

2018 Softball Officials Exam for Postseason Tournament Consideration & Answers

1. The umpire rules a catch and the batter is out if the:

- A. Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to throw to second base it drops out of the player's hand.
- B. Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to run the ball in to the infield it pops out of the glove.
- C. Left fielder catches a fly ball in the tip of the glove and it immediately pops out.

D. A and B (2-9-2)

2. Prior to the start of the game at the pregame conference, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying which of the following?

- A. The lineup card is correct.
- B. All players are legally equipped.
- C. Players and equipment are in compliance with all NFHS rules.

D. A, B, and C. (3-5-1)

E. None of the above.

3. The ball becomes dead in all of the following situations, EXCEPT:

- A. There is interference by a runner or retired runner.
- B. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
- C. An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.

D. An illegal pitch is delivered. (5-1-1, 5-1-2a)

E. The batter-runner steps backward toward home plate to avoid being tagged out.

4. All of the following are true regarding the FLEX player, EXCEPT:

- A. The FLEX is listed in the 10th position in the lineup.
- B. The FLEX may be substituted for by the DP playing defense.

C. The FLEX may bat anywhere in one of the nine positions of the batting order. (3-3-6)

D. The FLEX may be replaced by a legal substitute at any time.

E. When the FLEX is substituted for by the DP, the team is down to nine players.

5. The DP may be substituted for at any time by:

- A. A legal substitute.
- B. The FLEX playing offense.
- C. Anyone else in the batting order.

D. A and B only. (3-3-6d)

E. A, B and C.

6. Which of the following is legal for a pitcher to use on the pitching hand?

- A. Tape on the contact points.
- B. Saliva.

C. Powdered rosin or any comparable drying agent. (6-2-2)

D. Any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thigh that the umpire judges to be distracting to the batter.

E. All of the above.

7. An umpire's judgement involving fair/foul call or a safe/out call may be appealed by requesting assistance from another umpire.

A. True

B. False (10-1-4)

8. Which of the following are appealable plays?

- A. Missing a base.
- B. Batting out of order.
- C. Leaving a base early on a caught fly ball.

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

9. B1 fails to promptly take her position in the batter's box within the 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch. What is the correct ruling?

- A. The umpire awards an additional five seconds and play continues.
- B. The umpire grants the batter time until she is ready for play to resume.
- C. The umpire declares the batter out for delaying the game.

D. The umpire calls a strike on the batter. (7-3-1)

10. Each team, when on defense, is allowed how many charged conferences without penalty during a seven-inning game?

- A. One.
- B. Two.

C. Three. (3-7-1)

D. Four.

11. Which action is not legal for a courtesy runner?

- A. She has not participated in the game.
- B. She runs for the pitcher only.
- C. She runs for the catcher only.

D. She becomes a substitute in the same half inning she was a courtesy runner. (8-9-4)

12. Bases are loaded with two outs. B6 hits a deep fly ball that lands in the gap in right center field. R3 tries to score from first base. Which of the following timing play statements are applied correctly?

- A. B6 is tagged out at second base before R3 touches home plate. R3's run would not count.
- B. B6 slides past second base and R3 touches home before the tag on the overslide. R1, R2 and R3's runs would each score since they occurred prior to the third out being made.
- C. R1, R2, R3 all touch home plate with B6 on first. During the dead ball, F1 correctly appeals R3 missing second base. This is not a timing play so R3 becomes the third out. No runs would count on this play.

D. All of the above. (2-63)

13. R1 is caught in a rundown between third base and home. As R1 is attempting to return to third base, she is obstructed by F5 and subsequently tagged while off the base by F6. The correct call is:

- A. The call is always an immediate dead ball when a runner is obstructed.

B. When a fielder obstructs a runner the initial call is always a delayed dead ball. Once the obstructed runner is put out, it becomes a dead ball and the umpires shall award R1 the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction. (2-36)

- C. R1 is awarded home.
- D. The umpire will issue a warning to F5 and notify her coach.

14. 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?

- 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. (8-6-10 PEN)

15. Team A's pitcher has a pink digital 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.

16. Which of the following is not a responsibility of the umpire during pregame?

- A. Verifying the field is properly marked.
- B. Reviewing the lineup cards.
- C. Reviewing the ground rules.

D. Checking all equipment. (10-2-3a)

17. 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)

18. Which of the following would be an illegal pitch?

- A. A step backwards is taken after the hands have come together but prior to the start of the pitch.
- B. Once the pitch has started, the pitcher takes no more than one step forward.

C. The hands come together and apart, then together again while standing on the pitching plate. (6-1-2b)

- D. When the hands are apart and come together off the pitching plate as long as the hands are separated prior to stepping onto the pitcher's plate.

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 Arts. 5-9)

- 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. R1 is on first base when B2 hits a ground ball. R1 crashes into F4, in the base path, as she attempts to gain control of a batted ball which is within a step and a reach of the spot of initial contact. The correct call is:

A. R1 has committed interference. (2-47-3c, 8-6-10a)

- B. When F4 fails to gain control of the batted ball, the umpire will give the delayed dead-ball signal and wait to see what happens.
- C. Because F4 was in the runner's base path, F4 is always charged with obstruction.
- D. There is no call since R1 and F4 could not reasonably avoid contact. If judged unintentional the play is allowed to continue.

21. R1 is on first base with one out. B2 hits a long fly ball to left field. The ball is over foul territory when first touched and is dropped by F7. On the fly ball, R1 touched second base and was moving to third as the ball was dropped. R1 shall:

- A. Retrace her path retouching second base before returning to first.
- 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. (8-3-2 EXCEPTION)

- D. Retouch first base before the ball gets to the pitching circle.

22. 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.

23. B1 bunts a ball that bounces off the plate and rolls in front of the plate. As B1 runs toward first base she has one foot partially touching the foul line and the other foot completely in the running lane. F2 fields the ball and her throw to first base contacts B1. The correct call is:

- A. F2 is ejected for unsporting behavior.
- B. B1 is out for interference.
- C. B1 can choose to use either the white or orange base.

D. This is a legal play. B1 is safe at first base if she reaches the base before being put out. (8-2-6)

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. Plate umpire lets the play stand and signals obstruction on F2.
- D. 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. The batter is out when:

A. She hits the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the plate. (7-4-8)

- B. She bunts on the second strike.
- C. Any strike is caught by the catcher.
- D. With a 1-1 count, she fails to enter the batter's box within 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher and the pitcher is on the pitcher's plate.

27. The plate umpire notices that B1 steps into the batter's box with an altered bat.

- 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. (7-4-2 PENALTY)

- D. There is no penalty until B1 hits the ball.

28. 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.

29. While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and immediately stops, must then return to first or attempt to advance to second base.

A. True (8-7-4b)

- B. False

30. All of the following statements about sliding are true EXCEPT:

A. If a runner slides, it may be feet first or head first.

B. In order to complete a legal slide, a runner must be able to touch the base with either her hand or foot.

C. In order for a runner to avoid unnecessary contact, she is required to slide if a fielder has possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag. (2-52, 8-6-13)

D. On an overslide, a runner may be tagged out if she does not remain in contact with the base.