



# 2012 Softball Australia Basic Rules Examination



There are a number of ways in which the SAL Basic rules examination can be used.

For all participants in the game of Softball to test their rule knowledge

To obtain a theory mark required for Level 1 accreditation

1. Four sections of 25 questions each, that may assist in lecture style presentation of the rules. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to achieve an overall pass of 60%.
2. One paper of 100 questions sat by a candidate in one session. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to achieve an overall pass of 50%.
3. As open book examination sat in their own homes over a period of time. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to provide the correct answers and a rule reference to 80% of the questions.

To obtain a theory mark required for Level 2 candidature (Reference: Tech Bulletin TB2008-2)

1. One paper of 100 questions sat by a candidate in one session. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to achieve an overall pass of 70%.
2. As open book examination sat in their own homes over a period of time. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to provide the correct answers and a rule references to 85% of the questions.

- NOTE:**
1. This examination is based on the Australian Rule Book - as revised 2010-2013 and relates to Fast Pitch only.
  2. Defensive Team = Fielding Team  
Offensive Team = Batting Team
  3. For the sake of brevity in some questions the following symbols will be used:

For fielders:    F1 = Pitcher.                      F2 = Catcher.                      F3 = 1st Base.  
                         F4 = 2nd Base.                      F5 = 3rd Base.                      F6 = Shortstop.  
                         F7 = Left Field.                      F8 = Centre Field.                      F9 = Right Field.

For runners:                      R1 is always the lead runner, followed by R2, R3 etc.  
For batters:                      B1 is the lead off batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.  
For substitutes:                      S1 is the first substitute player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.  
Designated player:                      DP.  
Flex player:                      FLEX.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer strictly according to SAL Rule Book, NOT local by-laws and/or ground rules.
2. Only the answer sheet of this examination is to be returned to the National, State or Association Director of Umpiring. You retain the question portion for further study. Your answer sheet, along with your examination mark will be returned to you after it is marked.
3. All answers are either TRUE/FALSE or YES/NO and are worth (1) mark each, giving a total of 100 marks.
4. Please indicate your answer by filling in the circle for the correct answer

e.g.    A TRUE or YES answer would be                      T/Y    F/N  
                         on the Answer Sheet provided.                      ●      ○

- ***Please use Black Pen where possible. If you make a mistake you may use correction tape on your incorrect answer.***

## 2012 Softball Australia Basic Rules Exam

### 100 QUESTIONS

1. A bat is considered altered if it has been physically modified.
2. An appeal for a runner leaving the base on a caught fly ball, before the ball is first touched, may be made when the ball is dead or alive.
3. The batter is awarded first base when four pitches, including illegal pitches, have been judged by the plate umpire as balls.
4. The base path is a direct line between a base and the runner's position, at the time a fielder is trying to make a tag.
5. The catcher must remain within the catcher's box until the pitch has been released by the pitcher.
6. A batted ball is foul when it hits the foul line pole on the fly.
7. If the fielder's feet are in fair territory but the batted ball is first gloved in foul territory, the ball should be called foul.
8. A runner loses the right to occupy a base on a force when a batter becomes a batter-runner, unless the batter-runner or succeeding runner has been called out.
9. A foul tip can go directly from the bat to the catcher's glove, even when it goes above the batter's head.
10. An infield fly should be called if an outfielder, who is positioned on the infield, catches a fly ball and there are runners on first and second base, with none out.
11. Obstruction should not be called if a defensive player, who is in possession of the ball, pushes the runner off a base for a tag.
12. A slap hit is a batted ball where the batter has taken a full swing.
13. When the umpire calls 'time', the play is suspended.
14. The coach's box is parallel to the first or third base baseline, extended from the bases toward home plate.
15. The pitcher's plate may be made of any material, provided it is white.
16. A batted ball hitting the foul portion of the double base shall be called a fair ball.
17. When a ball is hit to the outfield and no play can be made on the batter-runner, the batter-runner may touch either the fair or foul portion of the double base.
18. A bat made of fibreglass is not legal.
19. A bat shall not be more than 86.4cm (34 inches) in length.
20. The pitcher may wear a mitt instead of a glove.
21. A player may wear shoes with detachable cleats that screw into the shoe.
22. The catcher does not have to wear a body protector (chest plate) during a game.

## 2012 Softball Australia Basic Rules Exam

23. The ball is dead when it comes in contact with equipment, that it left lying on the ground in foul territory.
24. A player must not wear jewellery, unless it is a medical alert bracelet or necklace.
25. Can the assistant coach place their name on the line-up card instead of the head coach?
26. Base coaches may only address their own players.
27. A coach must not use communication equipment to communicate with the field or any player.
28. A player that has not arrived at the team area may still be placed on the line up card, as long as the umpire is advised when they arrive.
29. A team consists of nine players, or ten players when a Designated Player (DP) is used.
30. All defensive players must be in fair territory, except the catcher, who must be in the catcher's box when the ball is put in play.
31. The starting players on the line-up card are inspected and approved by the plate umpire and a team representative at the pre-game meeting.
32. The Designated Player (DP) must remain in the same position in the batting order when they return to the game after being substituted.
33. When the Designated Player (DP) replaces the FLEX, it is not considered a substitution.
34. A starting player, once substituted from the game, may re-enter twice as long as the player occupies the same batting position.
35. It is an illegal re-entry when a substitute is removed from the game and then re-entered by the coach.
36. The penalty for an illegal re-entry is ejection of the coach and the illegal substitute.
37. A replacement player may be used when a player is bleeding.
38. A player can go behind the dugout to have a cigarette during the game.
39. If a player commits an act that is considered unsportsmanlike, the umpire may remove or eject the violating person.
40. When an ejected person does not leave the game immediately (within 1 minute), the umpire shall forfeit the game.
41. The plate umpire, should decide the fitness of the grounds, only if the base umpire/s agree.
42. A game shall be considered a regulation game after 7 innings or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in the 6 innings.
43. If it starts to rain and only 4 innings have been played, the plate umpire may call a regulation game.
44. The only penalty an umpire may apply, is ejection of a coach, when it is obvious the coach is using game delaying tactics.
45. If there are less than nine players left, after the ejection of a player, the plate umpire shall declare a forfeit.

## 2012 Softball Australia Basic Rules Exam

46. When a game has been forfeited the score shall be 7-0 to the team not at fault.
47. The run ahead rule applies when one team leads by 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings or 6 runs after 5 innings.
48. In a tie-break situation, the last batter out in the previous innings shall be the player to be placed on second base.
49. The offensive team may only have one charged offensive conference an innings.
50. When the coach substitutes the pitcher and then goes to the pitching circle to talk to the replacement pitcher while warming-up, the umpire should charge the coach with a defensive conference.
51. The pitcher shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the ball.
52. Before commencing the delivery (pitch), the pitcher must take , or appear to take, the signal from the catcher with the hands separated.
53. The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of his/her wind up.
54. A pitcher is allowed to make two revolutions of the arm on a windmill pitch.
55. It is legal for a pitcher to leap when pitching, provided the original push starts from the pitcher's plate.
56. A pitcher is allowed to deliberately roll the ball to prevent the batter from hitting it.
57. After the umpire indicates 'Play Ball,' the pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch.
58. Pitchers may wear a wedding ring on their pitching hand, provided it is taped.
59. The defensive coach notifies the umpire of his desire to give a batter an intentional base on balls. The umpire should award the batter first base.
60. 'No Pitch' shall be declared when a runner is called out for leaving a base prior to the pitcher releasing the pitch.
61. If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during his delivery, a ball is declared on the batter.
62. A pitcher, who has been declared an Illegal Pitcher as a result of the team exceeding the charged defensive conference limit, may return to the pitching position at any time for the remainder of the game.
63. The on-deck batter at the start of an inning does not have to be the lead off batter for the offensive team.
64. The on-deck batter may loosen up with three official softball bats.
65. The first batter in each inning shall be the batter whose name follows that of the last player who completed his turn at bat in the preceding inning.
66. The batter has 20 seconds to take his position in the batter's box after the umpire has declared 'Play Ball.'

## 2012 Softball Australia Basic Rules Exam

67. An offensive team member may not, under any circumstance, deliberately erase the lines of the batter's box at any time during the game.
68. The batter is not required to have both feet completely within the batter's box prior to the start of the pitch.
69. A strike is called by the umpire when any part of a legally pitched ball enters the strike zone before touching the ground and at which the batter does not swing.
70. A Fair Ball is a legally batted ball that settles or is touched on or over fair territory between home and first base, or between home and third base.
71. The ball is foul when it touches first, or third base.
72. A 'Foul Ball' should be declared when a legally batted ball touches the batter or the bat in the batter's hand(s) a second time while the batter is within the batter's box.
73. A legally batted ball hits the pitcher's plate and rolls untouched to foul territory before reaching first or third base shall be declared a 'Fair Ball.'
74. The batter is out when he enters the batter's box with, or is discovered using, an altered bat.
75. The batter is not out when he leaves the box to gain a running start but has returned to the box when he makes contact with the ball.
76. A batter becomes a batter-runner when a fair-batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment or clothing of an umpire.
77. The batter-runner is not out when he fails to advance to first base and instead enters their team area after a base on balls is issued.
78. The batter-runner is out when he runs outside the one metre (3 foot) lane and, in the umpire's judgement, interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
79. A batter-runner steps back toward home plate to avoid, or delay, a tag by a fielder. The batter-runner should be declared out.
80. When a fielder makes a play on the batter-runner while using an illegal glove, the batter-runner is not out, if the coach takes this option.
81. A runner may return to touch a missed base, or one left illegally, after a succeeding runner has scored.
82. Bases left too soon on a caught fly ball must be retouched prior to advancing to awarded bases.
83. Runners are entitled to advance with liability to be put out on a thrown ball that hits an umpire.
84. When a live ball becomes lodged in a defensive player's uniform or equipment, runners are entitled to advance with liability to be put out.
85. A fielder catches a fair batted ball with his detached cap. The umpire should award all runners, including the batter-runner, three (3) bases from the time of the pitch.
86. When the on-deck batter or any other non-playing member creates interference any runner(s), not declared out, must return to the last legally held base at the time of the pitch, unless forced by batter becoming a batter-runner.

## 2012 Softball Australia Basic Rules Exam

87. The runner is not out if he physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been called out, unless the ball is an uncaught foul ball.
88. A runner is struck with an untouched fair-batted ball in fair territory while off base and, in the umpire's judgement, a fielder had an opportunity to make an out. The umpire should call the runner out.
89. The runner is not out when he is struck by a fair, untouched batted ball while in contact with his base, unless he intentionally interferes with the ball or a fielder making a play.
90. A runner is touched (tagged) while off base with an empty glove of a defensive player, who is holding the ball in the opposite hand. The umpire should call the runner out.
91. The ball is dead and not in play when the ball is batted illegally.
92. The ball is alive when a pitched ball touches any part of the batter's person, or clothing, whether the ball is struck at or not.
93. When a wild pitch, or passed ball, goes under, over or through the backstop the umpire should declare the ball dead.
94. The ball is alive when a batter enters the batter's box with, or uses, an illegal bat.
95. The ball is alive when the Infield Fly rule is enforced.
96. The ball is alive when a fair ball strikes an umpire standing in foul territory.
97. The umpire should declare the ball dead when a live ball strikes a photographer assigned to the game.
98. A thrown or fair-batted ball accidentally strikes a coach. The umpire declares the ball is in play.
99. The ball is alive when a foul tip has been legally caught.
100. The catcher obstructs the batter from hitting the pitch with his glove while reaching forward to catch the pitch, obstruction is called by the umpire, who signals delayed dead ball. The ball remains alive until the conclusion of the play.

**ANSWER SHEET 100 QUESTIONS**

**FILL IN THE CIRCLE FOR THE CORRECT ANSWER**

Candidate No/Name..... Current level if applicable ..... Assoc.....

	T/Y	F/N		T/Y	F/N		T/Y	F/N		T/Y	F/N
1.	O	O	26.	O	O	51.	O	O	76.	O	O
2.	O	O	27.	O	O	52.	O	O	77.	O	O
3.	O	O	28.	O	O	53.	O	O	78.	O	O
4.	O	O	29.	O	O	54.	O	O	79.	O	O
5.	O	O	30.	O	O	55.	O	O	80.	O	O
6.	O	O	31.	O	O	56.	O	O	81.	O	O
7.	O	O	32.	O	O	57.	O	O	82.	O	O
8.	O	O	33.	O	O	58.	O	O	83.	O	O
9.	O	O	34.	O	O	59.	O	O	84.	O	O
10.	O	O	35.	O	O	60.	O	O	85.	O	O
11.	O	O	36.	O	O	61.	O	O	86.	O	O
12.	O	O	37.	O	O	62.	O	O	87.	O	O
13.	O	O	38.	O	O	63.	O	O	88.	O	O
14.	O	O	39.	O	O	64.	O	O	89.	O	O
15.	O	O	40.	O	O	65.	O	O	90.	O	O
16.	O	O	41.	O	O	66.	O	O	91.	O	O
17.	O	O	42.	O	O	67.	O	O	92.	O	O
18.	O	O	43.	O	O	68.	O	O	93.	O	O
19.	O	O	44.	O	O	69.	O	O	94.	O	O
20.	O	O	45.	O	O	70.	O	O	95.	O	O
21.	O	O	46.	O	O	71.	O	O	96.	O	O
22.	O	O	47.	O	O	72.	O	O	97.	O	O
23.	O	O	48.	O	O	73.	O	O	98.	O	O
24.	O	O	49.	O	O	74.	O	O	99.	O	O
25.	O	O	50.	O	O	75.	O	O	100.	O	O