



# 2010 FAST PITCH SOFTBALL RULES EXAMINATION – PART 1

**Instructions:** Only the answer sheet of this examination will be sent to the grader. You retain the questions for further study. Since correction is by machine scanning or perforated key, you must use care in clearly marking correct spaces on the answer sheet according to directions. Every part of each question is to be answered. Indicate whether you believe a part is true or false by marking the appropriate blank on the answer sheet.

**NOTE:** Send answer sheet to your state association office unless otherwise instructed.

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**NOTE:** In the exam situations, **F** refers to a **fielder**, **B** refers to a **batter** and **R** refers to a **runner**. All situations and acts are legal, and no errors or mistakes are involved unless otherwise noted.

## **Baserunning**

1. A base runner establishes her own base path when she is not being played upon.
2. It is not obstruction if an errant throw pulls the first-base player without the ball into the path of the batter-runner, and impedes her progress.
3. A batter-runner cannot be called out for using the white portion of the base when a double first base is
4. Awarded bases must be run legally.
5. When an uncaught foul ball causes the ball to become dead, a runner need not touch bases in reverse order.
6. When a runner passes a base, she is considered to have touched that base.
7. A runner who misses a base while advancing may not return to touch the missed base after a following runner has scored.
8. An obstructed runner is always awarded one base beyond the base where the runner was obstructed.
9. A runner is out for interference if she accidentally contacts a fielder attempting to throw the ball.
10. The runner being played on is out when the on-deck batter commits interference.
11. A runner is out if she runs behind a fielder, out of the base path, to avoid interfering with the fielder making an initial play.

## **Batting**

12. When an improper batter is discovered in the batter's box and at bat, she is immediately called out.
13. A penalty strike can be called if a batter delays the game by stepping out of the batter's box when the pitcher is on the pitcher's plate.
14. The batter is out when, in the umpire's judgment, she prevents a ball from entering the strike zone.
15. A foul is called on the batter when, after hitting the ball, she intentionally hits the ball a second time in fair territory.
16. Following batter's interference with the catcher, each runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
17. A batter's hands are not considered part of the bat when determining hit by a pitch.
18. A batter must attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch in order to be awarded first base.
19. The batter-runner is out when an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.
20. A foul ball is called on the batter if R1 interferes with F3's unsuccessful attempt to field a fly foul ball.

## **Bench and Field Conduct**

21. It is legal for Team A's coach to have a relief pitcher warm up in the gym.
22. Coaches are only permitted to have scorekeeping devices/materials in the coach's box.
23. Coaches may argue ball and strike calls with umpires, provided it is done in an appropriate manner.
24. Deliberately throwing a bat or helmet always results in the offender being ejected.
25. Both the offense and defense can be penalized for malicious contact.
26. When a fielder tags a runner with malicious, excessive and unnecessary force, the ball is dead immediately and the fielder is ejected.
27. Team personnel may leave the dugout/bench area when a fight has broken out to help restrain combatants.
28. A fielder shall be ejected for faking a tag without the ball.
29. A coach who is ejected may remain outside the fence enclosing the field of play.
30. Coaches sitting outside the team's dugout to watch their team play defense shall be issued a warning and instructed to return and coach from the dugout.
31. A team's second unreported substitute results in the offender and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.

## Coaching

32. Any adult coach may attend the pregame conference with the umpire(s) and verify that the team is in compliance with all NFHS rules.
33. A team member ejected for unsporting conduct may occupy a coach's box.
34. Coaches performing duties in live-ball territory may only be attired in school colors.
35. If a thrown live ball accidentally touches a base coach in foul territory, the ball is live and in play.

## Courtesy Runners

36. The same courtesy runner may run for the pitcher and the catcher.
37. Team A's pitcher hits a single and steals second on the next pitch. Her coach may replace her with a courtesy runner at this time.
38. A player may not be a substitute for any player in the half-inning that she ran as a courtesy runner.
39. When a legal substitute replaces a courtesy runner, the player for whom she was running has left the game.
40. If the courtesy runner is injured, the pitcher or catcher for whom she is running may return to run the bases.
41. A player who violates the courtesy-runner rule is an illegal substitute.
42. If a courtesy runner fails to report, she is considered an illegal substitute.

## Dead Ball

43. The ball becomes dead immediately when a batted ball touches any base runner.
44. The ball becomes dead immediately when a thrown ball is touched by a spectator.
45. It is a delayed dead-ball situation when an illegal pitch occurs, but no pitch has been delivered to the batter.
46. The ball becomes dead when time is taken to make an award when a catcher illegally obstructs a runner.
47. After a dead-ball situation, the ball becomes live as soon as it is thrown back to the pitcher in the 16-foot circle.
48. A pitched ball that contacts the batter in the strike zone is a dead-ball strike.
49. A dead ball is called if an obstructed runner is tagged out between the two bases where the obstruction occurred.

## Definitions

50. An appeal is a play or rule violation that requires a ruling from the umpire immediately after it happens.
51. A charged conference is when the coach or other bench/dugout personnel requests and is granted a time-out to meet with offensive or defensive personnel.
52. A fair ball is a batted ball that first falls or is first touched on or over fair territory beyond first, second or third base.
53. A batted ball is any pitch that comes in contact with the bat resulting in a fair or foul ball; contact must be intentional.
54. A force play is a play in which a runner loses the right to the base occupied and is forced to advance because the batter becomes a batter-runner.
55. A foul tip is a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt or hand and is legally caught by any defensive player.
56. A passed ball is a pitch the catcher fails to stop or control when she should have been able to do so with ordinary effort, and allows a runner to advance.
57. If a declared infield fly becomes foul, it is treated as an infield fly, not a foul ball.
58. Interference is an act, physical or verbal, by a member of the offensive team that illegally impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder.
59. The pitcher's pivot foot is that foot with which the pitcher steps toward home plate.
60. To be considered a strike, the entire circumference of the ball must pass through the strike zone in flight.

## Field and Equipment

61. The pitching distance is measured from the rear tip of home plate to back edge of the pitcher's plate.
62. Once a game has started, if it is discovered that the pitching distance is incorrect, the correction shall be made immediately and the game shall be protested.
63. Bases shall be securely attached to the ground or an anchor system.
64. The circumference of a 12-inch softball shall be  $11\frac{7}{8}$  to  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches.
65. The dynamic stiffness of 12-inch softballs shall not exceed 7,500 pounds/inch.
66. A glove worn by a player that is entirely white, gray or optic in color is illegal.
67. Gloves may be designed or altered to have a tacky surface provided the substance doesn't get on the ball.
68. All bats must be made with a single, solid one-piece construction.
69. Bats made entirely of wood are permitted and need not bear the ASA certification mark.
70. The bat grip must extend at least 10 inches, but not more than 15 inches, from the small end of the bat.
71. The bat handle must have a round or oval cross-section.
72. A bat that has holes in the taper is permitted.
73. A bat's end cap may be made of rubber, vinyl, plastic or other approved material and should be manufactured to be easily removed.
74. The phrase, "Meets NOCSAE Standard" is recommended on each batting-helmet face protector.
75. The catcher's helmet-and-mask combination must meet the NOCSAE standard.

### **Pitching Regulations**

76. Prior to pitching, the pitcher must take a position with shoulders in line with first and third bases with ball in the glove or pitching hand, and with hands separated.
77. A pitcher may use a windup in which there is a reversal of the forward motion.
78. An illegal pitch call always results in the batter being awarded a ball and all runners awarded one base without liability to be put out.
79. Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch, she has 20 seconds to release the pitch.
80. When a pitcher fails to deliver the pitch within the required timeframe, a ball is called on the batter and runners are advanced one base.
81. "No pitch" shall be declared if a runner is called out for leaving the base too soon.

### **Player Uniforms, Equipment**

82. Uniforms of all team members shall be of the same color and style.
83. Players on the same team are not permitted to wear a combination of metal cleats and non-metal cleats.
84. Unadorned devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips, no longer than 4 inches, may be worn to control a player's hair.
85. Any equipment judged to be potentially dangerous by the umpire is illegal.
86. One American flag (2 inch-by-3 inch maximum) may be worn on each item of uniform apparel provided it doesn't interfere with the visibility of the number.
87. Exposed undergarments are considered part of the official uniform and shall be black, white, gray or a solid school color.
88. Uniforms may have reflective buttons or ornaments provided they are not judged to be distracting.

### **Players, Positions**

89. Each team must start with at least nine players.
90. A team's lineup card must include each starting player's first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order.
91. Lineups become official after they have been exchanged, verified and then accepted by the plate umpire during the pregame conference.
92. Once a defensive position is established in an inning, a player may not switch to another defensive
93. The use of the DP/FLEX is required.

### **Scoring and Record Keeping**

94. Score the run if the runner advances to home when the third out is made by the batter-runner before touching first base.
95. Score the run if the runner advances to home before the third out is made by the batter-runner being tagged out at second base attempting a double.
96. The scorebook of the home team shall be the official scorebook, unless the umpire-in-chief rules otherwise.
97. The umpire-in-chief has the final authority when determining if advancement is by hit or error.
98. A pitcher can receive credit for both a win and a save.
99. A starting pitcher can be credited with a win if she pitches at least half of the innings played in the game, is replaced and her team stays ahead for the remainder of the game.
100. A starting pitcher who is replaced and then re-enters as pitcher can be credited with a win but not a save.