

# 2025-26 Softball Umpires Exam for Postseason Tournament Consideration

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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.
  
4. Where is it permissible to obtain transmitted or recorded information from electronic devices that is reviewed in the dugout for coaching purposes during the game? (1-9-6)
  - a. In the dugout.
  - b. From a spectator in the stands.
  - c. Camera mounted on the catcher's helmet.
  - d. All of the above.
  - e. A and B only.
  
5. 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, 8-8-3)
  - a. Safe.
  - b. Out.
  - c. Runner can stop and then continue home.
  - d. Runner can return to third.
  
6. During the act of pitching, which movement is not legal? (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 resulting in the non-pivot foot becoming closer to home plate before the act of delivering the pitch.
  - d. While the pitcher is pushing off from the pitching plate, both feet disengage from the ground.

7. Which of the following is NOT one of the requirements an MHSAA Softball umpire must complete to be assigned to the MHSAA Softball Tournament?
  - a. Register for the current season
  - b. Complete the online rules meeting
  - c. Score a 80% or higher on this exam
  - d. Work a minimum of 4 years as a registered MHSAA umpire
  - e. Be a 'Member In Good Standing' with a local approved officials association
  
8. A pitcher touches a towel containing an approved drying agent in a back pocket and 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, NFHS softball rules do not permit drying agents.
  
9. A strike is charged to the batter when: (7-2-1)
  - a. A penalty strike is called because a batter delays.
  - b. A batted ball contacts the batter in the batter's box (foul ball).
  - c. A pitched ball contacts the batter while swinging at the ball or the batter is hit by the pitch that is in the strike zone (dead-ball strike).
  - d. All of the above.
  
10. 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)
  - a. "Infield fly if fair" is called by the umpire and if the ball remains fair 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 is still an infield fly.
  
11. With R1 on third base, R2 on second base and one out, B4 hits a deep fly ball to F9 that is caught. R1 leaves the base before F9 first touches the ball, but R2 legally tags. Both R1 and R2 score as F9's throw is off target. Before the next pitch, the opposing team appeals that R1 left early. What is the correct ruling? (2-1-12, 9-1-1c)
  - a. R1 is declared out for the third out and R1's run is negated, but R2's run counts since R2 scored prior to the appeal.
  - b. Since F9's throw was off target, both R1 and R2 would have scored easily so both runs count.
  - c. R1 is declared out for the third out and R1's run is negated. R2's run counts since the only appeal that would negate a run is missing a base.
  - d. R1 is declared out for the third out of the inning. Since the third out was an appeal of the lead runner, neither run scores.
  
12. A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should: (5-1-1f(4), 8-5-7)
  - a. Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases from the time of the pitch.
  - b. Call a dead ball and award the batter a home run.
  - c. Call a dead ball and award the base that the umpire judges the batter would have reached had the ball not become wedged in the fence.
  - d. Award the batter the base that the batter was closest to when the ball became wedged in the fence.

13. 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.
14. Which of the following statements is legal about the use of one-way communication? (1-9-6, 3-5-11)
- 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.
15. Which statement is an incorrect ruling of interference? (2-31, 8-7-10, 8-7-16)
- If a retired runner impedes a fielder making a play on another runner, the runner closest to home is always declared out.
  - If a runner has not yet been put out and interference occurs to break up a double play, the immediate succeeding runner is also called out.
  - Interference is only awarded in situations where the runner physically contacts a fielder.
  - B4 hits a fair ground ball but R1 from second base 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, the batter-runner is awarded first base.
16. All the following are legal apparel except: (1-6-7)
- All players are wearing a white arm sleeve.
  - All players are wearing a black knee sleeve.
  - Some players are wearing camouflage arm sleeves in the school colors.
  - Some players are wearing gray tights.
17. The ball becomes dead in all of the following situations, EXCEPT: (5-1-1c, e, i, n, 5-1-2a)
- There is interference by a runner or retired runner.
  - The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
  - An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.
  - An illegal pitch is delivered.
  - The batter-runner steps backward toward home plate to avoid being tagged out.
18. 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? (8-5-5)
- 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.

19. Who can legally replace the FLEX? (3-2-6f)
  - a. The DP.
  - b. Any legal substitute.
  - c. Anyone else in the batting order.
  - d. A and B only.
  
20. R1 is on second base and R2 is on first base. R1 gets caught in a rundown between second and third. As R1 retreats to second, F4 blocks the bag, prior to receiving the ball, obstructing R1 from sliding into the bag. F6 then tags R1. The correct call is: (2-35, 8-5-2)
  - a. The umpire initially signals a delayed dead ball and when R1 is put out between the two bases where she was obstructed the ball becomes dead. R1 is awarded third and R2 will be awarded second as in the umpire's judgement each would have been reached safely had there been no obstruction by F4.
  - b. The umpire signals a dead ball and R1 and R2 return back to their initial bases prior to the play.
  - c. The ball is live. R1 will be awarded third due to obstruction by F4 and R2 remains on first because R2 was not involved in the rundown.
  - d. The umpire signals a delayed dead ball. R1 and R2 are not called out and both runners return to their initial bases while F4 is ejected.
  
21. 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? (7-1-2 PEN. 3)
  - 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 appealed prior to the next pitch.
  - d. The defense is allowed to appeal since the pitch was illegal and the player that B1 batted in place of is called out.
  
22. R1 is on second base and B2 hits a home run over the fence. R1 trips after touching third base and B2 comes and helps R1 up. R1 touches home plate and then B2 touches home plate to score two runs. What is the proper ruling? (8-3-11)
  - a. Dead ball. B2 is called out for assisting R1 and R1 must return to last base legally touched. No runs scored.
  - b. R1 is called out for being physically assisted by B2. B2 is awarded a home run. One run scored.
  - c. No violation as both R1 and B2 touched all bases legally and in order. Two runs scored.
  - d. None of the above.
  
23. 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? (1-9-6)
  - a. In the dugout.
  - b. On the third-base line.
  - c. Both locations are permissible by rule.
  - d. Neither location is permissible.
  
24. If the ball slips from F1's hand during the forward or backswing motion, the correct call is: (6-2-6 EFF.)
  - a. It is an illegal pitch and the delayed dead-ball signal is given.
  - b. The ball remains in play. There is no change in count to the batter, and the runners may advance with liability to be put out.
  - c. The ball remains in play. A ball is awarded to the batter, and the runners may advance with liability to be put out.
  - d. It is an immediate dead ball. A ball is awarded to the batter.

25. 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.
26. Which of the following is an infraction by the catcher: (6-3-1)
- A catcher assumes a position outside the catcher's box before a pitch is released.
  - The catcher stands up to give signals to the pitcher.
  - The catcher throws the ball directly back to the pitcher after the pitch is delivered.
  - The catcher throws the ball around the infield after a strikeout.
27. 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: (8-9-1)
- 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.
28. A1 is Team A's pitcher in the fourth inning. A11 is brought in as a relief pitcher in that inning. Team A's coach wants to re-enter A1 in the fourth inning as the pitcher. The correct call is: (3-2-2 NOTE, 6-2-5 NOTE 1, 6-4-10 NOTE)
- This is a legal substitution with no warm-up pitches allowed.
  - This is legal and the pitcher can have five warm-up pitches.
  - This is not a legal substitution.
  - Team A can substitute A1 as pitcher as many times as it wants in the inning.
29. In which of the following situations is the batter out? (7-2-1d)
- The batter's bat breaks off and interferes with F4 who is attempting to make a play.
  - The batter slaps a third strike that goes foul.
  - The batter is granted time by the umpire but attempts to disconcert the pitcher by stepping out of the box on one side of the plate and switches to the other side of home plate prior to the pitcher being inside the pitching circle.
  - The batter's bunt on a third strike is foul.
30. 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 3-foot running lane and in the way of a potential throw. (8-2-6)
- The plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.
  - The plate umpire lets the play stand as there is no interference on B1.
  - The plate umpire lets the play stand and signals obstruction on F2.
  - The plate umpire calls dead ball and obstruction on F2.