

## 2019 Softball Officials Exam for Postseason Tournament Consideration & Answers

1. B1 bats out of order and reaches first base. F1 then steps onto the pitcher's plate and commits an illegal pitch. The defense then appeals that B1 has batted out of order. What is the correct ruling?

A. B1 is declared out and the next batter comes to the plate.

B. B1 is replaced by the legal batter at first base.

**C. The defense can no longer appeal batting out of order since the infraction was not discovered prior to the next pitch. (7-1-2 PEN 3)**

D. The defense is allowed to appeal since the pitch was illegal and the player that B1 batted in place of is called out.

2. A small hole has naturally occurred in front of the pitching plate during the course of the game. On the pitch, the pitcher pushes off the plate with her pivot foot and loses contact with the ground as she drags across the hole. Her pivot foot, however, is no higher than the level plane of the ground around the hole as she delivers the pitch. What is the correct call?

**A. No call. The pitch is legal because in the umpire's judgment, the foot would have been in contact with the ground had the hole not been present. (6-1-2c)**

B. No pitch, and the game is delayed until the hole can be repaired.

C. Illegal pitch because the pivot foot is not touching the ground in the bottom of the hole.

D. No pitch and the pitcher receives a warning. If the pivot foot fails to touch the ground in the bottom of the hole on future pitches, an illegal pitch will be called.

3. It is an illegal pitch if:

**A. F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate and immediately brings her hands together. (6-1-1)**

B. F1 is on the pitcher's plate, looks to the coach for a signal and then looks to F2 and simulates taking a signal before bringing her hands together.

C. F1 stands behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from the coach, steps on the pitcher's plate and simulates taking a signal from F2 before bringing her hands together.

D. F1's shoulders are in line with first and third base, the ball is in her glove or hand and the hands are separated.

4. B1 hits a high fly ball down the line to right field. F9, with both feet clearly in fair territory, reaches across the foul line in an attempt to catch the ball. While the ball is still in the air, completely over foul ground, the ball deflects off of F9's glove and lands in fair territory. The correct call is:

**A. Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched. (2-20-2)**

B. Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when she touched the ball.

C. Fair ball because after she touched the ball it landed in fair territory.

D. Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.

5. Which of the following situations involving a bunt occurring on a third strike is correct?

A. A batter whose third strike bunt attempt ends up a foul ball will be called out.

B. An attempted bunt can never be ruled an infield fly.

C. A batter whose foot is touching home plate when the bat makes contact with a pitched ball will always be called out (whether the ball is hit fair or foul).

**D. All of the above. (2-30, 7-4-9)**

6. With the ball in the circle in F1's possession, and there is no attempt by F1 to make a play on a base runner, when is the runner declared out based on the look-back rule?

**A. The batter-runner is safe at first base on a dropped third strike. She overruns first base and turns to the right. Seeing no fielder near second base, she runs toward second where she is safe. (8-7-4)**

B. The batter-runner gets a base hit and rounds first base and comes to a complete stop. She then returns to first base.

C. The batter-runner who gets an infield hit and overruns first base toward right field turns left, stops and then advances to second base.

D. The batter-runner gets a base hit and overruns first base toward right field, turns left and moves toward the infield in any direction except toward second base, then returns to first base.

7. Starting at first base, R1 overruns second base on a hit by B2. In the ensuing rundown, both runners end up on second base. F6 tags both runners. The correct ruling is:

A. R1 and B2 are both out.

**B. B2 is out. (8-3-7)**

C. R1 is out.

D. Neither runner is out.

8. Which statement is NOT an example of interference?

A. Batter-runner running outside the 3-foot lane interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.

B. The batter-runner makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base.

**C. The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out. (8-2-5, 8-2-6)**

D. The batter-runner remains in the batter's box on a play at home plate in order to prevent an obvious out.

9. Which statement about a catch is correct?

A. The fielder must have control and the release of the ball must be voluntary.

B. If a ball strikes anything or anyone other than a defensive player while it is in flight, it shall be ruled a ground ball and not a catch.

C. If a fielder catches a ball but drops it while transferring it to the throwing hand or in making a throw, the umpire shall still rule it a catch.

**D. All of the above. (2-9)**

10. B1 enters the batter's box on the right side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch. B1 disconcerts the pitcher by moving to the left-hand batter's box. The correct ruling is:

A. Allow the pitcher to reset and continue to play.

B. Allow the pitcher to reset and warn the head coach the next infraction would result in an out on the batter.

**C. The ball is dead immediately and batter is called out. (7-4-3 PENALTY)**

D. An illegal pitch is called on pitcher.

11. When an illegal pitch is called with a runner on base:

A. All runners advance one base.

**B. The batter is awarded a ball. (6-1-1, 6-2-1)**

C. A warning will be issued to the pitcher.

D. Both a and b.

12. All of the following are true statements regarding the designated player (DP), EXCEPT:

A. The DP is one of the nine hitters in the batting order.

B. The DP may be substituted for at any time by a legal substitute.

**C. The DP may play defense only for the FLEX. (3-3-6)**

D. The DP has left the game if the FLEX bats.

E. The DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.

13. Batter A approaches the batter's box and the defensive team's head coach requests that she be "intentionally walked." At that time, the home plate umpire indicates that she advances to first base. The defensive coach now appeals that Batter A has batted out of order.

A. This appeal may not be made until Batter A reaches first base.

B. The appeal may not be made after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk.

**C. The appeal may be made at any time after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk and before a pitch to the next batter. (2-65-2, 7-1-2 PENALTIES)**

D. All of the above.

14. A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should:

**A. Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases. (5-1-1f(4), 8-4-3h)**

B. Call a dead ball and award the batter a home run.

C. Call a dead ball and award the base the umpire judges she would have reached had the ball not become wedged in the fence.

D. Award the batter the base she was closest to when the ball became wedged in the fence.

15. What factors should umpires consider in determining when to leave the field at the end of the game?

A. Leave the field before all fielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position.

B. Return to the field after they have left to make every attempt to get the call right.

**C. When teams line up to shake hands following the completion of the game. (2-1-4 NOTE)**

D. Umpires should remain on the field to watch for unsporting behavior by either team in the handshake line.

16. When a pitcher is removed from the pitching position by rule or injury, her replacement who has not yet pitched in the game may have how many warm-up pitches?

A. No warm-up is permitted.

B. She is entitled to eight warm-up pitches.

C. The pitcher determines when she is properly warmed up.

**D. The umpire is authorized to determine how many warm-up pitches are permitted. (3-7-1 NOTE)**

17. Team A's pitcher has a pink camouflage arm sleeve on her pitching arm extending from her uniform top all the way down to her wrist. The ruling should be:

A. Legal, sleeves are not covered in NFHS softball rules.

B. Legal, as long as it does not contain any of the opposing team colors.

**C. Illegal, the sleeve must be removed or covered. Sleeves must follow the same color restrictions as exposed undergarments. They must be a single solid color: black, white, gray or school color. (3-2-7c)**

D. Illegal, sleeves are not allowed to be worn.

18. A batter may be awarded first base when:

A. A fair batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment or clothing of an umpire or a runner.

B. A pitched ball entirely within the batter's box strikes her clothing.

C. A pitched ball not entirely in the batter's box, not swung at nor called a strike, hits the batter when she attempts to get out of the way.

**D. All of the above. (8-1-2)**

19. Which situation is not an appeal play?

A. The batter-runner legally overruns first base, attempts to run to second and is legally touched while off base.

**B. An offensive team member, other than another runner, physically assists the runner. (8-6)**

C. The runner fails to touch home plate.

D. The runner leaves a base to advance to another base before a caught fly ball, provided the ball is returned to the infield and is properly appealed.

20. With R1 on second base, B2 is at bat with a count of two balls and one strike. The next pitch is completely in the batter's box and barely grazes the jersey of B2 while R1 breaks to steal third base. The catcher throws to third base and R1 is tagged out. What is the correct ruling?

A. The ball is live, R1 is out and B2 has a 3 ball-1 strike count.

B. The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. The play at third base stands, R1 is out.

**C. The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. R1 returns to second base. (5-1-1a, 8-1-2b)**

D. The ball is dead, B2 remains at bat since the umpire judged B2 did not make an attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.

21. B1, identified on the lineup card as the pitcher, reaches base in the top of the first inning and a courtesy runner is used. As B1 goes to take the pitcher's plate in the bottom of the first inning, she is injured and unable to pitch to the first batter. The result is:

A. The team must play with only eight players.

**B. The courtesy runner becomes B1's substitute retroactively and B1 has left the game. (8-9-2 EXCEPTION)**

C. B1 may move to a different defensive position.

D. B1 is ejected for unsporting conduct.

22. There are four criteria that an umpire uses to judge whether a batter attempted to hit or bunt the pitched ball. Which statement is NOT correct?

A. Rolling the wrist and swinging through the pitched ball is considered an attempt.

B. If the bat is drawn back before the pitch gets to the bat, it is not an attempt.

**C. Holding a bat in the strike zone is not a strike nor an attempt to swing. (7-2-1)**

D. The batter makes an attempt to hit the pitch.

23. R1 is on first base. B2 hits a pitch to F6 with one foot touching the ground completely outside the batter's box. F4 obstructs R1 advancing to second base. The correct ruling is:

A. Delayed dead ball. B2 is out but R1 is awarded second base for F4 obstructing.

**B. Dead ball. B2 is out and R1 must return to first base. (7-4-8)**

C. Delayed dead ball. B2 is out and R1 advances at her own risk.

D. Dead ball. B2 is out. R1 is awarded second base if F4's obstruction occurred before B2 contacted the ball.

24. B1 hits a dribbler in front of the plate and a few feet down the first-base line. F2 fields the ball and doesn't throw because B1 is outside the running lane and in the way of a potential throw.

A. The plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.

**B. The plate umpire lets the play stand as there is no interference on B1. (8-2-6)**

C. The plate umpire lets the play stand and signals obstruction on F2.

D. The plate umpire calls dead ball and obstruction on F2.

25. B3 erroneously bats out of order in place of B2. The error is discovered by the opposing team while B3 is at bat with a 3 ball-2 strike count. The correct ruling is:

A. B3 is declared out.

**B. B2 replaces B3 and assumes the 3 ball-2 strike count. (7-1-2)**

C. B3 is allowed to finish the at-bat.

D. B2 replaces B3 and starts with a new count since she hasn't received any pitches.

26. A coach cannot have which of the following items in the coaches box on the field?

A. A stopwatch.

**B. A cell phone recording video. (3-6-10)**

C. A tablet device being used as a scorebook.

D. A scorebook.

27. With one out, R1 on third base and R2 on second base, B4 hits a fly ball on the first-base side of second base almost directly at F4. As R2 takes a couple of steps toward third base, she makes contact with F6, who is moving toward the batted ball.

- A. The umpire signals and verbalizes "dead ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make an initial play on a batted ball.
- B. The umpire signals and verbalizes "dead ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make a live-ball appeal of R2 leaving early if the fly is caught.
- C. The umpire makes no call; this is nothing more than a "train wreck" with both players doing what they were supposed to do.
- D. The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes "Obstruction." F6 is guilty of obstructing R2. (8-8-1)**

28. Wristbands with a playbook/playcard attached:

- A. Are considered equipment.
- B. Can be worn if a single solid color, other than optic yellow.
- C. Are permissible when worn on the non-pitching arm.
- D. All of the above. (3-2-7c)**

29. B1 bunts the ball. The first baseman fields the ball and prepares to tag out B1 as she runs toward first base. B1 stops and steps back toward home plate to avoid the tag. The correct ruling is:

- A. Live ball. This is a legal play.
- B. Dead ball. The batter is out and runners return to the last bases touched at the time of the infraction. (8-2-5)**
- C. Live ball. The batter is out but runners can advance.
- D. Dead ball. The batter is out and runners are awarded the closest base at the time dead ball is called.

30. R1 is on first base with one out. B3 hits a long fly ball to left field. The ball is over foul territory as it is first touched and then dropped by F7. On the fly ball, R1 advanced and touched second base and was moving to third as the ball was dropped. R1 shall:

- A. Retrace the path retouching second base before returning to first base.
- B. Be awarded second base, as it was legally achieved while the ball was over fair territory.
- C. Return to first base with or without retouching bases since it is ruled a foul ball. (2-25-1d, 8-3-2 EXCEPTION, 8-5-1)**
- D. Move back to first base before the ball gets to the pitching circle.