

2021 SOFTBALL RULES EXAMINATION**ANSWER REFERENCE**

1	Wristbands with a playbook/playcard attached: A. Are considered equipment. B. Can be worn if a single solid color, other than optic yellow. C. Are permissible when worn on the non-pitching arm. D. All of the above.		3.2.7 EXCEPTION PAGE 32
2	Which of the following is not a responsibility of the umpire during pregame? A. Verifying the field is properly marked. B. Reviewing the lineup cards. C. Reviewing the ground rules. D. Checking all equipment.		3.5.1 NOTE PAGE 37
3	When a pitcher is removed from the pitching position by rule or injury, her replacement who has not yet pitched in the game may have how many warm-up pitches? A. No warm-up is permitted. B. She is entitled to eight warm-up pitches. C. The pitcher determines when she is properly warmed up. D. The umpire is authorized to determine how many warm-up pitches are permitted.		6.2.5 NOTE 2 PAGE 53
4	Which of the following would be an illegal pitch? A. A step backwards is taken after the hands have come together but prior to the start of the pitch. B. Once the pitch has started, the pitcher takes no more than one step forward. C. The hands come together and apart, then together again while standing on the pitching plate. D. When the hands are apart and come together off the pitching plate as long as the hands are separated prior to stepping onto the pitcher's plate.		6.1.2 PAGE 51 6.2.7 NOTE PAGE 53
5	A batter may be awarded first base when: A. A fair batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment or clothing of an umpire or a runner. B. A pitched ball entirely within the batter's box strikes her clothing. C. A pitched ball not entirely in the batter's box, not swung at nor called a strike, hits the batter when she attempts to get out of the way. D. All of the above.		8.1.2 PAGE 62
6	If an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defense appeals to the umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal), or before the infielders have left the infield and the catcher has left her normal fielding position in that half inning, the correct ruling should be: A. The umpire shall declare the batter who should have batted out. B. All outs stand and runners who were not declared out must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. C. If a runner advances because of a stolen base, wild pitch, passed ball or an illegal pitch, while the improper batter is at bat, such advance is legal. D. All of the above.		7.1.2 PAGE 56
7	There are how many types of appeals? A. Two. B. Three. C. Four. D. Five.		2.1.2 PAGE 15

8	A base runner establishes her own base path when she is not being played upon. A. True B. False		2.3.2 NOTE PAGE 18
9	Starting at first base, R1 overruns second base on a hit by B2. In the ensuing rundown, both runners end up on second base. F6 tags both runners. The correct ruling is: A. R1 and B2 are both out. B. B2 is out. C. R1 is out. D. Neither runner is out.		8.3.3 PAGE 64 8.3.7 EFFECT PAGE 64
10	The offense or defense are allowed to use either the white or colored portion of first base for all situations EXCEPT: A. Any force out attempt from the foul side of first base. B. A base on balls awarded to the batter. C. An attempted pickoff play. D. A double play attempt resulting from a ground ball to the shortstop.		8.10.1 PAGE 74 8.10.2 PAGE 74 8.10.3 PAGE 74
11	Which statement is NOT an example of interference? A. Batter-runner running outside the 3-foot lane interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base. B. The batter-runner makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base. C. The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out. D. The batter-runner remains in the batter's box on a play at home plate in order to prevent an obvious out.		8.2.5 PAGE 63
12	B3 erroneously bats out of order in place of B2. The error is discovered by the opposing team while B3 is at bat with a 3 ball-2 strike count. The correct ruling is: A. B3 is declared out. B. B2 replaces B3 and assumes the 3 ball-2 strike count. C. B3 is allowed to finish the at-bat. D. B2 replaces B3 and starts with a new count since she hasn't received any pitches.		7.1.1 PAGE 57
13	In which of the following situations is the batter out? A. The batter attempts to confuse the pitcher by stepping out of the box on one side of home plate to the box on the other side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch. B. A bunt on the third strike in foul. C. The batter throws her bat and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play. D. All of the above.		7.4.3 PAGE 59 7.4.9 PAGE 59 7.4.14 PAGE 60
14	The batter is out when: A. She hits the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the plate. B. She bunts on the second strike. C. Any strike is caught by the catcher. D. With a 1-1 count, she fails to enter the batter's box within 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher and the pitcher is on the pitcher's plate.		7.4.8 PAGE 59

15	<p>The plate umpire notices that B1 steps into the batter's box with an altered bat.</p> <p>A. The umpire shall wait for an appeal from the defensive team.</p> <p>B. The umpire shall penalize a strike on the batter.</p> <p>C. The umpire shall declare B1 out and remove the bat. B1 and the head coach are both ejected.</p> <p>D. There is no penalty until B1 hits the ball.</p>		<p>7.4.2 PENALTY PAGE 59</p>
16	<p>There are four criteria that an umpire uses to judge whether a batter attempted to hit or bunt the pitched ball. Which statement is NOT correct?</p> <p>A. Rolling the wrist and swinging through the pitched ball is considered an attempt.</p> <p>B. If the bat is drawn back before the pitch gets to the bat, it is not an attempt.</p> <p>C. Holding a bat in the strike zone is not a strike nor an attempt to swing.</p> <p>D. The batter makes an attempt to hit the pitch.</p>		<p>2.8.2 PAGE 19</p>
17	<p>Which of the following would result in a coach being in violation of bench and field conduct rules?</p> <p>A. Entering behind the catcher while the opposing pitcher and catcher are in their positions.</p> <p>B. Being outside the dugout while his/her team is on defense.</p> <p>C. Having objects other than scorekeeping and stopwatch devices in the coach's box.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>3.6.5 PAGE 38 3.6.6 PAGE 38 3.6.10 PAGE 38</p>
18	<p>A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should:</p> <p>A. Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases.</p> <p>B. Call a dead ball and award the batter a home run.</p> <p>C. Call a dead ball and award the base the umpire judges she would have reached had the ball not become wedged in the fence.</p> <p>D. Award the batter the base she was closest to when the ball became wedged in the fence.</p>		<p>8.4.3g PAGE 67</p>
19	<p>The NFHS Authenticating Mark shall be on each softball.</p> <p>A. True</p> <p>B. False</p>		<p>1.3.8 PAGE 11</p>
20	<p>During the pregame conference with coaches and umpires, a team may take its turn at infield practice.</p> <p>A. True</p> <p>B. False</p>		<p>4.1.2a PAGE 40</p>
21	<p>Batter A approaches the batter's box and the defensive team's head coach requests that she be "intentionally walked." At that time, the home plate umpire indicates that she advances to first base. The defensive coach now appeals that batter A has batted out of order.</p> <p>A. This appeal may not be made until Batter A reaches first base.</p> <p>B. The appeal may not be made after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk.</p> <p>C. The appeal may be made at any time after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk and before a pitch to the next batter.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>2.65.2a PAGE 29 7.1.2 PENALTY 2 PAGE 56</p>

22	<p>A strike is charged to the batter when:</p> <p>A. A pitch is swung at and missed.</p> <p>B. A pitch contacts the batter while swinging at the ball or the batter is hit by the pitch that is in the strike zone. (dead-ball strike)</p> <p>C. A member of the offensive team intentionally removes a line.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>7.2.1 PAGE 57</p>
23	<p>All of the following are true statements regarding the designated player (DP), EXCEPT:</p> <p>A. The DP is one of the nine hitters in the batting order.</p> <p>B. The DP may be substituted for at any time by a legal substitute.</p> <p>C. The DP may play defense only for the FLEX.</p> <p>D. The DP has left the game if the FLEX bats.</p> <p>E. The DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.</p>		<p>3.3.6e PAGE 34</p>
24	<p>Which statement is correct in regard to the FLEX player?</p> <p>A. The FLEX player is listed in the 10th position in the batting order.</p> <p>B. A head coach who lists the DP/FLEX on her starting lineup can go from 9 to 10 players as long as she doesn't violate re-entry and substitution rules.</p> <p>C. The FLEX can bat or run bases for the DP. Either the head coach or the FLEX player can report the change to the plate umpire. The DP has left the game.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>3.3.6b PAGE 33 3.3.6d PAGE 34 3.3.6f PAGE 34</p>
25	<p>A defensive player takes the field with an eye shield connected to her face/head protection. What material is legal for an eye shield?</p> <p>A. Mirror-like material.</p> <p>B. Material that is shaded.</p> <p>C. Material that is tinted.</p> <p>D. Material that is clear and permits 100% allowable light transmission.</p>		<p>1.8.4 PAGE 15</p>
26	<p>Defensive players may wear face shields provided that:</p> <p>A. The shield is attached to face/head protection.</p> <p>B. The shield is made of rigid material.</p> <p>C. The shield allows for 100% light transmission with no tint.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>1.8.4 PAGE 15</p>
27	<p>In fast pitch softball, all bats shall meet the ASA/USA Bat Performance Standard and have what certification marks?</p> <p>A. 2000 or 2004 or the USA Softball All Games.</p> <p>B. 2004.</p> <p>C. 2000, 2004 or 2013.</p> <p>D. None of the above.</p>		<p>1.5.1d PAGE 12</p>
28	<p>The knob of the bat may be:</p> <p>A. Molded, lathed and welded.</p> <p>B. Adjustable, if permanently fastened.</p> <p>C. Covered with grip tape.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>1.5.2a PAGE 13</p>

29	<p>An umpire should declare a "no-pitch" on which of the following occurrences?</p> <p>A. The pitcher pitches during a suspension of play.</p> <p>B. The base runner is called out for leaving the base too soon.</p> <p>C. The pitcher pitches before the base runner has returned to the base after a foul ball.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>6.2.4 PAGE 52</p>
30	<p>When an illegal pitch is called with a runner on base:</p> <p>A. All runners advance one base.</p> <p>B. The batter is awarded a ball.</p> <p>C. A warning will be issued to the pitcher.</p> <p>D. Both A and B.</p>		<p>6.2.1 PENALTY PAGE 52</p>
31	<p>Who can a pitcher take a signal from while on the pitcher's plate?</p> <p>A. The coach.</p> <p>B. A play card.</p> <p>C. The catcher.</p> <p>D. All the above as long as the pitcher pauses and simulates taking a signal from the catcher prior to bringing her hands together.</p>		<p>6.1.1b PAGE 49 POE PAGE 84</p>
32	<p>A team's lineup card must include all of the following, EXCEPT:</p> <p>A. First initial and last names.</p> <p>B. Jersey numbers.</p> <p>C. Position being played.</p> <p>D. Batting order of starting players.</p> <p>E. All of the above are required.</p>		<p>3.1.3 PAGE 30</p>
33	<p>The umpire shall immediately remove a player from the game who exhibits the following signs or symptoms of a concussion:</p> <p>A. Dizziness.</p> <p>B. Confusion.</p> <p>C. Headache.</p> <p>D. Loss of consciousness.</p> <p>E. All of the above.</p>		<p>3.3.9 PAGE 35 10.2.3k PAGE 82</p>
34	<p>Umpire jurisdiction begins:</p> <p>A. Upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field.</p> <p>B. Upon the arrival of two umpires within the confines of the field.</p> <p>C. When the pregame conference begins.</p> <p>D. Upon the conclusion of the pregame conference.</p> <p>E. Upon the arrival of one umpire to the facility/park/school.</p>		<p>10.1.2 PAGE 80</p>
35	<p>Which statement about a catch is correct?</p> <p>A. The fielder must have control and the release of the ball must be voluntary.</p> <p>B. If a ball strikes anything or anyone other than a defensive player while it is in flight, it shall be ruled a ground ball and not a catch.</p> <p>C. If a fielder catches a ball but drops it while transferring it to the throwing hand or in making a throw, the umpire shall still rule it a catch.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>2.9.2 PAGE 19 2.9.3 PAGE 19 2.9.5e PAGE 19</p>

36	<p>With the bases loaded and less than two outs, F4 is using ordinary effort to catch a pop-up. The correct call is:</p> <p>A. Infield fly is called by the umpire and the batter is out. B. Runners may not advance at any time. C. Only an infielder can catch an infield fly. D. If the ball is ruled foul, it still is an infield fly.</p>		<p>2.30 PAGE 23</p>
37	<p>B1 enters the batter's box on the right side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch. B1 disconcerts the pitcher by moving to the left-hand batter's box. The correct ruling is:</p> <p>A. Allow the pitcher to reset and continue to play. B. Allow the pitcher to reset and warn the head coach the next infraction would result in an out on the batter. C. The ball is dead immediately and batter is called out. D. An illegal pitch is called on the pitcher.</p>		<p>7.4.3 PENALTY PAGE 59</p>
38	<p>Any fielder, with or without the ball, may make a dead-ball appeal by verbally stating that the runner missed the base or left too soon.</p> <p>A. True B. False</p>		<p>2.1.3b(1) PAGE 16</p>
39	<p>A batting helmet is considered legal if it has:</p> <p>A. A surface with no dents or cracks. B. A non-glare surface. C. A mirror-like surface. D. Both A and B.</p>		<p>1.6.1 PAGE 12 1.6.5 PAGE 13</p>
40	<p>A slide is illegal if:</p> <p>A. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide into the fielder. B. The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position. C. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg. D. The runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder. E. All of the above.</p>		<p>2.52.2 PAGE 27</p>
41	<p>B1 steps up to the plate and after she hits two balls over the fence in foul territory, F1 requests to intentionally walk B1.</p> <p>A. The umpire allows B1 to be intentionally walked. B. The umpire informs F1 that the request for an intentional walk must come from the head coach. C. The umpire states that although F1, F2 or the defensive coach can request an intentional walk, it must be done prior to any pitches being thrown. D. The umpire informs F1 that an intentional walk cannot be requested once there are two strikes.</p>		<p>2.65.2 PAGE 29</p>
42	<p>Umpire jurisdiction ends at the conclusion of the game when:</p> <p>A. The umpires leave the field of play. B. The umpires leave the visual confines of the facility. C. The umpires are in the parking lot or school building. D. The third out is declared in the final half-inning. E. The umpires are sure no final appeal will be made.</p>		<p>7.1.2 NOTE PAGE 57</p>

43	<p>Which of the following statements about bats qualifies as an altered bat?</p> <p>A. Bats should be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges.</p> <p>B. Materials inside the bat or treatment/devices to alter bat specifications and/or enhance performances are prohibited.</p> <p>C. There is a minor nick or paint chip in the bat from metal cleats.</p> <p>D. None of the above.</p>		<p>2.4.2a PAGE 18</p>
44	<p>Which of the following conditions does not meet the definition of a damaged bat?</p> <p>A. Broken bat.</p> <p>B. A bat with a crack or dent.</p> <p>C. A bat with a rattle.</p> <p>D. A bat without a proper certification mark.</p>		<p>1.5.1 PAGE 12</p>
45	<p>What is the proper penalty for a softball player who utilizes a damaged bat?</p> <p>A. The batter is out.</p> <p>B. The batter is out and restricted to the dugout.</p> <p>C. The batter is out and ejected.</p> <p>D. The bat is removed from play without penalty.</p>		<p>7.4.2 PAGE 59</p>
46	<p>A penalty shall be assessed when the pitcher:</p> <p>A. Exceeds five warm-up pitches between innings.</p> <p>B. Deliberately drops, rolls, bounces, etc. the ball while in pitching position preventing the batter from striking it.</p> <p>C. Throws to a base while still in contact with the pitching plate.</p> <p>D. All of the above.</p>		<p>6.2.1 PAGE 52 6.2.5 PAGE 53 6.2.7 PAGE 53</p>
47	<p>Prior to starting the delivery of a pitch, the pitcher must:</p> <p>A. Stand with her shoulders facing any direction.</p> <p>B. Have her hands together while stepping on the pitcher's plate.</p> <p>C. Make no contact with the top of the pitcher's plate.</p> <p>D. Take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.</p>		<p>6.1.1 PAGE 49</p>
48	<p>Who can detect a batter who enters the batter's box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat?</p> <p>A. Only the offensive team can report it.</p> <p>B. A fan.</p> <p>C. Only the umpire or the defense can detect it.</p> <p>D. Only the offensive coach can self-report.</p>		<p>7.4.2 PAGE 59</p>
49	<p>The responsibility for all players to be legally and properly equipped must be verified by:</p> <p>A. Head Coach.</p> <p>B. Player.</p> <p>C. Game management.</p> <p>D. Manufacturer of equipment used in the game.</p>		<p>3.5.1 PAGE 36</p>
50	<p>Which answer is NOT a type of appeal that may be made?</p> <p>A. Missing a base.</p> <p>B. Judgment calls.</p> <p>C. Leaving early on a caught fly ball.</p> <p>D. Batting out of order.</p>		<p>2.1.2 PAGE 15</p>