

2020-21 Softball Officials Exam for Postseason Tournament Consideration & Answers

1. B1 comes to the plate with an altered bat. What should the plate umpire do upon discovering the bat? (7-4-2 Penalty)
 - a. the umpire shall wait for an appeal from the defensive team.
 - b. the umpire shall penalize a strike on the batter.
 - c. The umpire shall declare B1 out and remove the bat. B1 and the head coach are both ejected.**
 - d. There is no penalty until B1 hits the ball.
2. A coach cannot have which of the following items in the coaches box on the field? (3-6-10)
 - a. A stopwatch.
 - b. A cell phone recording video.**
 - c. A tablet device being used as a scorebook.
 - d. A scorebook.
3. An on-deck batter may warm up in either on-deck circle. (1-1-6, 2-5-3, 7-5-1)
 - a. True
 - b. False**
4. 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: (3-2-7c)
 - 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.**
 - d. Illegal, sleeves are not allowed to be worn.
5. R1 is on first base with one out. B1's line drive is caught by F4, who throws to F3 to double up R1, who was running on the pitch. U1 ruled R1 left early on the pitch. (8-6-18 Pen)
 - a. The ball is immediately dead when R1 left early, R1 is ruled out and no pitch is declared.**
 - b. The ball is delayed dead when R1 left early and the defense has the option of taking the out for leaving early or take the result of the play, which was a double play.
 - c. The offensive team is given a team warning for leaving early and any further leaving early will result in the ejection of that player, and all play stands.
6. R2 is on second base. On the pitch, R2 heads for third base and B3 bunts the ball down the first-base line. As F3 fields the ball and starts toward B3 to tag her, B3 retreats towards home plate to avoid the tag. After stepping back two feet, B3 is tagged by F3. R2 had reached third base before B3 began her retreat. (8-2-5 Pen, 8-2-5a)
 - a. B3 is out on the tag and the ball remains live.
 - b. The ball is dead the moment B3 stepped back, B3 is declared out and R2 is placed back on second base.
 - c. The ball is dead the moment B3 stepped back, B3 is declared out and R2 is allowed to stay on third base.**
 - d. Both B3 and R2 are ruled out due to interference.
7. With a 3-2 count, B1 swings at a high and inside rise ball. B1 completely misses the pitch that subsequently hits her in the shoulder. (7-2-1g)
 - a. The ball is dead and B1 is awarded first base for a hit by pitch.
 - b. The ball is dead, a foul ball is called and B1 remains at bat.
 - c. The ball is dead and B1 is called out for strike three.**

8. When obstruction occurs, the umpire should give the delayed-ball signal, regardless of whether there is a play on the obstructed runner. (8-4-3b Pen.)

a. True

b. False

9. 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: (8-9-2 Exception)

a. The team must play with only eight players.

b. The courtesy runner becomes B1's substitute retroactively and B1 has left the game.

c. B1 may move to a different defensive position.

d. B1 is ejected for unsporting conduct.

10. Who can a pitcher take a signal from while on the pitcher's plate? (6-1-1b)

a. The coach

b. A play card

c. The catcher

d. All the above as long as the pitcher pauses and simulates taking a signal from the catcher prior to bringing her hands together.

11. In the top of the second inning, with R2 on first and B3 in the middle of her turn at bat, it is discovered that the pitching distance is incorrect. The umpire: (1-1-9)

a. Corrects the pitching distance immediately and resumes play.

b. Notifies both teams that the distance will be corrected after both teams have pitched an equal number of innings.

c. Discontinues the game.

12. With the bases loaded and less than two outs, F4 is using ordinary effort to catch a pop-up. The correct call is: (2-30, 8-2-9)

a. Infield fly is called by the umpire and the batter is out.

b. Runners may not advance at any time.

c. Only an infielder can catch an infield fly.

d. If the ball is ruled foul, it still is an infield fly.

13. 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: (8-2-5)

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 interference.

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.

14. 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: (7-4-8)

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.

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.

15. The FLEX may be substituted for at any time by: (3-3-6f)

a. A legal substitute.

b. The DP, who may play defense for the FLEX.

c. Anyone else in the batting order.

d. A and B only.

16. When an illegal pitch is called with a runner on base: (6-1-1 Penalty, 6-2-1)

a. All runners advance one base.

b. The batter is awarded a ball.

c. A warning will be issued to the pitcher.

d. Both A and B.

17. A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should: (5-1-1f(4), 8-4-3g)

a. Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases.

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.

18. 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. (2-65-2, 7-1-2 Penalties)

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.

d. All of the above.

19. Bases are loaded with no outs, with a one-ball, one-strike count. B4 hits a ground ball. As F4 is fielding the ball, R3 collides with her. What is the correct ruling? (8-6-10 Penalty)

a. The ball is dead and R3 is out. All other runners return to their bases and B4 returns to bat with the same count.

b. R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play, the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. R1 and R2 advance at their own risk.

c. Since R3 was in the baseline there is no interference, and all runners advance at their own risk.

d. The ball is dead and R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. If not, B4 is awarded first base. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference.

20. Where are media allowed during a high school softball game? (1-1-7, 2-22-4)

a. In live-ball territory inside the confines of the field.

b. Down the right-field line only, in live-ball territory.

c. In dead-ball territory.

d. Behind the home plate umpire in front of the backstop.

21. Prior to starting the delivery of a pitch, the pitcher must: (6-1-1)

a. Have both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.

b. Have both feet on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.

c. Have both feet on top of the pitcher's plate.

d. Not take a step backward.

22. B1 steps up to the plate and after she hits two balls over the fence in foul territory, F1 requests to intentionally walk B1. (2-65-2, 8-1-1c)

a. The umpire allows B1 to be intentionally walked.

b. The umpire informs F1 that the request for an intentional walk must come from the head coach.

c. The umpire states that although F1, F2 or the defensive coach can request an intentional walk, it must be done prior to any pitches being thrown.

d. The umpire informs F1 that an intentional walk cannot be requested once there are two strikes.

23. Any fielder, with or without the ball, may make a dead-ball appeal by verbally stating that the runner missed the base or left too soon. (2-1-3b(1))

a. True

b. False

24. Which statement is an incorrect ruling of interference? (2-32, 8-6-10, 8-6-16)

a. If a retired runner impedes a fielder making a play on another runner, the runner closest to home is always declared out.

b. If a runner has not yet been put out and interference occurs to break up a double play, the immediate succeeding runner is out.

c. Interference is only awarded in situations where the runner physically contacts a fielder.

d. B4 hits a fair ground ball but R2 hinders F6 making an initial play. The batter-runner is never called out as a result of this interference. If there are less than two outs she is always awarded first base.

25. R1 is on first base when B2 hits a ground ball to F4. F4 is in the baseline between first and second when she misplays the ball. R1 crashes into F4 as she attempts to recover the ball. The correct call is: (2-47-3c, 8-6-10a)

a. If the misplayed ball is within a step and a reach of where F4 initially contacted the ball, R1 has committed interference.

b. When F4 misplays the ball, the umpire will give the delayed dead-ball signal and wait to see what happens.

c. Because F4 was in the baseline, F4 is always charged with obstruction.

d. None of the above.

26. With R1 on first base and one out, R1 leaves the base prior to the pitcher releasing the ball. B3 proceeds to hit the pitch over the center-field fence. The umpire should: (6-2-4c, 8-6-18)

a. Wait for the defense to appeal the runner leaving early. If no appeal, both runs score.

b. Give the delayed dead-ball signal. After all runners touch home plate, call time and rule R1 out for leaving early. Since there were less than two outs, the batter's run counts.

c. Signal time and declare "no pitch." R1 is out for leaving early and the batter's count is the same as before that pitch.

d. Do nothing, the play is legal.

27. The NFHS Authenticating Mark shall be on each softball. (1-3-8)

a. True

b. False

28. Which of the following would result in a coach being in violation of bench and field conduct rules? (3-6-5, 3-6-6, 3-6-10)

a. Entering behind the catcher while the opposing pitcher and catcher are in their positions.

b. Being outside the dugout while his/her team is on defense.

c. Having objects other than scorekeeping and stopwatch devices in the coach's box.

d. All of the above.

29. Regarding the taper of a softball bat, which statement is NOT in compliance with the current rules? (1-5-2c)

a. The taper connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.

b. The taper of a bat is defined as having a solid surface.

c. The taper shall have a conical shape since it connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.

d. All are correct statements.

30. A base runner establishes her own base path when she is not being played upon. (2-3-2 Note)

a. True

b. False