

## 2023 Softball Officials Exam for Post Season Tournament Consideration & Answers

1. While the umpires are walking the field prior to the game, they notice all of the following in a player's hair. Which one is illegal? (3-2-5b)
  - a. Beads
  - b. Bobby pins
  - c. Bandana
  - d. All are illegal.
2. B1 lays down a bunt in front of home plate. F2 fields the ball and throws it to first base to try to retire B1. The ball hits B1 five feet in front of first base while both feet are in the air and both feet touched the chalk of the runner's lane when they last contacted the ground. (8-2-6)
  - a. B1 is legally inside the runner's lane and the ball remains live.
  - b. The ball is immediately dead and B1 is ruled out for interference.
  - c. It is a delayed-dead ball and the defense has the option of taking the result of the play or ruling B1 out for interference.
3. In the third inning, the umpire notices a crack in the bat A1 is using and removes it from the game. In the fourth inning, A2 comes to bat and after the first pitch, the umpire notices the bat is the same bat that was removed the inning before. (3-6-21 & PENALTY)
  - a. The umpire should remove the bat without penalty.
  - b. A2 is declared out and both A2 and team A's head coach are restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
  - c. A2 is declared out and ejected.
  - d. A team warning is issued to team A and the next offender is restricted to the dugout.
4. Which of the following is considered illegal attire for a coach in a live-ball area? (3-5-3)
  - a. Khaki pants
  - b. Black leggings
  - c. A school uniform
  - d. Blue jeans
5. The pitcher is standing behind the pitcher's plate and has no part of either foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pitcher looks over to the head coach who gives a verbal signal. The pitcher then looks down at a wristband that holds a placard with numbers. The pitcher then takes a legal position on the pitcher's plate with the hands separated and simulates taking a signal from the catcher before beginning the pitch. (6-1b)
  - a. Legal. The pitcher may take a signal off the pitcher's plate as long as the pitcher then simulates taking a signal from the catcher once taking a legal position on the pitcher's plate with the hands separated.
  - b. Illegal. The pitcher may never take a signal while not in legal contact with the pitcher's plate. A ball shall be awarded to the batter.
6. How many warmup pitches maximum is a pitcher allowed between innings? (6-4-10)
  - a. Three pitches
  - b. Five pitches
  - c. Unlimited but must be completed within 60 seconds
  - d. Unlimited but must be completed within 90 seconds

7. During the act of pitching, which movement is not legal? (2-16, 2-33, 6-1-1f, 6-1-2, 6-1-4)
  - a. The pitcher drags the pivot foot away from the pitcher's plate maintaining contact with the ground.
  - b. The pitcher steps back off the pitcher's plate keeping both hands together and makes the first step back with either foot. Once completely off the pitcher's plate, the pitcher opens the hands.
  - c. The pitcher crow hops or leaps.
  - d. The pitcher uses the slingshot or windmill styles of pitching as long as there are no more than 1 1/2 revolutions of the pitching arm.
  
8. All of the following are true regarding gloves/mitts, EXCEPT: (1-4-1)
  - a. Gloves shall be a maximum of two colors, excluding lacing and manufacturer's logo.
  - b. Glove lacing shall not be the color of the ball.
  - c. Gloves shall not be entirely optic in color.
  - d. Gloves may have one American flag not exceeding 2 x 3 inches.
  - e. Gloves may not have markings that give the appearance of the ball.
  
9. R1 is on third base and R2 is on first base with one out. B4 hits a fly ball in foul territory near the first-base line. R2 interferes with F3 attempting to catch the fly ball. The correct call is: (8-6-10)
  - a. If the fly ball is caught by F3, both R2 and B4 are out.
  - b. B4 is out and R2 is returned to first base.
  - c. The ball is dead immediately, R2 is out and B4 is charged with a foul ball.
  - d. If the fly ball is caught, B4 is out and the interference by R2 is ignored.
  
10. After the lineup cards have been submitted to and verified by the plate umpire, the opposing coach has a player arrive late and wants to add that player to the lineup. (3-1-3)
  - a. This is not permitted.
  - b. Players can be added to the lineup without penalty.
  - c. The umpire will add the player to the lineup and shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved.
  - d. The umpire will add the players to the lineup and restrict the coach to the dugout/bench area for an incorrect lineup card.
  
11. The DP may be substituted for at any time by: (3-3-6d)
  - a. A legal substitute.
  - b. The FLEX playing offense.
  - c. Anyone else in the batting order.
  - d. A and B only.
  - e. A, B and C.
  
12. At the pregame conference, the home team coach informs the umpires that the fence in left field is only 180 feet and all balls hit over the fence will be a two-base award. (4-1-3, 8-4-3f)
  - a. This must be agreed to by the opposing coach.
  - b. This shall be a ground rule for the game since the home team coach provides the ground rules for the field.
  - c. The umpires will have no choice but to enforce as the coach has instructed.
  - d. The umpires shall not permit a ground rule to supersede a rules book rule; any ball hit over the fence is a home run.
  
13. With R1 on first base and B2 at the plate with a 1 ball-1 strike count, B2 moves to the front of the batter's box. As B2 fakes a drag bunt, B2 withdraws the bat and is struck by the pitch that is in front of the plate. In the umpire's judgment, the ball was prevented from entering the strike zone. What is the correct ruling? (7-2-1h)
  - a. Umpire calls dead ball and awards B2 first base since B2 was hit by the pitch.
  - b. Umpire calls dead ball and credits B2 with a ball.
  - c. Umpire calls dead ball and charges B2 with a strike.
  - d. Umpire calls dead ball and declares B2 out.

14. As F1 starts the pitch, B1 requests time by stepping out of the box. The pitcher legally delivers the ball. What is the correct ruling? (7-3-1)
- The umpire declares no pitch.
  - The batter is granted time and awaits the next pitch.
  - The pitch is called either a ball or strike depending upon the location of the pitch.
  - The umpire shall call a strike on the batter regardless of the location of the pitch.
15. R1 is on first base and attempts to steal second base. In the catcher's attempt to throw out R1, the throwing arm contacts the plate umpire. The throw is late and R1 reaches second base safely. The correct call is: (8-5-6)
- This is a delayed dead ball. Since R1 reached second base safely, R1 is permitted to stay at second base.
  - This is an immediate dead ball. Because there was umpire interference, R1 must return to first base.
  - This is a delayed dead ball. Because there was umpire interference and R1 reached second base safely, R1 must return to first base.
  - There is no such thing as umpire interference. Therefore, R1 stays at second base.
16. B1 hits a ground ball that goes past F3. No other fielder had a chance to make an out, but the ball strikes the umpire. The correct call is: (8-1-2)
- The umpire will watch and judge if the defense was disadvantaged before calling dead ball.
  - The ball is dead and the batter is awarded one base only.
  - The ball remains live and B1 can advance as many bases as possible with the liability to be put out.
  - The ball remains live. Even if F3 grabs the ball and touches first base before B1, B1 is safe because of umpire interference.
17. With one out, R1 on third base and R2 on first base, B4 hits an over-the-fence home run. R2 misses third base and the third base coach grabs R2 and pulls the runner back to touch third base. What is the proper ruling? (8-6-5, 8-3-11, 9-1-1)
- R2 is out for being physically assisted; R1 and B4's (as long as they legally score) runs would count.
  - Since the ball is in dead-ball territory, there is no violation and all three runs would score on the play.
  - All three runs would score, but the third base coach should be warned to not physically assist runners.
  - R2 is out for being physically assisted and the play is dead. R1's run would score, but B4 would not be allowed to score.
18. The umpire notices F6 is wearing a smartwatch on the playing field. Which of the following is true? (3-2, 1-8-6, 3-6-11)
- Smartwatches are allowed as long as they are not used to communicate outside of the dugout.
  - Smartwatches are allowed to be worn even if they are used to communicate while outside of the dugout.
  - Smartwatches are not allowed to be worn.
  - No jewelry, including smartwatches, is allowed to be worn on the playing field.
19. B1 bunts the ball in front of home plate. As B1 is running to first base, B1 is hit with the throw from F2. Which of the following is used in determining if the runner is out for interference? (8-2-6)
- If either foot last contacted the ground completely outside of the 3-foot lane.
  - If the batter-runner's left foot is outside the 3-foot lane but is in the air at the moment the batter-runner is hit with the throw.
  - If the batter-runner was hit in fair territory.
  - If the batter-runner has both feet on the ground when hit with the throw.
20. 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. (9-1-1 Exc E)
- True
  - False

21. 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 F9's glove and lands in fair territory. The correct call is: (2-20-2)
- Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.
  - Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when F9 touched the ball.
  - Fair ball because after F9 touched the ball it landed in fair territory.
  - Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.
22. Team A's players are wearing red exposed upper-body undergarments but solid black playcards. F1 is wearing a playcard on the non-pitching arm. F3, who is the team's backup pitcher, is wearing a playcard on the non-glove arm. Which statement is correct? (3-2-7c Exc)
- This is illegal. All playcards must be the same color as the exposed undergarments.
  - This is legal, provided the playcards are a solid color and not optic yellow.
  - This is legal. Only F1 has the restriction on placement of the playcard on the non-pitching arm. If F3 were to become the pitcher then F3 would be required to move the playcard to the non-pitching arm.
  - Both B and C are correct.
23. With no outs, B1 hits a deep line drive. Sliding into second base safely, B1 dislodges the base from its proper position. F4 tags B1 who is no longer in contact with the dislodged base. What is the proper ruling? (1-2-1, 8-8-14)
- B1 is out and ejected for dislodging the base.
  - B1 is out since B1 was legally tagged while not in contact with the base.
  - B1 is not out; a runner is not required to follow a base that has become dislodged.
  - B1 is out for interference as dislodging the base confused the defensive player.
24. B1 steps in the batter's box and the umpire immediately notices the batter is wearing jewelry. Which of the following is not allowed during play? (3-2)
- Necklace
  - Small stud earrings
  - A standard watch
  - All of the above are legal to wear during play.
25. Which of the following shall be labeled on all softballs? (1-3-4)
- COR
  - Compression
  - Both COR and Compression.
  - None of the above are required.
26. Which of the following requires state association approval prior to being allowed to be worn in a contest? (3-2-5b, 3-2-5c)
- Any head covering being worn for medical reasons.
  - Any religious head covering.
  - Any hard items braided into the player's hair.
  - A defensive player's face shield.
27. A coach will be restricted to dugout/bench for the remainder of the game for a second violation of the following: (3-1-3 PEN, 3-6-1 PEN, 3-6-7 PEN)
- Player or substitutes entering the game unreported.
  - A second lineup correction.
  - Team personnel using illegal equipment.
  - All of the above.

28. F1 is wearing an item on the pitching wrist that the umpire judges distracting. What is the proper penalty? (3-2-9, 6-2-2 NOTE)
- An illegal pitch is ruled; a ball is awarded to the batter.
  - An illegal pitch is ruled; a ball is awarded to the batter and all runners are advanced one base.
  - The pitcher is required to remove the distracting item in order to continue to pitch.
  - The pitcher is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the contest.
29. During the MHSAA softball tournament, how are home teams determined?
- Top line of bracket
  - Best regular-season win-loss record
  - Pregame coin flip
30. 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? (8-7-4)
- 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.
  - The batter-runner gets a base hit and rounds first base and comes to a complete stop. She then returns to first base.
  - The batter-runner who gets an infield hit and overruns first base toward right field turns left, stops and then advances to second base.
  - 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.