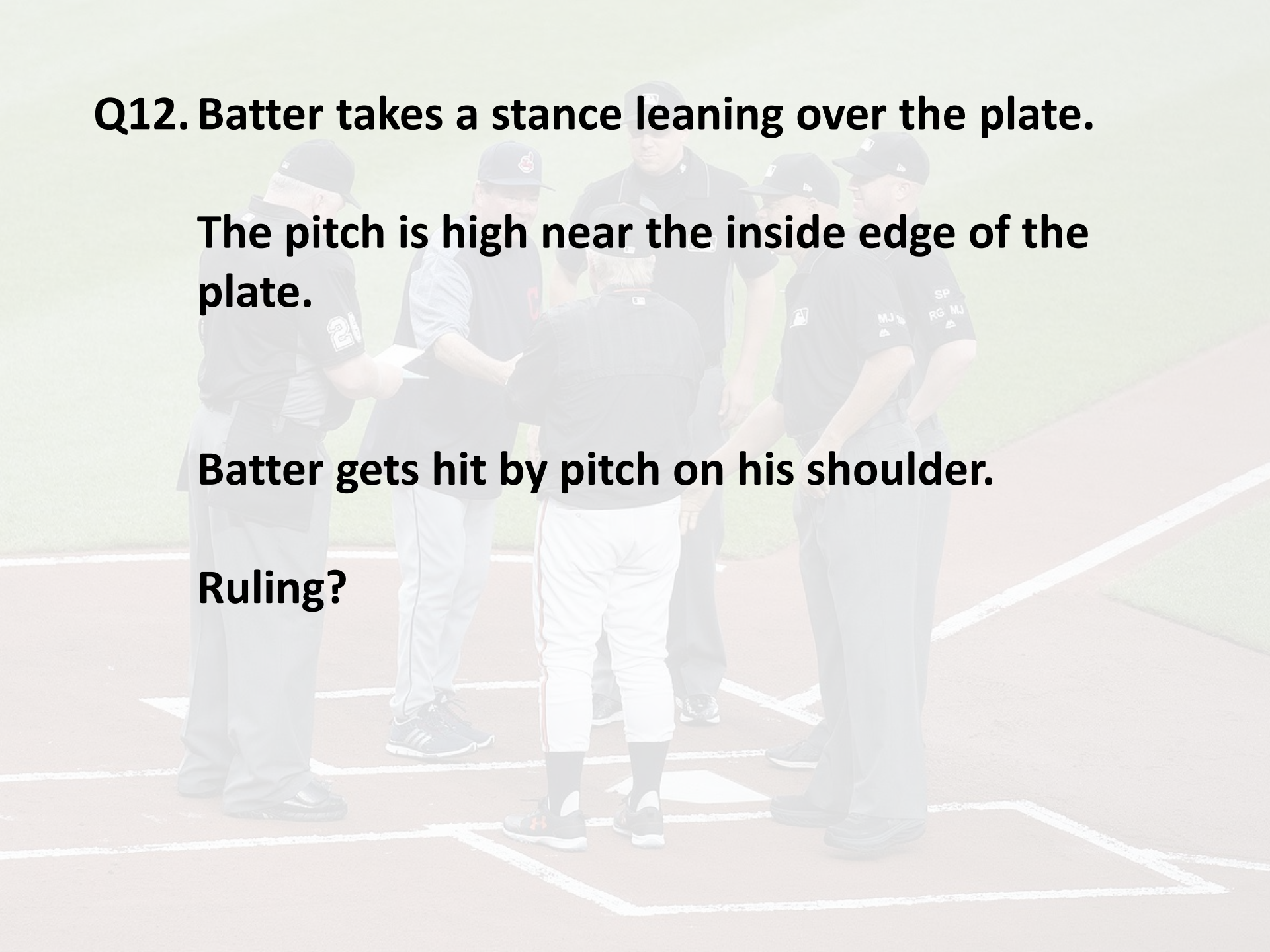


Q12. Batter takes a stance leaning over the plate.

The pitch is high near the inside edge of the plate.

Batter gets hit by pitch on his shoulder.

Ruling?

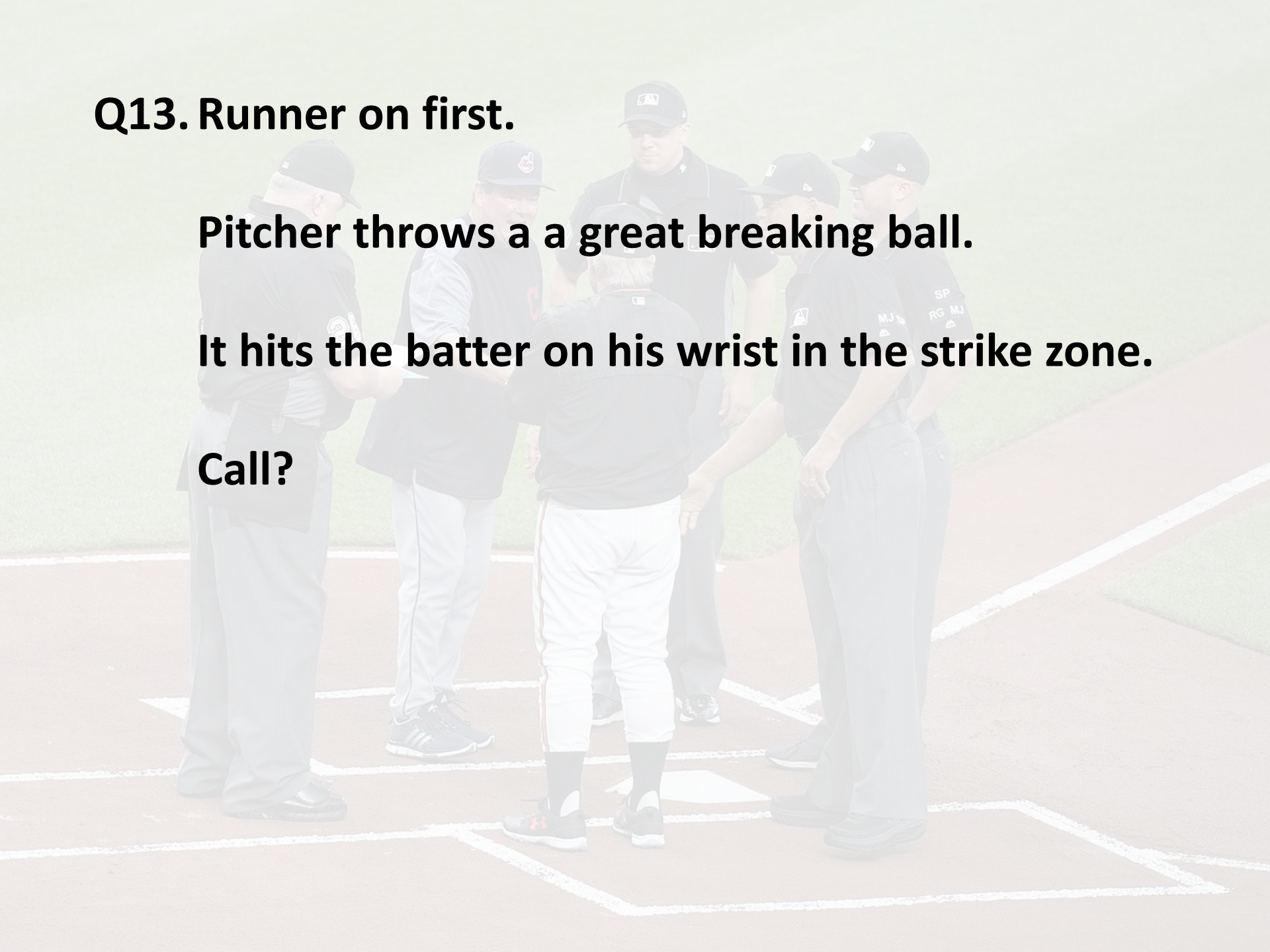


Q13. Runner on first.

Pitcher throws a a great breaking ball.

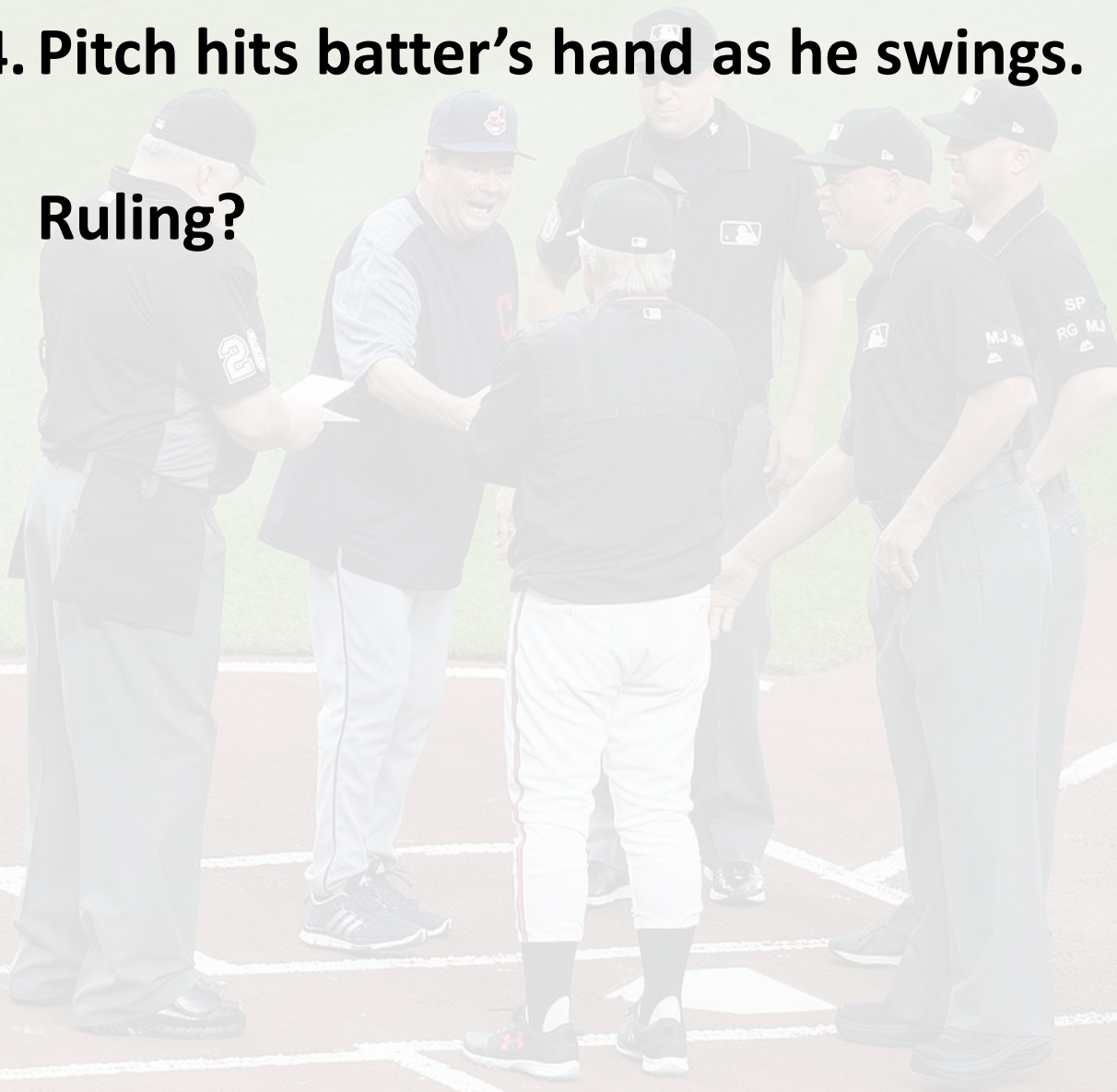
It hits the batter on his wrist in the strike zone.

Call?



Q14. Pitch hits batter's hand as he swings.

Ruling?



Q15. Play at the plate.

Umpire is in the appropriate position to make a call – third base extended.

Coach is at the RF side of the the first base dugout.

Who likely has a better view of the play at the plate?

