

2017 Softball Officials Exam for Post Season Tournament Consideration & Answers

1. Any defensive fielder may make a live-ball appeal with the ball in her possession by tagging the runner or touching the base that was missed or left too early.

A. True (2-1-3a)

B. False

2. 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)

3. The defense may appeal either during a live or dead ball, but it must occur before the next pitch (legal or illegal).

A. True (2-1-4a)

B. False

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who rounds first base toward second base may stop, but then must immediately return to first or attempt to advance non-stop to second base.

A. True (8-7-4a)

B. False

7. Provided it is under the supervision and control of the umpire, 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 resin or any comparable drying agent. (6-2-2)

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

E. All of the above.

8. It is legal for S1 to substitute for the starting pitcher F1 in the third inning, and then re-enter the original pitcher in the fifth inning in the same position in the batting order.

A. True (3-3-2 Note)

B. False

9. 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 Penalty 3)

D. The defense is allowed to appeal since the pitch was illegal and the player B1 is declared out.

10. It is an illegal pitch if:

A. F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate immediately and 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.

11. 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)

12. 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. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference. (8-6-10)

13. In which instance is the runner NOT declared out for interference?

A. The coach near third base runs toward home plate near the baseline while a fielder is making a play on a batted ball and draws a throw to home.

B. The runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a fair batted ball.

C. The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while standing on second base. (8-6-11, 8-8-13)

D. The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while not in contact with a base and before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher.

14. 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.

15. 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. (6-1-1)

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 foot must be on or partially on the pitchers' plate.

16. 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. (3-7-1)

- D. Rely on the home team scorekeeper to keep track of defensive conferences.

17. All of the following are true regarding the catcher's box, EXCEPT:

- A. The catcher must be in the catcher's box from the time the pitcher steps on the pitcher's plate until she releases the pitch.
- B. The catcher's box is a rectangle.
- C. The catcher's box is 8 feet, 5 inches wide.
- D. The catcher's box is 10 feet deep.

E. The catcher's box includes the area directly behind home plate, between the batter's boxes. (2-10-2)

18. 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. (4-2-3)

- C. The game is cancelled and replayed from the beginning.

19. A game may not start with less than 9 players.

A. True (4-3-1f)

- B. False

20. 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.

A. True (10-2-3)

- B. False

21. A run does not score if a preceding runner is declared the fourth out for missing a base, and the defensive team selects that out to its advantage.

A. True (9-1-1e)

- B. False

22. 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)

23. 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 being used as a scorebook.

24. The FLEX may be substituted for at any time by:

- 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. (3-3-6f)

- E. A, B and C.

25. All of the following are true regarding a legal softball field, EXCEPT:

- A. The field shall be free of obstructions between the foul lines.
- B. The field shall contain an infield diamond.

C. The field shall contain an outfield area enclosed by a fence. (1-1-1, 1-1-2)

- D. The bases are 60 feet apart.
- E. The pitching distance is 43 feet.

26. The runner is out and the ball is dead immediately in all of the following, EXCEPT:

- A. When the runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make an initial play on a fair batted ball.
- B. When the runner intentionally interferes with a fielder or thrown ball.
- C. When the runner interferes with a fielder attempting to throw the ball.

D. When a runner physically assists another runner. (8-6-5, 10, 12)

- E. When the runner intentionally contacts a fair ball that an infielder has missed.

27. The softball field includes an elevated cement step in front of each dugout. B1 hits a foul fly caught by F3 such that her right foot is on the ground completely in live-ball territory and her left foot is on the elevated cement step with half the foot on the step and the other half over live-ball territory but completely off the ground. What is the result of the play?

- A. B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is live and in play.

B. Foul ball; the ball is dead and B1 remains at bat. (5-1-1i, Note b)

- C. B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is dead.
- D. Foul ball; the ball is live and in play and B1 remains at bat.
- E. None of the above.

28. When an improper batter becomes a runner and the defense correctly appeals, the proper batter is declared out, and all runners not declared out on the play return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

A. True (7-1-2, Penalty 2)

- B. False

29. R1 is on first base; B2 is at bat with an 0-2 count and no outs. B2 swings at the pitch and the foul tip is caught by the catcher. B2 runs toward first base. As R1 is diving back to first base, B2 collides with F3 who is attempting to catch the thrown ball from F2 to tag R1.

- A. B2 is awarded second base; R1 is awarded third base.
- B. B2 is declared out for interference; R1 remains at first base.

C. B2 has struck out and is charged with interference; R1 is declared out as the runner closest to home. (2-32-1, 8-6-16c)

- D. B2 has struck out; R1 remains at first base.
- E. B2 is declared out for interference; R1 is awarded second base

30. After the game starts, the umpires are sole judges as to whether conditions, including grounds, are fit for play.

A. True (4-1-6)

- B. False