

2016 Softball Officials Exam for Postseason Tournament Consideration & Answers

1. **True** or False: During a legal pitching delivery, the pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground and within the 24 inch width of the pitchers plate.
2. When a player is discovered using an altered bat:
 - a. The batter is out and a team warning is given.
 - b. The batter is out and ejected and the coach is restricted to the dugout.
 - c. **The batter is out and both the batter and coach are ejected.**
3. Which statement is not true regarding pitching regulations?
 - a. The hands must be separated prior to pitching when taking a position on the pitching plate.
 - b. A backward or "rocker" step is allowed with the non-pivot foot prior to the hands coming together.
 - c. **Prior to the pitch, the hands must come together for a minimum of 10 seconds.**
 - d. The forward step must be within the 24 inch width of the pitching plate.
 - e. When taking the initial position on the pitchers plate the pivot must on or partially on the pitchers' plate.
4. In the third inning, a team coach calls time and goes to the field to talk to the pitcher for the first time in the game. In the 4th inning, the coach makes a second visit to the field to talk with the pitcher. The plate umpire should:
 - a. Require that the coach remove the pitcher from the game.
 - b. Leave the base umpire keep track of the defensive conferences.
 - c. **Record the defensive conferences on his lineup card and inform the coach each time he/she has used a defensive conference.**
 - d. Rely on the home team scorekeeper to keep track of defensive conferences.
5. A team is properly using the DP/FLEX as the game starts. In the third inning, the DP leaves the game and the FLEX bats. Which statement is true:
 - a. The DP is not eligible for re-entry.
 - b. **The FLEX must bat in the same position as the DP had in the batting order.**
 - c. The FLEX may move to a different position in the batting order.
 - d. The DP may re-enter the game later and occupy a different position in the batting order.
6. R2 occupies second base with no outs when B2 singles to right field. R2 touches third and home and, after touching home, the third base coach yells to R2 that she missed third base. While racing back to third R2 is tagged out by F5.
 - a. No runner may return to touch a missed base after she has scored.
 - b. The out on R2 stands.
 - c. **R2's run counts.**
7. A team provides their lineup card to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference, but does not have a DP/FLEX listed in the starting lineup. Which of the following apply?
 - a. The team may add the DP/FLEX to the lineup card later in the game.
 - b. **The team may not use the DP/FLEX as it was not on their lineup card when given to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference.**

8. Which of the following are considered LEGAL uses of electronic devices?
- A team manager videos game action from the stands and gives it to the coach during the game to review with his/her pitcher in the pitching circle.
 - A coach videos game action and asks to protest a ruling made by the umpire in the field.
 - A team manager videos game action from the dugout and gives it to the coach to review footage with players in between innings.**
9. Which is correct regarding the player re-entry rule?
- No re-entry is allowed.
 - Only starting players may re-enter the game.
 - All players may re-enter the game twice.
 - All players may re-enter the game one time.**
 - Players may re-enter the game three times in a seven-inning game.
10. A pitched ball is entirely inside the batter's box when it hits the batter and the batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch. The ruling is:
- A ball is called and the batter is not awarded first as she did not try to avoid the pitch.
 - The batter is awarded first base, she is not required to avoid the pitch if she is struck by a pitch in the batters' box as long as she did not obviously try to get hit by the pitch.**
11. **True** or False. A softball pitcher may wear sunglasses.
12. Which statement is NOT true regarding use of courtesy runners:
- The same courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher.**
 - A team at bat may use a courtesy runner for only the pitcher and catcher at any time.
 - When a legal courtesy runner is used for a pitcher or catcher, the pitcher or catcher is not considered to have left the game and may return without using their re-entry.
 - A player who has participated in the game or is participating in the game is not eligible to be a courtesy runner.
 - All courtesy runners should be reported to the plate umpire.
13. R1 is on first base with no outs and is running with the pitch. B2 hits a ground ball to F6. F6's throw to F4 at second base is not in time and R1 is safe. As F4 fires to first her throw goes over the fence behind first base.
- R1 is awarded third and B2 second.
 - R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded second.**
 - All runners are always awarded two bases from the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch.
 - All runners are always awarded the base they are going to, plus one additional base.
14. **True** or False. When a batter receives a walk, the ball remains live and the batter runner is treated the same as a batter who puts the ball in play.
15. Both teams are using the DP/FLEX and have submitted proper lineup cards at the pre-game conference. In the 4th inning, Team "A" has the FLEX player bat for the DP and the DP leaves the game. In the 7th inning team "A" has the DP return to the game in the same position in the batting order and the FLEX no longer bats and remains in the game defensively.
- Ruling:
- Legal change, the DP is considered to have left the game when the FLEX assumed the DP's position in the batting order and has used the DP's re-entry privilege.**
 - The DP cannot re-enter.
 - The FLEX can never enter the game as a batter.
 - When the FLEX bats for the DP and the DP leaves the game, the FLEX player is considered to have left the game and no longer has re-entry privileges.

16. Prior to team A's first batter in the bottom of the 6th inning, team A's head coach reports to the plate umpire that S1 will replace B1, S2 will replace B2, and S3 will replace B3 in the batting order and the starters will re-enter in the top of the 7th inning. The plate umpire should:
- Record the substitutions and make note of the starters who will re-enter.
 - Accept the offensive substitutions into the lineup, and remind the coach that the players on defense will need to be reported when the team goes on defense.**

17. F1 pitches as B1 bats with a 1-1 count. B1's bat contacts the pitch and the ball goes directly to F2's chest protector. The ball rebounds off the protector into the air where F1 catches the ball in the in fair territory.
- B1 is out the same as any other batted ball that is deflected from one fielder to another and is caught without touching the ground.
 - That's a foul tip and the ball is live.
 - Only F2 may complete the act of catching the ball for a foul tip.
 - That's a foul ball.**
 - B1 continues at bat with a 1-1 count.
 - B1 continues at bat with a 1-2 count.

18. With R1 at second, B2 hits cleanly to the outfield. While R-1 is advancing to home, F2 makes contact with R1 as she attempts to score. F2 does not have possession of the ball but is about to field a bouncing throw from the outfield.
- Ruling:

- Obstruction is called on F2 with a delayed dead ball, R1 is awarded home.**
- The contact is ignored and regarded as incidental with no infraction.
- If F2 was about to field the ball although not in possession, interference is called on R1.

19. A designated media area has been established beyond first base next to the out-of-play fence. An overthrow goes into the occupied media area. In which one of the following situations does the ball remain LIVE?
- The ball passes through, untouched, rolling on the ground.
 - The ball passes through, untouched, in flight.**
 - The ball comes to rest.
 - The ball touches a photographer or piece of camera equipment before rolling through the area.

20. A batted ball settles on the chalk line that separates the live-ball area from the dead-ball area.
- The ball is immediately dead.
 - The ball is live and in play.**
 - The ball is a delayed-dead ball.

21. With R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B3 hits safely to the outfield. F7 throws toward the infield and the ball goes into the visiting team dugout. When the throw left F7's hand R1 was between second and third, R2 had already touched second base and B3 had reached first base. Ruling:
- All runners are awarded the base they were approaching and one more base.
 - The ball is dead, R1 and R2 are awarded home and B3 is awarded third.**
 - The ball remains alive and all runners advance at their own risk.
 - R1 is awarded home, R2 awarded third and B3 awarded second.

22. **True** or False. A team uniform may have a commemorative or memorial patch, with state association approval.

23. With no one out, no runners on base and two strikes on B1, F1's pitch bounces off the ground three feet in front of the plate and B1 tips the ball on her swing and the ball goes sharply and directly into F2's glove where it is securely held by the catcher. F2 then throws the ball to F5 as B1 bolts to first base and is safe.

- a. B1 is safe at first base since the pitched ball touched the ground before it reached F2.
- b. **B1 is out because the nicked ball was caught by F2 for a foul tip.**

24. During a regular season game, the home team is ahead 5-2 in the top of the 6th inning. The visiting team scores three runs in the top of the 6th when weather prevents any more play on that day. Ruling:

- a. The game is suspended and continued from the point of suspension at a later date.
- b. **This is an official game. The score reverts back to the previous full inning and the home team wins 5-2.**
- c. The game is cancelled and replayed from the beginning.

25. During a regular season game by local conference or league adoption, when can the tiebreaker rule be used?

- a. **After the 7th inning**
- b. After the 8th inning
- c. After the 9th inning

26. **True** or False. In all MHSAA tournament games, the tiebreaker shall be applied in tied games beginning with the 11th inning.

27. **True** or False. A game may not start with less than 9 players.

28. **True** or False. Defensive players may wear protective face/head protection but it is not required. Such equipment shall have a non-glare outer surface.

29. How many defensive charged conferences are allowed in a regulation seven-inning game?

- a. **Three.**
- b. Seven.
- c. In a half inning, the defense is allowed one conference.
- d. One.
- e. A second conference with the same pitcher in an inning requires removal of that pitcher from that position for the rest of the game.

30. **True** or False. A plate umpire is required to keep a lineup card for both teams and record all substitutes, lineup changes, courtesy runners and defensive and offensive conferences and announce all changes/substitutes to the opposing coach.