

2024-25 Softball Officials Exam for Postseason Tournament Consideration

1. During the MHSAA softball tournament, how are home teams determined?
 - a. Top line of bracket
 - b. Best regular-season win-loss record
 - c. Pregame coin flip
 - d. Michigan Power Ranking (MPR)

2. 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 the ground rule 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.

3. 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)
 - a. Smartwatches are allowed as long as they are not used to communicate outside of the dugout on offense, or by anyone other than F2 on defense.
 - b. Smartwatches are allowed to be worn even if players use them to communicate outside of the dugout.
 - c. Smartwatches are not allowed to be worn.
 - d. No jewelry, including smartwatches, is allowed to be worn on the playing field.

4. It is an illegal pitch if: (6-1-1b)
 - a. F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes the signal, steps on the pitcher's plate and immediately brings the hands together.
 - 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 the 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 the hands together.
 - d. F1's shoulders are in line with first base and third base, the ball is in the glove or hand and the hands are separated.

5. 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 EXCEPTION)
 - a. This is illegal. All playcards must be the same color as the exposed undergarments.
 - b. This is legal, provided the playcards are a solid color and not optic yellow.
 - c. 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.
 - d. Both B and C are correct.

6. A pitcher touches a towel containing an approved drying agent in a back pocket then goes directly to the ball. What is the proper ruling? (6-2-2c)
 - a. Illegal pitch, must wipe hand before going to the ball.
 - b. Ball should be removed from play and pitcher is warned.
 - c. Legal, approved drying agents do not have to be removed from hands.
 - d. Illegal, no drying agents can be used in NFHS softball.

7. During the act of pitching, which movement is not legal? (2-32, 2-47, 6-1-1f, 6-1-2)
 - 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 separates the hands.
 - c. The pitcher replants the pivot foot before the act of delivering the pitch.
 - d. While the pitcher is pushing off from the pitching plate, both feet disengage from the ground.

8. 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)
 - a. Necklace.
 - b. Small stud earrings.
 - c. A standard watch.
 - d. All of the above are legal to wear during play.

9. If an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defense appeals to the umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal), the correct ruling is: (7-1-2 PENALTY 2)
 - a. The batter who should have batted is out.
 - b. All runners called out remain out and runners who were not declared out must return to the base previously occupied at the time of the pitch.
 - c. If a runner advances because of a stolen base, wild pitch, or a passed ball, even though the improper batter is at bat, such advance is legal.
 - d. All of the above.

10. With one out, R1 on third base and R2 on second base, B4 hits a fly ball on the first-base side of second base almost directly at F4. As R2 takes a couple of steps toward third base, R2 makes contact with F6, who is moving toward the batted ball. (8-8-1)
 - a. The umpire signals and verbalizes "dead ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make an initial play on a batted ball.
 - b. The umpire signals and verbalizes "dead ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make a live-ball appeal of R2 leaving early if the fly ball is caught.
 - c. The umpire makes no call; this is nothing more than a "train wreck" with both players doing what they were supposed to do.
 - d. The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes "Obstruction." F4 is making the initial play on the batted ball in the umpire's judgment. F6 is guilty of obstructing R2.

11. Bases are loaded in the bottom of the seventh inning and the score is tied 3-3. B4 hits a fair ball that clears the home run fence. What is the final score? (4-2-1)
 - a. The final score will be 7-3.
 - b. The final score will be 4-3.

12. R1 is standing on third base when the pitcher receives the ball in the circle with feet partially outside the line of the circle. R1 takes two steps toward home plate and stops. R1 is: (2-44, 8-7-3)
 - a. Safe.
 - b. Out.
 - c. Runner can stop and then continue home.
 - d. Runner can return to third.

13. 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)
 - a. This is a delayed dead ball. Since R1 reached second base safely, R1 is permitted to stay at second base.
 - b. This is an immediate dead ball. Because there was umpire interference, R1 must return to first base.
 - c. This is a delayed dead ball. Because there was umpire interference and R1 reached second base safely, R1 must return to first base.
 - d. There is no such thing as umpire interference. Therefore, R1 stays at second base.

14. With the bases loaded and less than two outs, F4 is using ordinary effort to catch a pop-up. The correct call is: (2-29, 8-2-9)
- "Infield fly if fair" is called by the umpire and if the ball remains fair the batter is out.
 - Runners may not advance at any time.
 - Only an infielder can catch an infield fly.
 - If the ball is ruled foul, it still is an infield fly.
15. Once the third out is made by the defense, the teams are given one minute between innings to prepare for the new half-inning. Once the allowed one minute has expired, which of the following is true? (6-2-3, 6-2-5, 7-3-1)
- The batter must place both feet inside the batter's box within 10 seconds or a strike is called on the batter.
 - The pitcher must release the first pitch of the half-inning within 20 seconds or a ball is awarded to the batter.
 - In between pitches, the pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch once the ball has been returned to the pitcher.
 - All of the above.
16. Which of the following statements is legal in regard to the use of one-way communication? (1-8-6, 3-6-11)
- The pitcher checks their smartwatch or other device before every pitch.
 - The catcher checks their smartwatch or other device before every pitch.
 - The coach uses one-way communication while on the field of play.
 - All of these are legal.
17. There are two outs and R1 is on second base. B4 strikes out but F2 drops the ball. B4 is able to reach first base while F2 chases down the ball. F2 then overthrows third base as R1 is advancing and the ball bounces over the fence in foul territory. What is the correct procedure for advancement of the runners? (8-4-3e)
- R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded second base.
 - R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded third base.
 - R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded first base.
 - R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded second base.
18. The DP may be substituted for at any time by: (3-3-6d)
- A legal substitute.
 - The FLEX playing offense.
 - Anyone else in the batting order.
 - A and B only.
 - A, B and C.
19. R1 is on first base with one out. B3 hits a ground ball to F4 and the batted ball hits R1 prior to F4 fielding the ball. What is the correct ruling? (8-6-11, 9-3-2b)
- R1 is called out, and B3 is awarded a base hit.
 - R1 is called out. B3 is entitled to first base without liability to be put out and credited with a fielder's choice.
 - R1 is entitled to second base without liability to be put out and B3 is entitled to first base without liability to be put out.
20. The field includes an elevated cement step in front of each dugout. B1 hits a fly ball in foul territory caught by F3 such that F3's right foot is on the ground completely in live-ball territory and the 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. (2-9-4, 5-1-1i NOTE 2)
- B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is live and in play.
 - Foul ball; the ball is dead and B1 remains at bat.
 - B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is dead.
 - Foul ball; the ball is live and in play and B1 remains at bat.

21. With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a ground ball on the first-base side of the infield. F4 moves into the baseline to make an initial play on a batted ball. R1, using normal movement, alters the base path going either behind or in front of F4 to avoid contact with F4 fielding the ball. The correct call is: (8-8-1)
- The umpire signals obstruction on F4 for causing R1 to alter the path. Awarding R1 the base that would have been achieved had it not been for the obstruction on F4.
 - If R1 runs in front of F4, the umpire should signal dead ball and call interference because R1 is never allowed to run in front of F4 when F4 is making an initial play on a batted ball.
 - R1's movement is to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a batted ball, so as long as in the umpire's judgment there is not interference, this is a legal play.
 - R1 is called out because R1 is not allowed to alter the base path. R1 must stop to avoid contacting F4 making the initial play on a batted ball.
22. 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 PENALTY, EFFECT 2)
- 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.
23. Which statement about baserunning is NOT correct? (8-3-2 EXCEPTION)
- R1 was stealing second base when B2 hit a deep fly ball to left field that is caught. R1 rounds second base before realizing the need to go back and tag up. R1 re-tags second base and gets back to first base. After F7 first touches the ball, R1 may legally attempt to advance.
 - B4 hits a clean extra-base hit to the left-field fence. B4 misses third base while rounding and advances toward home and scores. While B4 is heading to the dugout, F5 tags third base for a live-ball appeal. The base umpire calls B4 out on the appeal.
 - All runners must remember to re-touch bases in reverse order, even when returning after a foul ball.
 - Bases loaded, no outs, B4 hits a double and all runners score. After the play, the defense makes a verbal dead-ball appeal that R3 missed second base. The base umpire calls R3 out. Result of the play is two runs score, one out and a runner at second base.
24. What is the penalty for a coach who violates the electronic communication rule during a game? (1-8-6 PENALTY, 3-6-11)
- Immediate suspension for the remainder of the season.
 - Ejection from the game, unless the offense is ruled to be of a minor nature.
 - A warning for the first offense, with no further action.
 - Loss of a defensive inning.
25. A team's lineup card must include all of the following, EXCEPT: (3-1-3)
- First initial and last names.
 - Jersey numbers.
 - Position being played.
 - Batting order of starting players.
 - All of the above are required.
26. After a leadoff double, B2 comes to bat with R1 on second base and no outs. The coach on defense asks the umpire to intentionally walk B2. After B2 is awarded the intentional walk, the coach comes back out of the dugout and asks to appeal R1 missing first base on the previous play. The correct ruling is: (2-65-2)
- Since a pitch has not been thrown the umpire rules R1 out on appeal, but B2 remains at first base.
 - Since a pitch has not been thrown the umpire rules R1 out on appeal, and removes the intentional walk, returning B2 to bat.
 - For purposes of an appeal, an intentional walk is considered the same as throwing a pitch and, therefore, no appeal on the previous play can be made.
 - Since no pitch, legal or illegal, has been thrown the appeal is honored and R1 is called out. B3 comes to bat with B2 on first base and one out.

27. Team A is wearing blue and red uniforms with red exposed undergarments. Which of the following is true about a playcard being worn by Team A's players: (3-2-7c EXCEPTION)
- F1 can wear a solid green playcard on the non-pitching arm.
 - F3 can wear a solid black playcard.
 - The team's playlist is multicolored and is visible through a window in its solid orange playcard sleeve. This is legal, as the only limitation is that the playcard sleeve is a solid color and not optic yellow.
 - All of the above.
28. Team A is recording the game from a camera positioned behind the backstop. During the third inning, the coach from Team A reviews video with the third-base player. Where is video review permissible? (1-8-6)
- In the dugout.
 - On the third-base line.
 - Both locations are permissible by rule.
 - Neither location is permissible.
29. B1 bunts the ball in front of home plate. As B1 has reached the 3-foot lane and 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.
30. Which of the following is NOT one of the requirements an MHSAA Softball umpire must complete to be assigned to the MHSAA Softball Tournament?
- Register for the current season
 - Complete the online rules meeting
 - Score a 80% or higher on this exam
 - Work a minimum of 5 years as a registered MHSAA umpire
 - Be a 'Member In Good Standing' with a local approved officials association