



# USA SOFTBALL UMPIRE EXAM

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The examination consists of a series of questions covering rules and mechanics of the 2019 USA Softball Official Rule Book. Questions are true or false and multiple choice. Answers should be put on the answer sheet and returned to the grader or test committee. THE ANSWER SHEET SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL OFFICE.

The abbreviations used in the questions follow the following: B (N) = Batter; R1 = runner closest to home; R2 is the succeeding runner; R3 is the runner on first base when the bases are full; S (N) = substitutes; CR (N) = courtesy runner(s); PC (N) = physically challenged player; and F (N) = fielder by number. F1 is pitcher; F2 is catcher; F3 is first baseman; F4 is second baseman; F5 is third baseman; F6 is shortstop; F7 is left fielder; F8 is center fielder; and F9 is right fielder. If F10 is used it would be the extra fielder in the slow pitch game.

This examination may be given to all USA Softball registered umpires under one of the following methods to be determined by your local state/metro USA Softball commissioner, local umpires association, local parks and recreation department, or military sports officer:

- 1) Under supervision without the use of the USA Softball Official Rule Book.
- 2) Under supervision using the USA Softball Official Rule Book.
- 3) With no supervision and using the USA Softball Official Rule Book.

Retain the question portion of this examination for further study. Use care in marking your answer sheet. PLEASE COMPLETE THE EXAM BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

After completing, mail or return the ANSWER SHEET ONLY to:

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## GENERAL QUESTIONS

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- 1) R1 is obstructed between 1B and 2B. Even though R1 was obstructed there are reasons why they can still be called out between these two bases. Which of the following is NOT a reason they could be called out between 1B and 2B?
  - a. If they commit an act of interference.
  - b. Violating the look back rule.
  - c. Missing first base, if properly appealed.
  - d. Leaving first base early on a caught fly ball, if properly appealed.
- 2) Which of the following is an act that cannot be appealed?
  - a. A batter batting out of order.
  - b. A runner missing a base.
  - c. A batter swinging at a pitch, that the plate umpire rules a ball.
  - d. A runner leaving a base early on a caught fly ball.
- 3) When a coach physically assists a runner which of the following is a true statement?
  - a. A dead ball is called.
  - b. A delayed dead ball is called.
  - c. Interference is called and all runners must return to the last base touched prior to the interference.
  - d. The assisted runner is declared out and play continues.
- 4) F3 who is standing on the 1B foul line is contacted by B1, who is completely in the three foot running lane, while attempting to catch a fly ball in foul territory. F3 first contacts the ball in foul territory but is unable to make the catch and the ball rolls fair where F3 picks it up. The umpire should rule:
  - a. The ball was first touched in foul territory, this is just a foul ball.
  - b. F3 gained control of the ball in fair territory, this is ruled a fair ball.
  - c. B1 is guilty of interference with F3, the ball is dead and B1 is called out.
  - d. B1 was in the running lane when the contact occurred, F3 is guilty of obstruction and B1 should be awarded 2B.
- 5) Bottom of the 7th inning, score is tied with 1 out and R1 is on 3B, R2 is on 2B and R3 is on 1B. B5 hits a fly ball over F9's head scoring R1 from 3B. Thinking the game is over, R2 and R3 do not advance and touch their respective bases and B5 does not touch 1B. Instead they join in celebrating with team members at home plate. F1 standing near the pitching plate makes a verbal appeal to the base umpire that B5 did not touch 1B and the base umpire calls B5 out. Then F4 appeals that R3 did not touch 2B and the base umpire calls R3 out. The correct ruling is:
  - a. This is a proper Dead Ball Appeal - Run does not count continue to the 8th inning.
  - b. Improper Live Ball Appeal – Run counts, game is over.
  - c. Proper Dead Ball Appeal, B5 and R3 would both be out on appeal. However, when B5 was ruled out on appeal for the second out it removed the force out on R3 and since R1 had scored prior to the appeal on R3 at 2B the run would count and the game is over.
  - d. Improper Dead Ball Appeal- No appeal can be honored after the winning run has scored.
- 6) Prior to the pitch a batter's feet may be:
  - a. Completely within the lines of the batter's box.
  - b. Touching the lines of the batter's box, but no part of the foot may be outside the lines.
  - c. Touching the ground outside the batter's box as long as part of the foot is still in contact with the batter's box lines.
  - d. Both a. and b. are correct.
- 7) With no outs and R1 on 2B, B2 swings at and misses the pitch. R1 breaks for 3B and while F2 is throwing to 3B in an attempt to retire R1. B2, while remaining in the batter's box backs up to readjust their footing and bumps F2 causing an errant throw. What is the correct ruling?
  - a. B2 is guilty of interference. Signal delayed dead ball and when the play is over, B2 is out and R1 must return to 2B.
  - b. B2 is not guilty of interference as they remained in the batter's box which is a sanctuary for the batter.
  - c. B2 is guilty of interference. The ball is dead, B2 is out and R1 must return to 2B.
  - d. B2 is not guilty of interference because B2's action was not intentional.
- 8) With no outs, R1 at 3B and R2 at 2B, B3 hits a long shot to the outfield fence. By the time F8 retrieves the ball R1 and R2 have scored. B3 is rounding 3B and coming home when B4, the on-deck batter, is instructing B3 to slide into the plate. While doing so, B4 is hit with the thrown ball deflecting it away from F2 and in the umpires judgment removes F2's opportunity to put B3 out.
  - a. B4 is guilty of on-deck batter interference and B3 is declared out.
  - b. B4 is guilty of on-deck batter interference and both B3 and B4 are declared out.
  - c. B4 is guilty of on-deck batter interference and B4 is declared out.
  - d. There is no interference as B4 has the right to leave the on-deck circle to direct runners advancing from third to home.

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- 9) R1 on 3B with two outs. B4 hits a slow ground ball to F3. R1, on the play, crosses home plate as F3 fields the ball and steps toward B4 to attempt a tag. B4 stops and then steps back to avoid the tag.
- The ball is dead and B4 is out, however the run scores since R1 had touched home plate before the out occurred.
  - The ball remains live, there is no out, and the run scores.
  - The ball is dead, B4 is out and the run does not score.
  - None of the above.
- 10) With no outs and no runners on base, B1 swings and misses the pitch for strike three. The pitch hits F2's glove and ricochets down the front of the F2's chest protector. B1 takes off running toward 1B and then continues to 2B before F2 finally retrieves the ball before it touches the ground.
- B1's advance is legal and they are able to remain at 2B.
  - B1 is out on the catch by F2.
  - Securing possession by F2 is not considered a catch as it did not go sharply and directly to the catcher's glove.
  - B1 cannot advance as the ball became dead when it hit the catcher's chest protector.
- 11) R1 on 1B with no outs. B2 hits a ball that is deflected by F1; the ball changes direction towards R1 who is running to 2B. F4 who is attempting to make a play on the ball makes contact with R1. What is the proper ruling?
- This is interference by R1, the ball is dead and R1 is called out.
  - If the umpire judges that F4 could have made a play on the ball, interference should be ruled, the ball is dead and R1 is called out.
  - If the umpire judges that R1 intentionally interfered with F4, then interference should be ruled, the ball is dead and R1 is called out. If R1 did not intentionally interfere, then there is no violation and the ball remains live.
  - If the umpire judges that F4 could have made an out, interference should be ruled, the ball is dead and R1 is called out.
- 12) A line drive to the outfield that hits the foul pole above the top of the fence is a:
- Four base award.
  - Two base award.
  - Foul ball.
  - Home run.
- 13) With R1 on 2B and R2 on 1B, B3 hits a line drive over F4's head. F4 throws their detached glove and hits the ball causing it to fall to the ground. What is the correct ruling?
- Rule Dead ball, award all runners two bases.
  - Signal a delayed dead ball, at the end of the playing action if they have not already obtained them, award B3 3B and R1 and R2 are awarded home.
  - Rule a dead ball, advance all runners 3 bases from the time of the pitch.
  - Signal a delayed dead ball, at the end of the playing action eject F4 for unsporting behavior.
- 14) Which of the following is true about a legally batted ball that hits home plate:
- If it bounces up and hits the batter while still in the batter's box it is a foul ball.
  - If it settles on home plate, it is a fair ball.
  - If it is kicked by the batter-runner in fair territory when running to 1B it is interference.
  - All of the above are true.
- 15) D. Jones is replaced in the 2nd inning by T. Johnson to play defense for F7 and batting 6th. In the 3rd inning B6, T. Johnson gets a hit and D. Jones re-enters to run for T. Johnson. In the 5th inning the offense tries to re-enter T. Johnson for D. Jones and the umpires do not allow it. What is the correct ruling?
- Correct ruling, our rules states a player may only be replaced or substituted for once.
  - Correct ruling, only starters can re-enter the game.
  - Incorrect ruling, all players can re-enter the game once.
  - None of the above
- 16) B1 comes to the plate and strikes out. B3 then comes up to bat and strikes out. Now B2 comes to the plate and hits a double. The defense then properly appeals before the next pitch that B2 is batting out of order. The umpire should rule:
- B2 should have batted after B1; B3's at bat is ignored. B2 remains on 2B with 1 out and B3 comes up to bat.
  - Once a pitch was thrown to B2 it made B3's at bat legal, so the proper batter would be B4. Since B2 completed a turn at bat B4, the person who should have batted, is called out for the third out of the inning, B5 would lead off the next inning.
  - Once a pitch was thrown to B2 it made them the legal batter so there is no violation, B2 remains at 2B with 2 outs and B3 is the next batter.
  - Once a pitch was thrown to B2 it made them the legal batter so there is no violation, B2 remains at 2B with 2 outs and since B3 has already batted, B4 is the next batter.

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- 17) B1 hits a ground ball to the right of F3 who dives and fields the ground ball. F4 is moving to their left and continues to 1B. F3, with the ball in their glove attempts to beat B1 to 1B. F3, realizing that F4 is between them and 1B with the ball in their glove touches the glove of F4 who is standing on 1B before B1 reaches 1B. What is the correct ruling?
- When F3 and F4's gloves touch it is the same as F3 touching the base, B1 would be out.
  - In the umpires judgement F3 would have beaten B1 to the base if F4 would not have been in the way, B1 would be out.
  - F3 was in control of the ball but not touching 1B and F4 was touching 1B but was not in control of the ball, B1 would be safe.
  - None of the above.
- 18) In the bottom of the 3rd inning, a player runs out of the dugout to the pitcher's position and in Fast Pitch throws 5 warm up pitches, or in Slow Pitch throws 3 warm up pitches. They return to the dugout and the pitcher of record then comes out and without taking any warmup pitches, starts the bottom half of the inning. What is the correct ruling?
- Illegal it has to be the pitcher of record to throw warm up pitches. The first batter is awarded 1B in both cases.
  - Legal, there is no limitation on who throws the warm up pitches.
  - Legal, but if the player throwing the pitches is not in the game they are considered an unreported substitute and subject to that penalty if appealed.
  - Legal, but if the player throwing the pitch is in the game they become the pitcher of record and have to face the first batter (at least one pitch).
- 19) The game is tied following 7 innings of play. Who is the proper player to place on 2B?
- The player who recorded the last out for the offensive team.
  - The player who is scheduled to bat last in that half inning.
  - A courtesy runner may be used for the player who is to be placed on 2B, as long as all courtesy runner rules are followed.
  - Both b and c are correct.
- 20) The batter is out when they make contact with the ball and any part of their foot is:
- In contact with the plate, even if part of the foot is still in contact with the batter's box line.
  - If their entire foot is in contact with the ground completely outside the batter's box.
  - If any part of the foot is in contact with the ground completely outside the batter's box, even if part of the foot is on the batter's box line.
  - Both a and b are correct.
- 21) Which of the following are true about the knob of the bat:
- It shall have a diameter of at least 1.6 inches.
  - It cannot have any sharp edges.
  - It must be permanently attached to the bat and may be covered with grip tape.
  - All of the above are true.
- 22) With R1 still standing on 2B F2 attempting to return the pitched ball to F1 hits B2 on the arm with the ball by accident. R1 advances to 3B as the ball rolls away and is retrieved by F2. What is the proper ruling?
- B2 is out for interference and R1 must return to 2B.
  - The advance of R1 to 3B is legal and B2 is not out because of the errant throw by F2.
  - The ball is dead and the advancement of R1 shall be nullified.
  - B2 is awarded 1B and R1 is entitled to remain at 3B.
- 23) With R1 on 2B, B2 singles rounds 1B and is obstructed by F3. R1 advances to and rounds 3B. F6 receives the ball from F8 as B2 returns to 1B. F6 throws to F5 making a play on R1 at 3B. B2 seeing the throw to 3B leaves 1B advancing to 2B and is thrown out sliding into 2B. What is the correct ruling?
- B2 was obstructed between 1B and 2B they cannot be put out between those bases, B2 would be returned to 1B since that is the base the umpire judged they would have reached without the obstruction.
  - B2 had obtained the base they would have reached, and there was a subsequent play on a different runner, B2 would remain out at 2B.
  - Obstruction has a minimum one base advancement; therefore B2 would be awarded 2B.
  - R1 being out of 3B and drawing a throw is considered interference, R1 is called out and B2 would be returned to 1B since the ball is dead on interference.

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- 24) F1 touches the fingers of their pitching hand to the dirt, transfers the ball to their pitching hand, and steps on the pitcher's plate. The plate umpire immediately calls an illegal pitch, announcing that F1 did not wipe their fingers after touching the dirt. What is the correct ruling?
- Illegal pitch is the correct ruling; no foreign substance may be used on the ball.
  - Illegal pitch is the correct ruling, but F1 should also be ejected for using a foreign substance on the ball.
  - This is an incorrect ruling; dirt is not a foreign substance and does not have to be wiped off before coming in contact with the ball.
  - Illegal pitch is the correct ruling, and the umpire will issue a warning to F1 and notify their coach; if any other defensive player uses a foreign substance on the ball they will be ejected.
- 25) With 1 out and R1 on 3B and R2 on 1B, B4 hits a double scoring R1 and advancing R2 to 3B. After the ball has been returned to the infield and time is called, F7 makes a verbal appeal to the base umpire that R2 missed 2B while advancing to 3B. The correct ruling is:
- This is a proper dead ball appeal, the base umpire should rule on whether R2 missed 2B.
  - Since F7 no longer has the ball, this is an improper appeal and the base umpire should not rule on the play.
  - This is an improper dead ball appeal, only a coach or infielder may make a dead ball appeal.
  - Since the ball is dead there is no longer an opportunity to appeal the last play.
- 26) With 2 outs, R1 on 3B and F5 playing in front of the runner, B4 hits a fair line drive down 3B line which F5 dives for and misses. The ball then hits R1 who is standing on the base. What is the correct call?
- Dead ball, R1 is out for interference as they were hit by an untouched batted ball, B4 is awarded 1B.
  - Dead ball, R1 was hit with the ball; but R1 is not out since they were behind the fielder B4 is awarded 1B.
  - R1 was behind the fielder when hit with the ball so the ball remains live, R1 is called out for being hit with the ball.
  - R1 was in contact with the base when hit with the ball and they did not intentionally get hit with the ball so the ball remains live.
- 27) Player #12, listed on the line-up in the 8th position, bats and reaches 2B. The offensive coach reports #14 as a substitute for #12, the second time #14 has appeared in the game for #12. Play resumes and the next pitch is wild and the runner advances to 3B. The defensive coach asks for time and protests that #41 is on 3B. According to the line-up, #41 is a substitute previously used in the 6th position in the line-up and has a re-entry left. How should the umpire rule?
- #41 is an unreported substitute and is officially in the game, all advancement is legal.
  - #41 is an unreported substitute and is officially in the game and is called out.
  - #41 is an illegal player they are called out and disqualified.
  - #41 is an illegal player they are disqualified and removed from the game. #14 or a legal substitute can be placed on 3B.
- 28) In the bottom of the 7th with R1 on 2B and one out a pitch gets away from F2 and is heading toward the opening in the dugout. As R1 is advancing to 3B, F2 is worried the ball will enter dead ball territory and throws their mitt stopping the ball just before it enters dead ball territory. The umpire should rule:
- No violation F2 prevented the ball from entering dead ball territory, play on.
  - Dead ball, R1 is awarded two bases from the time of the throw.
  - Dead ball, R1 is awarded one base from the time F2's mitt contacted the ball.
  - Delayed dead ball, R1 would be awarded one base from the time of the pitch but may advance farther with liability to be put out.
- 29) R1 on 3B and R2 on 1B with one out. B4 hits a sacrifice fly to F8 for the second out. R1 on 3B legally tags up and scores. R2 on 1B leaves the base early and is doubled up for the third out of the inning BUT R1 who was on 3B scored prior to the third out being made. Should the run count?
- Yes, R1 touched home plate prior to the 3rd out being recorded the run would count.
  - No, R2 was forced to return to 1B so this is a force out and no run can score.
- 30) B1 hits a slow roller between F1 and F3. F1 kicks the ball to F3 who grabs it, dives and touches 1B with their glove while the ball is in their bare hand before B1 reaches the base. The umpire should rule:
- Dead ball, F1 has committed an illegal act by kicking the ball B1 is awarded 1B.
  - B1 is out, F1 kicking the ball has no bearing on the call.
  - B1 is safe at 1B, F3 must touch the base with a body part not their glove.
  - B1 is safe at 1B, F3 kicking the ball is a form of obstruction.

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- 31) R1 on 2B and R2 on 1B with one out. B4 hits the ball about 20 feet into the air in the infield between F5, F6 and F1. The umpire declares infield fly as F6 makes an effort to catch the ball but was unable to do so. B4 reaches base safely and R1 who left base on the batted ball, continued to home plate to score. The defense appeals that R1 left too soon as they needed to wait for the ball to be touched or hit the ground before the base runners could leave their base. The offense argues that B4 should be allowed to stay at 1B since F6 was unable to catch the fly ball. The umpire should rule:
- R1's run would count; B4 would be safe since the ball was not caught.
  - R1's run would count; B4 remains out due to the infield fly rule being declared.
  - R1 would be placed on 3B; a runner cannot advance more than one base on an infield fly.
  - R1 would be out as they advanced prior to the ball being touched; B4 would remain out due to the infield being declared.
- 32) With R1 on 1B and 1 out, B3 hits a fly ball toward shallow right field, R1 who has started advancing on the hit realizes it may be caught and begins to return to 1B. As R1 returns to 1B they have to run around F3 who has started toward the ball but stopped when they saw F9 making the play on the fly ball. The base umpire signals obstruction. R1 seeing F9 drop the ball leaves 1B attempting to advance to 2B but F9 throws the ball to F6 to retire R1 prior to reaching 2B. The correct ruling is:
- R1 is out, since they were obstructed on the way back to 1B they are only protected to 1B.
  - R1 is out, R1 had reached 1B, the base they would have reached without obstruction, then F9 made a play on another runner by fielding the batted ball so R1 is no longer protected between 1B and 2B.
  - Dead ball when R1 is put out, R1 is awarded 2B; they were obstructed between 1B and 2B and cannot be put out between these two bases.
  - Ball is dead immediately when R1 is obstructed R1 is awarded 2B. B3 is placed at 1B.
- 33) The bottom of the 2nd inning, F1 winces in pain after a pitch. The coach requests and is granted time. After a short discussion with F1 it is determined that they cannot continue due to the injury and is replaced by a new pitcher. The Plate Umpire allows five (5) warm up pitches in fast pitch or three (3) warm up pitches in slow pitch. The umpire should rule:
- Proper procedure, no additional warm up pitches are allowed.
  - The umpire is allowed to delay the start of play to allow F1 additional warm up pitches to ensure they are properly warmed up.
- 34) R1 on 2B with one out. B3 gets a base hit to the outfield. After R1 scores, the throw from F7 to the plate eludes F2 and is picked up by the on deck batter and given to the catcher. The umpire should rule:
- Dead ball when touched by the on deck batter, if the umpire judges the touching interfered with F2's opportunity to make an out on B3, B3 would be ruled out.
  - Dead ball when touched by the on deck batter, if the umpire judges the touching did not interfere with F2's opportunity to make an out on B3, B3 would be returned to the last base touched when the on deck batter touched the ball.
  - Dead ball when touched by the on deck batter, the on deck batter is ruled out and B3 would be returned to the last base touched when the on deck batter touched the ball.
  - Both a & b would be correct.
- 35) B1 hits a long fly ball that hits the outfield fence in the air, as B1 is approaching 2B F6 is standing over 2B awaiting the throw from the outfield making R1 stutter step and miss 2B. The base umpire calls obstruction as R1 continues on to 3B. After the ball is dead F6 appeals that B1 missed 2B. The correct ruling is:
- B1 would be safe at 3B since F6's obstruction caused them to miss 2B.
  - B1 cannot be called out between 2B and 3B, but B1 would be returned to 2B.
  - B1 is out on proper appeal.
  - None of the above.
- 36) B1 has a 2 ball 2 strike count and is stretching to hit an outside pitch and makes contact with F2's glove as they are swinging. They continue their swing and step on home plate as they make contact with the ball. What is the correct ruling?
- B1 is out for making contact with the ball while touching home plate, catcher obstruction is ignored.
  - B1 is out for making contact with the ball while touching home plate. B1 did not reach first base safely, the manager has the option of taking the result of the play or enforcing the obstruction by awarding B1 1B.
  - There were penalties by both teams so the pitch is ignored and B1 remains at bat with a 2 ball 2 strike count.
  - B1 is called out for making contact with F2's glove and is warned they will be ejected if this action is repeated.

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## SLOW PITCH QUESTIONS

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- 37) Slow Pitch Team with 10 players turns in line-up listing an EP. They win the coin toss and take the field on defense with 10 players. Before play begins the Plate Umpire notices that the home team dugout and is empty. He asks F2 where "where is your Extra Player?" F2 responds, "He's on his way and will be here before we bat." The umpire should:
- Disqualify the Coach for submitting a false line-up card.
  - Take no action until the EP comes up in the batting order.
  - Remove the EP from the Home Team's Line-up and continue the game.
  - Forfeit the game in favor to the Visiting Team.
- 38) In an adult Slow Pitch game, starting player #9 was substituted for in the second inning, re-entered the game in the third inning, and was substituted for again in the fifth inning, the team now wants to use player #9 as a courtesy runner in the seventh inning. What is the correct ruling?
- Player #9 cannot be used as a courtesy runner. After being substituted for a second time in the fifth inning, they are no longer an eligible player.
  - Player #9 can be used as a courtesy runner since they were listed on the official line-up.
  - Player #9 can be used as a courtesy runner since no one has been used as a courtesy runner in the seventh inning.
  - Player #9 can be used as a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or the catcher, only.
- 39) In a slow pitch game, the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery or during the back swing. What is the correct ruling?
- The ball is dead, runners cannot advance and a ball is called on the batter.
  - The ball remains live, runners can advance at their own risk and a ball is called on the batter.
  - An illegal pitch is called, a ball is awarded to the batter.
  - A no pitch is declared.
- 40) The maximum height of the Pitch from the ground in all of Slow Pitch is 10 Feet.
- True.
  - False.
- 41) The Pitch starts when the pitcher makes any motion with the ball after the required stop.
- True.
  - False.
- 42) Which of the following is true about courtesy runners in slow pitch?
- Any eligible player can be a courtesy runner.
  - A courtesy runner cannot run for another courtesy runner.
  - If a player's turn at bat comes while they are on base, the player they are running for is called out and the courtesy runner is removed from base and takes their turn at bat.
  - All of the above.
- 43) In Coed play the female batter has the option of hitting either the eleven or twelve-inch softball.
- True.
  - False.

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## MECHANIC QUESTIONS

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- 44) In a two-umpire or three-umpire system the Plate Umpire is responsible, after a ground ball up the middle, to trail the batter-runner with no runners starting on base or a runner starting at 1B only.
- True.
  - False.
- 45) With no runners on base in the Three Umpire System when U1 chases, the responsibility to cover any play at 1B is:
- The Plate Umpire who would extend their distance trailing the batter-runner.
  - U1, opening up or turning back toward first base after their responsibilities on their chase are over.
  - U3, coming across toward 1B.
  - None of the above.

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- 46) T-shirts are optional to wear, however, it is permissible to wear a Navy Blue T-shirt under a powder blue USA Softball polo shirt.
- True.
  - False.
- 47) On a close call at 1B the base umpire is blocked from seeing the entire play. The base umpire should:
- Make a call based on the information they have.
  - When the play is over go to their partner for information to get the call correct.
  - Only go to their partner when requested to do so by a coach.
  - Both a and b are correct.
- 48) In the Two Umpire System with R1 at 1B and a ground ball to the infield the plate umpire should:
- Trail the batter-runner no more than 1/3 of the way to 1B in fair territory and read the play. As R1 reaches 2B, stop, see the play at 1B, then move toward 3B and get the best possible angle and distance for a possible play there. As the play develops work to get an unobstructed view of the play and obtain a final calling distance of 10-12 feet from the play.
  - Trail the batter-runner no more than 1/3 of the way to 1B in fair territory and read the play. As R1 approaches 2B move toward 3B to first obtain the proper angle then close the distance as the play develops working to get an unobstructed view of the play and to obtain a final calling distance of 10-12 feet from the play.
  - Move toward the center of the diamond and observe the play at 1B, then move toward 3B for a possible play on R1 at 3B.
  - Trail the batter-runner toward the center of the diamond and read the play. As R1 approaches 2B move toward 3B to first obtain the proper angle then close the distance as the play develops working to get an unobstructed view of the play and to obtain a final calling distance of 10-12 feet from the play.
- 49) What is the correct calling distance for a force play?
- 18-21 feet.
  - No closer than 18 feet from the base.
  - 12-15 feet.
  - None of the above.
- 50) What is the correct calling distance for a tag play?
- 18-21 feet
  - 10-12 feet.
  - 12-15 feet.
  - No closer than 18 feet.

## ALTERNATIVE FAST PITCH QUESTIONS

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- 51) The DP enters the game defensively, and the FLEX is still in the game. The player who is no longer playing defense has now become the new DP.
- True.
  - False.
- 52) A JO Fast Pitch coach is getting ready to turn in their line-up at the pre-game coaches' conference prior to their team's first game of pool play in a USA Softball National Championship. The coach is confused where the FLEX should be listed in the line-up since they are batting the entire roster. To fill out the line-up correctly the coach asks you, the home plate umpire, before the line-up is officially turned in, where the FLEX goes. How do you respond?
- You tell them, since the pre-game conference has begun, it's too late for your assistance and they must fill out the line-up card whatever way they feel is correct.
  - You tell the coach to place the FLEX in the tenth position in the batting order and list the remaining roster players (EP's) in the correct batting order behind the FLEX.
  - You tell the coach they can place their EP's anywhere they want in the batting order and, therefore, the FLEX can also be listed in any position on the line-up card.
  - You tell the coach to place the FLEX in the last position on the line-up card.



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- 53) In a JO Fast Pitch game, with R1 on second base, a fly ball is hit to deep right-center field near the temporary outfield fence. U1 goes out to provide coverage for an accurate call. F8 leans against the fence, pushing it down, and, while lying on the fence makes the catch. Their momentum carries them over the fence into dead ball territory beyond the fence. What call should be made by U1?
- Since the player caught the ball while lying on the fence, the catch should be nullified, and the batter awarded a home run.
  - Since the player caught the ball while lying on the fence and then carried it unintentionally into dead ball territory, the batter should be called out, dead ball, and R1 awarded two bases from the last base touched at the time the fielder left live ball territory.
  - Since the player caught the ball while lying on the fence and then carried it unintentionally into dead ball territory, the batter should be called out, dead ball, and R1 awarded one base from the last base touched at the time the fielder left live ball territory.
  - Since the player caught the ball while lying on the fence and then carried it unintentionally beyond the fence line, the ball is live and R1 can run the bases at her own risk.
- 54) In Fast Pitch when does the pitch begin?
- When the pitcher steps onto the pitcher's plate and brings their hands together.
  - When the pitcher makes any motion toward home plate.
  - When the pitcher separates their hands once they have been placed together.
  - When the pitcher makes any motion that is part of the windup after the hands have been brought together.
- 55) During JO Fast Pitch Pool Play, with the team batting more than nine players, B5 gets a hit but twists their ankle when they reach 1B. The coach requests a runner for the injured B5. Which of the following is NOT allowable by rule?
- Any player may replace the injured player to finish their running responsibilities.
  - The injured players batting position is skipped with no out recorded.
  - An eligible substitute can replace B5 in the lineup.
  - If B5 begins feeling better later in the game they can return to their position in the lineup.
- 56) R1 on 1B and no count on B2. F1 commits an illegal pitch by bringing the hands together a second time. The plate umpire signals illegal pitch. The pitcher continues their motion and just before the pitcher releases the ball R1 leaves the base and the base umpire calls the violation. What is the correct ruling?
- Since it occurred first, only the illegal pitch is enforced. R1 is advanced to 2B and B2 has a 1 ball and no strike count.
  - Both penalties are enforced. R1 is out for leaving early and B2 has a 1 ball no strike count.
  - Since R1 leaving early is an immediate dead ball only the leaving early penalty is enforced.
  - Since there were penalties from both teams a no pitch is declared.
- 57) All of the following result in an illegal pitch being declared, EXCEPT:
- The pitcher deliberately dropping, rolling or bouncing the ball while in the pitching position in order to prevent the batter from striking it.
  - The catcher being outside the lines of the catcher's box when the pitch is released.
  - The pitcher exceeding the 20-second time frame to release the pitch.
  - The pitcher making more than 1 1/2 clockwise revolutions of the arm in the windmill motion.

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