



## 2013 SOFTBALL AUSTRALIA RULES EXAM

- PLEASE NOTE:**
1. This examination is based on the Australian Rule Book - as revised 2010-2011 - 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 leadoff batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.

For substitutes: S1 is the first substitute player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer strictly according to the SAL Rule Book, NOT local bylaws 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 through the scrutineer. 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. There are 100 questions in total.
  4. All answers are either TRUE/FALSE or YES/NO and are worth (1) mark each, giving a total of 100 marks.

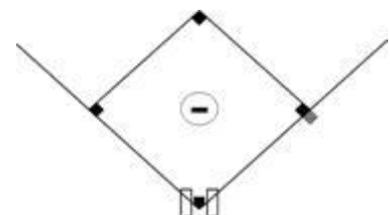
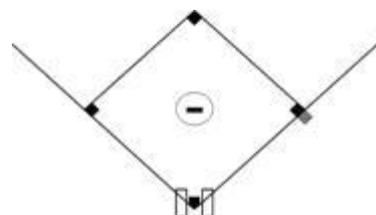
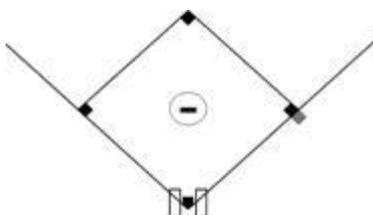
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5. **Please indicate your answer by completely filling in the circle for the correct answer.**

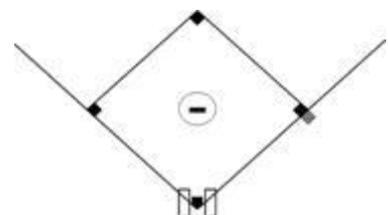
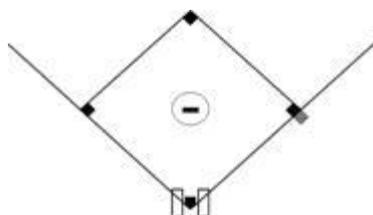
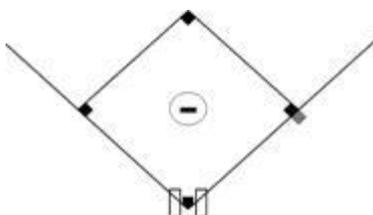
e.g. A TRUE or YES answer would be **T/Y**  **F/N**  on the Answer Sheet provided.

- \* Please insert your state, name, current level and candidate/exam number in the space provided on the answer sheet.
- \* **Please do not make markings or make comments on the answer sheets.**
- \* You will notice there is a provision on the EXAM paper itself next to the question number to put your answer; this may aid you in transferring answers to the answer sheet and minimize mistakes. It will also allow you to take the exam home and review.
- \* **Please use Black Pen.**
- \* **Please do not cross, put dashes or tick circles for correct answers. If you make a mistake you may use white correction tape on your incorrect answer.**

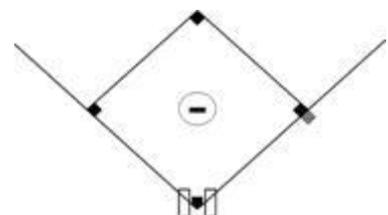
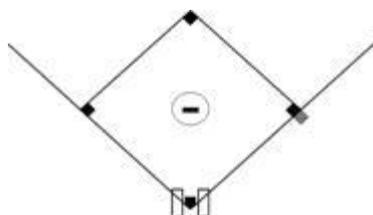
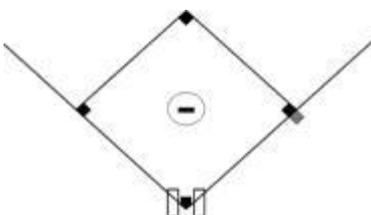
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ At the beginning of the first inning for both teams, or when a pitcher relieves another pitcher, no more than one minute may be used to deliver no more than three warm-up pitches to any team member.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Re-Entry is the act of any of the starting players, except the Designated Player (DP), returning to the game after being legally, or illegally, substituted.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ F1 delivers the pitch to B5, who has one foot touching the plate while swinging at and missing the ball.  
RULING: The umpire should call a Strike and the ball remains alive.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ The notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch, or before all players have left fair territory, or, if on the last play of the game, the umpires have left the field of play; except on player eligibility protests.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Should an umpire declare a Foul Tip when the batted ball goes higher than the batter's head before being caught by the catcher?
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ The umpire notices the pitcher has tape on a finger of the pitching hand.  
RULING: The umpire should eject the pitcher from the game.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ None out. B4 leads off the inning and picks a walk. B7 hits a safe single, advancing B4 to 2nd. B5 bunts and is thrown out at 1st, with both runners advancing one base. B6 picks a walk, loading the bases. B7 should now bat but he is standing on 2nd, so the defence want him declared out.  
RULING: Nobody is declared out for batting out of order, B7 remains on 2nd and B8 becomes the next batter.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ The On-Deck Batter may loosen up with any number of bats, provided he does not place any of them on the ground.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 3rd, R2 on 1st and B3 at bat with a count of Ball 2 Strike 1. An Illegal Pitch is called but B3 hits a slow ground ball to F5. F5 fakes a throw and holds R1 at 3rd, then throws to F3 but the throw is too late to retire B3. R2 advances to 2nd.  
RULING: As R1 did not advance a base on the hit, the coach of the offensive team has the option of (a) taking the result of the play, or (b) taking the award for the Illegal Pitch.  
If he takes the Illegal Pitch award, R1 advances home, R2 stays at 2nd and B3 returns to the batter's box with a count of Ball 3 Strike 1.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ The pitcher begins his wind-up but, before he separates his hands, he stops the wind-up action, as he is not comfortable with his grip on the ball.  
RULING: This is an Illegal Pitch.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ The ball is in play, when a base is dislodged while runners are progressing around the bases.
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ All umpires have the authority to make decisions on any situation not specifically covered in the Rules.



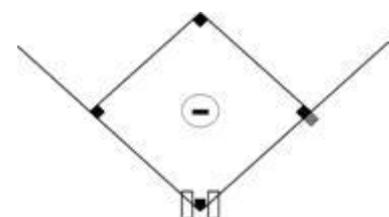
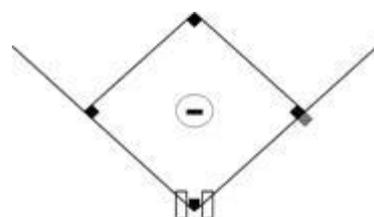
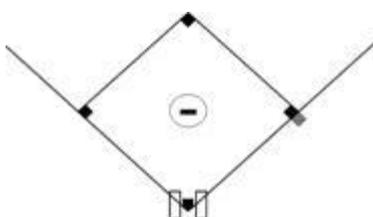
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ An "Option Play" is a play in which the offensive coach/manager is given the choice of taking the enforcement of an illegal action by the defence, or the result of the play.
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Is the runner out, when he is struck in fair territory with an untouched fair-batted ball while off base and a fielder has the opportunity to make an out?
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ B1 at bat. F1 pitches the ball, which is low and inside and heading straight toward B1's leg. B1 makes no attempt to move away from the pitch, which slightly brushes his leg. On hearing the umpire call Dead Ball, B1 advances to 1st.  
RULING: The ball is dead and B1 is entitled to stay at 1st for being hit by a pitched ball.
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ With R2 on 2nd base and a Ball 3 Strike 2 count on B3, B3 hits an illegal pitch to F8. R2 advances all the way toward home plate on the play while B3 rounds first base. F8 throws to home for a tag play on R2 and gets the out. B3 makes it safely to 2nd base. The coach informs the umpire he wants to take the award for the illegal pitch and award ball 4 and advance R2 to 3rd base. Can the umpire do this?
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ The base path is the direct line between two bases.
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ A pitch bounces before reaching B6, who swings at and misses the ball.  
RULING: The ball is dead and a ball is added to the count.
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Prior to the game any coach may sign the line-up card.
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st with none out, when B3 swings at a pitch. He mishits the ball, which rolls slowly along the first base foul line in fair territory. Both R1 and R2 advance on the hit. However, B3, thinking the ball is foul, does not leave the batter's box. F1 fields the ball and throws to F2 in an attempt to retire R1 advancing to the plate. At this point, B3 begins to run to 1st but, in doing so, brushes F2's arm, causing F2 to miss the obvious tag on R1. As a result, R1 scores, R2 advances to 3rd and B3 is safe at 1st.  
RULING: The action of B3 not advancing on the hit and subsequently contacting F2 constitutes interference. The ball is dead and B3 is out. R1 is also declared out on the interference and R2 returns to the last base held at the time of the pitch.
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_ Can a player who is in the current line-up be used as a Replacement Player?
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ An obstructed runner may never be called out between the two bases where he was obstructed, unless he creates an act of interference after the obstruction occurs or he is legally appealed for (a) missing a base, or (b) leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball.



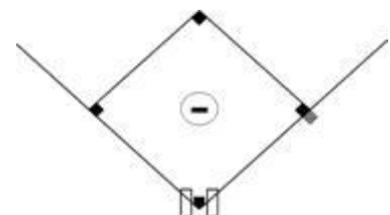
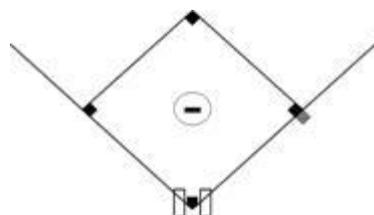
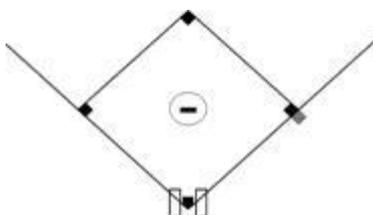
- In the 2nd innings Jones, a starting player playing for Blue team, is legally substituted by Brown. In the 3rd innings Jones legally re-enters the game. In the 4th innings Smith enters the game in Jones's place in the batting order without being reported to the Plate Umpire.
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_ In the 5th innings the offensive Coach brings this to the attention of the Plate Umpire while Smith is playing defence in left field. The umpire removes Smith and makes him an ineligible player. The coach returns Jones back into left field as it was never officially announced that Jones was substituted by Smith.  
RULING: This is legal.
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_ A legally batted ball that strikes an umpire standing in foul territory beyond 1st base will be declared a Foul Ball, provided the ball has not bounded out of the infield over 1st base over fair territory.
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ After 4 completed innings, the score is Red 0 Blue 2. In the fifth inning Red, batting first, score 4 runs. With one out and after Blue have scored 1 run in their half of the inning, a hailstorm causes the game to be abandoned.  
RULING: The game is not considered to be a regulation game, so must be replayed from the beginning.
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ The ball is alive when a runner is declared out for passing a preceding runner, except when the runner is called out while the ball is dead.
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_ A runner may advance, when a pitched ball that is swung at and missed touches any part of the batter, because the ball remains alive.
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter takes a pitch for a called ball. Before the pitcher can deliver the next pitch he has to wait, as the batter has left the batter's box while taking a couple of practice swings.  
RULING: The umpire should apply the penalty for causing the delay by leaving the batter's box, and call the batter out.
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ With R1 on 3rd, R2 on 2nd, R3 on 1st and one out, B5 hits a fly ball to F6. The umpire declares and signals an Infield Fly, as all runners remain in contact with their base. F6 drops the fly ball, recovers it and proceeds to throw the ball to F2 in an attempt to retire R1, who has not left 3rd base.  
RULING: B5 is automatically out on the Infield Fly and R1 should be declared out on the force.
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_ An umpire is hit by a fair-batted ball before it passes a fielder, excluding the pitcher. Is this a form of interference?
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ One out, with bases loaded. B4 mishits the ball along the 1st base line and all runners advance. F3 fields the ball and runs toward B4, who stops. The runner from 3rd crosses the plate. B4 then takes a step back toward home plate before being tagged by F3.  
RULING: B4 is out and the run scores.



- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ Is a trapped ball, or a fly ball allowed to bounce, considered as being an intentionally dropped ball?
- 33 \_\_\_\_\_ When a player is required to be withdrawn due to bleeding, the Replacement Player may act for the Withdrawn Player for the remainder of the inning in progress and for the following complete inning.
- 34 \_\_\_\_\_ Catcher obstruction is ignored, and no option is given to the manager, if the batter has advanced to first base but the runners have not advanced at least one base on the batted ball.
- 35 \_\_\_\_\_ The defensive coach calls time, opens the gate and steps onto the field and tells the umpire that he wants the batter intentionally walked. This is not allowed as the catcher must report this to the umpire.
- 36 \_\_\_\_\_ If a declared Illegal Pitcher has returned to the pitching position and thrown one pitch, he is ejected from the game. If he is discovered prior to the next pitch, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the play nullified, with runners returning to the last base held at the time of the play.
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ Two runners switch bases following an offensive conference. One of the runners subsequently scores and then the switch is brought to the umpire's attention before the inning is over. The run is allowed to score but the remaining runner on base is declared out.
- 38 \_\_\_\_\_ A live ball play is made on the Batter Runner at 1st base on a throw from the outfield area of 1st base foul territory.  
RULING: The Batter-Runner must use the foul portion and the defensive player must use the fair portion of the double base.
- 39 \_\_\_\_\_ Can a starting player, who has been replaced on the line-up card at the pre-game meeting due to an injury, enter the game any time later as a substitute?
- 40 \_\_\_\_\_ The pitcher, standing behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from the catcher. Then with his hands apart, steps onto the plate and comes to a complete stop for two seconds and completes the pitch.  
RULING: The umpire should declare an Illegal pitch.
- 41 \_\_\_\_\_ An offensive team coach at 3rd base may request, and be granted, "Time" to discuss tactics with the 1st base coach, without an offensive charged conference being declared.
- 42 \_\_\_\_\_ B8 has a count of Ball 3 Strike 2, with two out and R7 on first base. The next pitch is low in the zone when B8 turns to check his swing; F2 drops the ball. F2 asks the plate umpire to check on the swing with the base umpire. He does so and the base umpire replies with "yes he did" and a strike signal.  
RULING: B8 is out because it is strike 3 and first base is occupied.
- 43 \_\_\_\_\_ A Crow Hop is defined as the act of a pitcher who leaps off the pitcher's plate.



- 44 \_\_\_\_\_ The pitcher reaches into his back pocket and puts his pitching fingers on a resin impregnated cloth prior to putting his fingers on the ball and releases the next pitch.  
RULING: This is an illegal pitch.
- 45 \_\_\_\_\_ A bat with water inside, in order to extend the batter's swing, is legal.
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ Even though 'Time' has not been requested, or declared by the umpire, can a player leave his position on the field, go to the dugout to receive instructions and then return to the playing field, without a defensive conference being charged?
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ Is it necessary for the umpire to be advised when a Withdrawn Player returns to the game after receiving treatment for an injury that caused bleeding?
- 48 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter refuses to wear a helmet after being ordered to do so by the umpire.  
RULING: The batter should be declared out.
- 49 \_\_\_\_\_ Does the ball remain alive, when a batter-runner is declared out for entering his team area instead of advancing directly to 1st after a base on balls has been issued?
- 50 \_\_\_\_\_ Is it a home run if a fair-batted ball first contacts the fence, deflects off a fielder and then goes over the fence?
- 51 \_\_\_\_\_ A runner may not run in front of a fielder, who is attempting to field a batted ball, to avoid causing interference.
- 52 \_\_\_\_\_ Does the ball become dead, when a thrown ball strikes an umpire?
- 53 \_\_\_\_\_ B7 hits the ball to F9 who makes the catch. It is now discovered that F9 is using an illegal glove.  
RULING: The offensive coach has the option of taking the result of the play or having the entire play nullified.
- 54 \_\_\_\_\_ On an attempted bunt, B1 hits the ball down onto the home plate. The ball rebounds vertically and hits the bat, which is still being held by B1 and who is still standing in the batter's box.  
RULING: B1 should be declared out for hitting a fair ball a second time.
- 55 \_\_\_\_\_ The umpires, in consultation with each other, may rectify any situation in which the reversal of an umpire's decision, or a delayed call by an umpire, places a runner in jeopardy.
- 56 \_\_\_\_\_ When a fielder carries a live ball into the dugout to tag a player, he is considered to have intentionally carried it out of play.
- 57 \_\_\_\_\_ A runner may not legally return to touch a missed base, or one left illegally, after a following runner has scored.



58 \_\_\_\_\_ R2 on 2nd with one out. B4 hits safely to right field and R2 advances to the plate. F2 positions himself behind the plate (on 1st base side) to catch the thrown ball from F9. R2 scores and then knocks over F2, who is now holding the ball and still standing on the 1st base side of the plate. B4 advances to 3rd, while F2 is still on the ground.  
**RULING:** Interference is called on R2. As R2 has already scored, B4 is called out.

59 \_\_\_\_\_ A coach has been given a warning for language that reflects negatively upon the spectators. Any subsequent infraction by a coach/manager of the same team shall result in the ejection of the Head Coach.

60 \_\_\_\_\_ Is the line that forms the pitcher's circle considered to be within the circle?

61 \_\_\_\_\_ When an umpire detects a batter using an illegal bat, he shall declare the batter out. The bat may remain in the dugout but the offending team should be warned that the bat must not be used again.

62 \_\_\_\_\_ The game is into extra innings and the tiebreaker rule is in effect. An improper runner (not an illegal substitute) goes to 2nd base to start the inning. B1, the correct batter, comes to bat and takes a called strike as the runner steals third. The defence now appeal that an incorrect runner is on base and want the inning started over with the correct runner on base.  
**RULING:** Because the incorrect runner was placed on base he should be changed with the correct runner at 3rd base. The game is continued, with the count on B1 remaining as Strike 1.

63 \_\_\_\_\_ When a runner is called out for interference, all other runners must return to the last base legally touched by them at the time of the pitch, unless forced to advance.

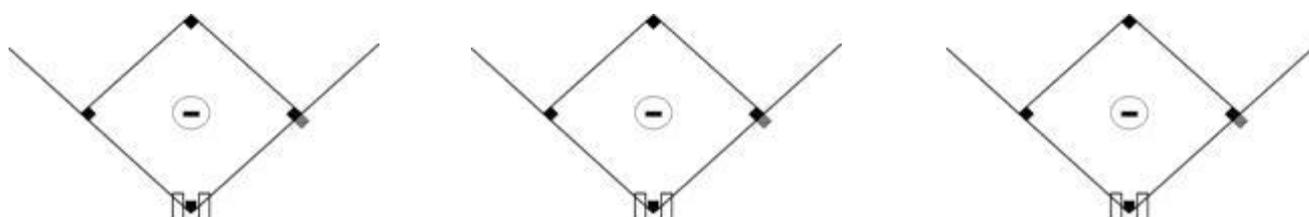
64 \_\_\_\_\_ It is considered a slap hit when the batter takes running steps (within the batter's box) toward the pitcher and hits the ball with a quick, short swing or punching of the ball over the infield.

65 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 3rd, R2 on 2nd, R3 on 1st and B4 at bat. All runners lead off on a pitch, which is fumbled by F2. F2 quickly recovers the ball and throws it back to F1, who is in the pitcher's circle. F1 has control of the ball and ignores all runners. R2 and R3, still off base, watch to see what R1 is going to do. R1 shuffles back and forth and eventually returns to 3rd. R2 and R3 then return to their bases.  
**RULING:** All three runners should be called out.

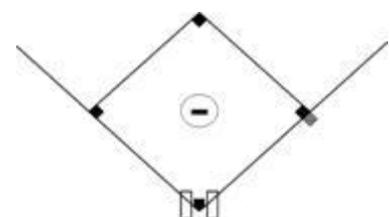
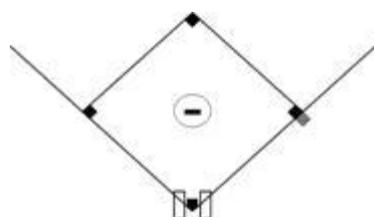
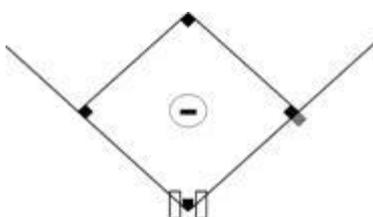
66 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter, hit by a pitched ball out of the strike zone, is hurt and unable to continue playing. He may be substituted and the substitute is allowed to proceed to first base.

67 \_\_\_\_\_ After being substituted from the game, the Designated Player may re-enter but he must return to his original position in the batting order.

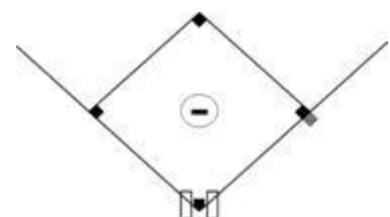
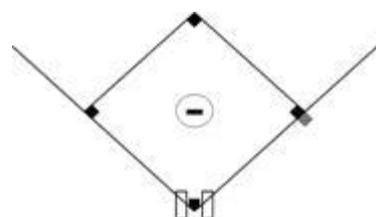
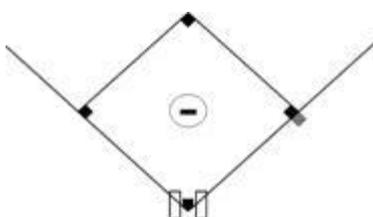
68 \_\_\_\_\_ Other than entering as a Replacement Player, is it possible for a starting player, who has been legally substituted from the game on two (2) occasions, to return to the game as a player?



- 69 \_\_\_\_\_ The ball is dead when a thrown ball accidentally hits the third base coach.
- 70 \_\_\_\_\_ The penalty for an illegal re-entry is the removal from the game of both the coach and the player in violation.
- 71 \_\_\_\_\_ An umpire shall not allow a coach to wear a turban or similar head dress while in the coach's box.
- 72 \_\_\_\_\_ A fair fly ball shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not the fielder's position.
- 73 \_\_\_\_\_ Only the first base player and/or catcher may wear a mitt when playing defence.
- 74 \_\_\_\_\_ When the FLEX player bats for the Designated Player (DP), they are known as the Offensive Player Only (OPO).
- 75 \_\_\_\_\_ A left-handed batter executes a running bunt and has one foot in the air, completely out of the side of the batter's box, when he contacts the ball.  
RULING: He is out for batting out of the box.
- 76 \_\_\_\_\_ B1 hits the ball to F4, who fields and throws the ball very high to F3. F3 throws his glove at the ball, deflecting it away but still in live ball territory. B1, approaching 1st at the time of the deflection, continues running and is subsequently tagged out sliding into 3rd.  
RULING: The umpire should return B1 to 2nd.
- 77 \_\_\_\_\_ B4 hits a deep line drive between F7 and F8 and the ball goes to the fence. B4 misses 1st base and continues to 2nd base. The Head Coach calls for time and makes a dead ball appeal for the missed base from the Dugout. The umpire should call B4 out on the dead ball appeal.
- 78 \_\_\_\_\_ R2 on 2nd. A sharply batted ball rebounds off F5's outstretched glove and ricochets directly toward F6. The ball accidentally touches R2, who is running from 2nd and who could not avoid being hit.  
RULING: This is not interference, so the ball remains alive and in play.
- 79 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 is on 1st when a pitched ball bounces up and lodges in F2's chest protector. On seeing this, R1 advances all the way to 3rd before F2 can recover the ball. Should R1 be permitted to remain at 3rd?
- 80 \_\_\_\_\_ A runner is a player of the team at bat who has hit the ball and is running to first base and has not yet been put out.
- 81 \_\_\_\_\_ When a base distance is found to be incorrect, the umpire should correct the error at the start of the next full inning and continue playing the game.



- 82 \_\_\_\_\_ R4 on 3rd base, B5 has a count of Ball 2 Strike 2. F1 pitches the next ball low for a called ball. F2 returns the ball directly back to F1, however F1 takes well over 20 seconds to pitch to B5.  
**RULING:** The plate umpire should call an illegal pitch, B5 is awarded 1st base and R4 home.
- 83 \_\_\_\_\_ R2 on 2nd, when B3 hits a slow ground ball to F4. F4 fields the ball and throws to F3, who loses possession of the ball as R2 rounds 3rd. On seeing the ball on the ground, B3 continues toward 2nd. F3 recovers the ball and, just as he is about to throw to F6 covering 2nd, the coach at 1st inadvertently steps in front of F3, preventing him from making a throw. R2 now crosses the plate.  
**RULING:** The coach's action is interference, so R2 is out and B3 must return to 1st.
- 84 \_\_\_\_\_ The area immediately behind home plate, between the batters' boxes and home plate, is part of the catcher's box.
- 85 \_\_\_\_\_ B4 hits a deep line drive between F7 and F8 and the ball goes to the fence. B4 touches only the foul portion of the double base and proceeds to 3rd base. The defence appeal to U1 for B4 missing 1st base.  
**RULING:** The umpire should uphold the appeal and call B4 out.
- 86 \_\_\_\_\_ Is it necessary for a player who has been removed from the game for an infraction of the rules to leave the game and return to the dressing room?
- 87 \_\_\_\_\_ It is a Foul Ball when a declared Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground in foul territory, then bounces fair before passing 1st or 3rd base.
- 88 \_\_\_\_\_ A run shall not be scored if the third out of the inning is the result of a runner being forced out due to the Batter becoming a Batter-Runner.
- 89 \_\_\_\_\_ The FLEX may re-enter the game one time, either in the 10th position on the line-up card or in the Designated Player's (DP's) position in the batting order.
- 90 \_\_\_\_\_ None out with R1 on 2nd and R2 on 1st. S1, an unreported substitute, hits the ball to F4 who forces R2 out at 2nd. S1 and R1 are safe at 1st and 3rd respectively. The defence now lodge an appeal for S1 being an unreported substitute.  
**RULING:** S1 is called out, declared Ineligible and removed from the game. R2 remains out and R1 remains at 3rd.
- 91 \_\_\_\_\_ Should the umpire always award an additional ball to the batter, when the catcher fails to return the ball directly to the pitcher after the pitch?
- 92 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter enters the batter's box and proceeds to deliberately erase the lines of the box. The penalty for this action is the removal of the player from the game.
- 93 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 1st when B2 hits a fair fly ball deep down the left field line. F7 touches the ball, which is over fair territory, above the fence level and close to the foul pole. The ball then deflects from the glove and goes over the fence in foul territory.  
**RULING:** The ball is dead B2 advances to 2nd and R1 advances to 3rd.



- 94 \_\_\_\_\_ R7 on 2nd, none out and both F4 and F6 fielding deep. R7 leads off with the pitch but returns to his base, because B8 hits a high fly ball in the infield. R7 is back on 2nd when the descending ball accidentally contacts his body, preventing both F4 and F6 from catching the ball.  
**RULING:** As the ball hit R7 while in contact with a base, he is not out.
- 95 \_\_\_\_\_ Should the On-Deck Batter be penalised when he leaves the on-deck circle to avoid a fielder attempting to catch a foul fly ball?
- 96 \_\_\_\_\_ A game that is tied at the end of seven innings shall be continued, by playing additional innings until a result is determined.
- 97 \_\_\_\_\_ The runner is out when he is struck with a fair, untouched batted ball over foul territory, even if the umpire considers no fielder had a chance to make an out.
- 98 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 1st. B2 shapes to bunt by positioning the bat squarely across home plate. R1 steals on the release of the pitch. B2 does not move the bat and the pitched ball is belt high across the plate. No contact is made between the bat and the ball. F2 makes contact with the stationary bat as he is throwing the ball to 2nd. R1 is thrown out in spite of the contact.  
**RULING:** As the pitch was belt high in the zone and the batter did not bunt the ball and B2 also left the bat there long enough for the catcher to step forward to throw to 2nd to contact the bat, the ball is dead, B2 is out and R1 returns to 1st.
- 99 \_\_\_\_\_ When an unreported substitute is in a game, there is no violation if the manager, or player in violation, informs the umpire before the opposing team's appeal, regardless of how long the player has been in the game.
- 100 \_\_\_\_\_ The runner is not out when, while running to any base, he runs more than 0.91m (3 ft) from the base path, to avoid being touched by the ball in the hands of a fielder.

