

2024 Softball Officials Exam for Post Season Tournament Consideration

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. Hair clips
 - b. Bobby pins
 - c. Plastic visors
 - d. All are illegal.
2. 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)
3. 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)
 - a. 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.
 - b. The batter-runner gets a base hit and rounds first base and comes to a complete stop. She then returns to first base.
 - c. The batter-runner who gets an infield hit and overruns first base toward right field turns left, stops and then advances to second base.
 - d. 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.
4. Which of the following is NOT true about gloves/mitts? (1-4-1)
 - a. Gloves/mitts shall not be the color of the ball including lacing and seams.
 - b. Gloves/mitts shall be a maximum of two colors.
 - c. Gloves/mitts shall be permitted to have one American flag not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches.
 - d. Gloves/mitts shall not be judged as distracting by the umpire.
5. What factors should umpires consider in determining when to leave the field at the end of the game? (2-1-4 NOTE)
 - a. Leave the field before all fielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated the normal fielding position.
 - b. Return to the field after they have left to make every attempt to get the call right.
 - c. When teams line up to shake hands following the completion of the game.
 - d. Umpires should remain on the field to watch for unsporting behavior by either team in the handshake line.
6. With no outs and R1 on second base, B2 is at bat with a 2-ball, 1-strike count. On the pitch, the ball contacts the jersey of B2 completely in the batter's box while R1 attempts to steal third base. The catcher throws to third base and R1 is tagged out. What is the correct ruling? (5-1-1a, 8-1-2b)
 - a. Ball is live, R1 is out and batter has a 3-1 count.
 - b. Ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base, R1 is out at third base.
 - c. Ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base, R1 goes back to second base.
 - d. Live ball, only B2's jersey was contacted, not B2.

7. B1 steps up to the plate and after hitting two balls over the fence in foul territory, F1 requests to intentionally walk B1. (2-65-2, 8-1-1c)
 - a. The umpire allows B1 to be intentionally walked.
 - b. The umpire informs F1 that the request for an intentional walk must come from the head coach.
 - c. The umpire states that although F1, F2 or the defensive coach can request an intentional walk, it must be done prior to any pitches being thrown.
 - d. The umpire informs F1 that an intentional walk cannot be requested once there are two strikes.
8. 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: (3-3-2 NOTE, 6-2-5 NOTE 1, 6-4-10 NOTE)
 - a. This is a legal substitution with no warm-up pitches allowed.
 - b. This is legal and the pitcher can have five warm-up pitches.
 - c. This is not a legal substitution.
 - d. Team A can substitute A1 as pitcher as many times as it wants in the inning.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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)
 - a. The umpire declares no pitch.
 - b. The batter is granted time and awaits the next pitch.
 - c. The pitch is called either a ball or strike depending upon the location of the pitch.
 - d. The umpire shall call a strike on the batter regardless of the location of the pitch.
12. 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.
13. 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: (2-19-2, 2-24-1d)
 - a. Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.
 - b. Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when F9 touched the ball.
 - c. Fair ball because after F9 touched the ball it landed in fair territory.
 - d. Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.

14. 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)
- 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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)
- Illegal pitch, must wipe hand before going to the ball.
 - Ball should be removed from play and pitcher is warned.
 - Legal, approved drying agents do not have to be removed from hands.
 - Illegal, no drying agents can be used in NFHS softball.
18. During the act of pitching, which movement is not legal? (2-32, 2-47, 6-1-1f, 6-1-2)
- The pitcher drags the pivot foot away from the pitcher's plate maintaining contact with the ground.
 - 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.
 - The pitcher replants the pivot foot before the act of delivering the pitch.
 - While the pitcher is pushing off from the pitching plate, both feet disengage from the ground.
19. 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 line. (3-1-3)
- This is not permitted.
 - Players can be added to the lineup without penalty.
 - The umpire will add the player to the lineup and shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved.
 - The umpire will add the players to the lineup and restrict the coach to the dugout/bench area for an incorrect lineup card.
20. R1 is on second base. The batter has a count of two balls and one strike. The pitcher pitches a ball not in the batter's box and the batter intentionally strikes the ball with their elbow. What is the call? (8-1-2c)
- Dead ball, award batter first base.
 - Dead ball, award batter first base and R1 third base.
 - Dead ball, batter remains in the batter's box and the count is three balls and one strike.
 - None of the above.

21. B1 enters the batter's box on the right side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch. B1 disconcerts the pitcher by moving to the left-hand batter's box. The correct ruling is: (7-4-3 PENALTY)
- Allow the pitcher to reset and continue to play.
 - Allow the pitcher to reset and warn the head coach the next infraction would result in an out on the batter.
 - The ball is dead immediately and batter is called out.
 - An illegal pitch is called on the pitcher.
22. Which statement about a catch is correct? (2-9)
- The fielder must have control and release of the ball must be voluntary.
 - If a ball strikes anything or anyone other than a defensive player while it is in flight, it shall be ruled a ground ball and not a catch.
 - If a fielder catches a ball but drops it while transferring to the throwing hand or in making a throw, the umpire shall still rule it a catch.
 - All of the above.
23. Where is it permissible to obtain information from that is reviewed in the dugout for coaching purposes during the game? (1-8-6)
- In the dugout.
 - From a spectator in the stands.
 - Camera mounted on the catcher's helmet.
 - All of the above.
 - A and B only.
24. 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)
- The batter who should have batted is out.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - All of the above.
25. 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)
- 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.
 - 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.
 - The umpire makes no call; this is nothing more than a "train wreck" with both players doing what they were supposed to do.
 - The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes "Obstruction." F4 is making the initial play on the batted ball in the umpire's judgement. F6 is guilty of obstructing R2.
26. Team A's pitcher has a pink digital camouflage arm sleeve on the pitching arm extending from the uniform top all the way down to the wrist. The ruling should be: (3-2-7c)
- Legal, sleeves are not covered in NFHS softball rules.
 - Legal, as long as it does not contain any of the opposing team colors.
 - 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 a school color.
 - Illegal, sleeves are not allowed to be worn.

27. Which of the following would be an illegal pitch? (6-1-1c, 6-1-2b)
- A step backward is taken after the hands have come together but prior to the start of the pitch.
 - Once the pitch has started, the pitcher takes no more than one step forward.
 - The hands come together and apart, then together again while standing on the pitching plate.
 - 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.
28. Which statement is NOT an example of interference? (8-2-5, 8-2-6, 8-2-7, 8-2-8)
- Batter-runner running outside the 3-foot lane interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
 - The batter-runner makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base.
 - The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out.
 - The batter-runner remains in the batter's box on a play at home plate in order to prevent an obvious out.
29. There are four criteria that an umpire uses to judge whether a batter attempted to hit or bunt the pitched ball. Which statement is NOT correct? (7-2-1, 2-8-2)
- Rolling the wrist and swinging through the pitched ball is considered an attempt.
 - If the bat is drawn back before the pitch gets to the bat, it is not an attempt.
 - Holding a bat in the strike zone is not a strike nor an attempt to swing.
 - The batter makes an attempt to hit the pitch.
30. B1 hits a fly ball in foul territory near the first-base line and the batter-runner collides with F3 while attempting to field the fly ball in foul territory. What is the correct ruling? (8-2-7b)
- The umpire shall signal a delayed dead ball.
 - The ball is dead, B1 is out and since this is a foul ball, runner(s) must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
 - It is the fielder's responsibility to avoid the batter-runner if B1 is in the running lane and there is no penalty.
 - The batter-runner is ejected because any collision is considered malicious contact.