

2015 Softball Officials Exam For Postseason Tournament Consideration

1. Which statement is not true regarding pitching regulations?
 - a. The hands must be separated prior to pitching when taking a position on the pitching plate.
 - b. A backward or "rocker" step is allowed with the non-pivot foot prior to the hands coming together.
 - c. The forward step must be within the 24 inch width of the pitching plate.
 - d. When taking the initial position on the pitchers plate the pivot must on or partially on the pitchers' plate.
 - e. Prior to the pitch, the hands must come together for a minimum of 10 seconds.

2. True or False: During a legal pitching delivery, the pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground and within the 24 inch width of the pitchers plate.

3. When a player is discovered using an altered bat:
 - a. The batter is out and a team warning is given.
 - b. The batter is out and ejected and the coach is restricted to the dugout.
 - c. The batter is out and both the batter and coach are ejected.

4. A team is properly using the DP/FLEX as the game starts. In the third inning, the DP leaves the game and the FLEX bats. Which statement is true:
 - a. The DP is not eligible for re-entry.
 - b. The FLEX must bat in the same position as the DP had in the batting order.
 - c. The FLEX may move to a different position in the batting order.
 - d. The DP may re-enter the game later and occupy a different position in the batting order.

5. In the third inning, a team coach calls time and goes to the field to talk to the pitcher for the first time in the game. In the 4th inning, the coach makes a second visit to the field to talk with the pitcher. The plate umpire should:
 - a. Require that the coach remove the pitcher from the game.
 - b. Leave the base umpire keep track of the defensive conferences.
 - c. Record the defensive conferences on his lineup card and inform the coach each time he/she has used a defensive conference.
 - d. Rely on the home team scorekeeper to keep track of defensive conferences.

6. With no runners on base, B1 reaches first with a clean hit to the outfield. The ball is returned to the pitcher in the circle. The runner has rounded first base and has stopped several feet from first base. The pitcher makes no play on the runner. What is the ruling?
 - a. The runner may remain off the base until the pitcher steps on the pitcher's plate.
 - b. The pitcher must make a play on the runner.
 - c. If the runner does not immediately advance toward second or return to first, she is declared out.

7. A team provides their lineup card to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference, but does not have a DP/FLEX listed in the starting lineup. Which of the following apply?
 - a. The team may add the DP/FLEX to the lineup card later in the game.
 - b. The team may not use the DP/FLEX as it was not on their lineup card when given to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference.

8. Which of the following are considered LEGAL uses of electronic devices?
- A team manager videos game action from the dugout and gives it to the coach to review footage with players in between innings.
 - A team manager videos game action from the stands and gives it to the coach during the game to review with his/her pitcher in the pitching circle.
 - A coach videos game action and asks to protest a ruling made by the umpire in the field.
9. Which is correct regarding the player re-entry rule?
- No re-entry is allowed.
 - Only starting players may re-enter the game.
 - All players may re-enter the game one time.
 - All players may re-enter the game twice.
 - Players may re-enter the game three times in a seven-inning game.
10. A pitched ball is entirely inside the batter's box when it hits the batter and the batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch. The ruling is:
- A ball is called and the batter is not awarded first as she did not try to avoid the pitch.
 - The batter is awarded first base, she is not required to avoid the pitch if she is struck by a pitch in the batters' box as long as she did not obviously try to get hit by the pitch.
11. True or False. During cold weather, teams may use bat warming devices in the dugout during the game.
12. Which statement is NOT true regarding use of courtesy runners:
- A team at bat may use a courtesy runner for only the pitcher and catcher at any time.
 - When a legal courtesy runner is used for a pitcher or catcher, the pitcher or catcher is not considered to have left the game and may return without using their re-entry.
 - The same courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher.
 - A player who has participated in the game or is participating in the game is not eligible to be a courtesy runner.
 - All courtesy runners should be reported to the plate umpire.
13. With R1 on first, B2 hits a ground ball to F3 who steps on first to retire B2. Which statement is true?
- F3 may throw to F4 on second base to record a force out on R1.
 - R1 is no longer forced to advance and may advance to second or return to first base. In order to retire R1, she must be tagged while not in contact with a base as the force has been removed.
 - R1 may only advance toward second base in this play.
 - The ball is dead and R1 must return to first.
14. True or False. When a batter receives a walk, the ball remains live and the batter runner is treated the same as a batter who puts the ball in play.
15. Both teams are using the DP/FLEX and have submitted proper lineup cards at the pre-game conference. In the 4th inning, Team "A" has the FLEX player bat for the DP and the DP leaves the game. In the 7th inning team "A" has the DP return to the game in the same position in the batting order and the FLEX no longer bats and remains in the game defensively.
- Ruling:
- Legal change, the DP is considered to have left the game when the FLEX assumed the DP's position in the batting order.
 - The DP cannot re-enter.
 - The FLEX can never enter the game as a batter.
 - When the FLEX bats for the DP and the DP leaves the game, the FLEX player is considered to have left the game and no longer has re-entry privileges.

16. The lineup card submitted to the plate umpire should include the following information:

- a. Location of game and starting time.
- b. Batting order. First initial, last name and jersey number of all starting players and eligible substitutes.
- c. Names of school athletic directors.

17. R1 is on first base with no outs. B1 hits a long, high fly ball to center field. R1, believing the ball will not be caught, touches second base and starts for third when F8 makes a diving attempt at a catch. R1, who is about halfway to third, runs toward the pitcher's rubber as she heads back toward first. However, F8 is never in complete control of the ball and it falls to the ground when she crashes into the outfield fence. Seeing that, R1 again reverses direction and advances to third base as the throw comes in. What is your ruling on R1?

- a. R1 is out for running out of the baseline.
- b. R1 is out if the defense appeals that she did not retouch second on her way to first.
- c. R1 is out for not retouching second on her way to first.
- d. R1 did nothing wrong. Her route to third was unusual but not illegal.

18. With R1 at second, B2 hits cleanly to the outfield. While R-1 is advancing to home, F2 makes contact with R1 as she attempts to score. F2 does not have possession of the ball but is about to field a bouncing throw from the outfield. Ruling:

- a. The contact is ignored and regarded as incidental with no infraction.
- b. If F2 was about to field the ball although not in possession, interference is called on R1.
- c. Obstruction is called on F2 with a delayed dead ball, R1 is awarded home.

19. During the pregame inspection of equipment, the umpires notice several bats in the home team's dugout that are very warm to the touch. The umpires remove the bats from play. In the fifth inning, the home team asks the umpire to check the bats again to see if they have cooled off enough to use for the remainder of the game.

Ruling:

- a. Once the bats have cooled, they may be used.
- b. Once an altered bat has been removed from the game, it should remain out of play for the entire contest.
- c. If the opponents coach approves, they may be used.

20. B1 checks her swing on a pitch that's called a ball. The catcher requests that the plate umpire ask the base umpire about a possible attempt to strike at the ball. Which of the following is correct?

- a. The plate umpire is mandated by rule to go for help on a checked swing.
- b. While it is good mechanics to go for help, the umpire is not required to do so.

21. With R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B3 hits safely to the outfield. F7 throws toward the infield and the ball goes into the visiting team dugout. When the throw left F7's hand R1 was between second and third, R2 had already touched second base and B3 had reached first base. Ruling:

- a. All runners are awarded the base they were approaching.
- b. The ball is dead, R1 and R2 are awarded home and B3 is awarded third.
- c. The ball remains alive and all runners advance at their own risk.
- d. R1 is awarded home, R2 awarded third and B3 awarded second.

22. True or False. A team may have mixed colors of legal headwear such as caps, visors or headbands as long as the colors are white, black, beige, or school colors. Plastic visors, bandanas, hair beads and feathers are not allowed.

23. With R1 on third and R2 on first, pitcher F1 steps wide of the 24 inch width of the pitching plate in her delivery to the batter. The plate umpire correctly calls an illegal pitch. Which statement is not true?

- a. The umpire signals delayed dead ball, the batter is awarded a ball and each runner is awarded one base.
- b. A delayed dead ball is called and if the pitcher completes the delivery of the ball to the batter and the batter hits the ball fair or foul, does not swing or swings and misses or becomes a base runner the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty for an illegal pitch.
- c. A warning is given the pitcher and no penalty assessed.
- d. If the pitcher completes delivery to the batter and the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base the illegal pitch is nullified and all action stands.

24. During a regular season game, the home team is ahead 5-2 in the top of the 6th inning. The visiting team scores three runs in the top of the 6th when weather prevents any more play on that day. Ruling:

- a. This is an official game. The score reverts back to the previous full inning and the home team wins 5-2.
- b. The game is suspended and continued from the point of suspension at a later date.
- c. The game is cancelled and replayed from the beginning.

25. During a regular season game by local conference or league adoption, when can the tiebreaker rule be used?

- a. after the 7th inning
- b. after the 8th inning
- c. after the 9th inning

26. True or False. In all MHSAA tournament games, the tiebreaker shall be applied in tied games beginning with the 11th inning.

27. True or False. A game may start with less than 9 players.

28. True or False. Defensive players may wear protective face/head protection but it is not required. Such equipment shall have a non-glare outer surface.

29. With R1 on third and R2 on second and one out, B3 hits a fly ball to F8. The ball is caught for the second out. Both runners tag, but R1 is slow coming to home and the throw from F8 to third beats the runner and R2 is tagged out before R1 crosses the plate. Ruling:

- a. The run counts as the third out was not a force out caused by the batter becoming a runner.
- b. The run does not count as the third out was recorded prior to the run scoring.

30. True or False. A plate umpire is required to keep a lineup card for both teams and record all substitutes, lineup changes, courtesy runners and defensive and offensive conferences and announce all changes/substitutes to the opposing coach.