



2024 NFHS Softball Exam Part I

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.

1. B1 steps up to the plate and after hitting two balls over the fence in foul territory, F1 requests to intentionally walk B1.
 - 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.

2. R1 is caught in a rundown between third base and home. As R1 is attempting to return to third base, R1 is obstructed by F5 and subsequently tagged while off the base by F6. The correct call is:
 - A. Always an immediate dead ball when a runner is obstructed.
 - B. When a fielder obstructs a runner, the initial call is always a delayed dead ball. Once the obstructed runner is put out, it becomes a dead ball and the umpires shall award R1 the base that would have been reached had there been no obstruction.
 - C. R1 is awarded home.
 - D. The umpire will issue a warning to F5 and notify F5's coach.

3. After the lineup cards have been submitted to and verified by the plate umpire, the opposing coach has a player arrive late and wants to add that player to the lineup.
 - A. This is not permitted.
 - B. Players can be added to the lineup without penalty.
 - C. The umpire will add the player to the lineup and shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved.
 - D. The umpire will add the player to the lineup and restrict the coach to the dugout/bench area for an incorrect lineup card.

4. A1 is Team A's pitcher in the fourth inning. A11 is brought in as a relief pitcher in that inning. Team A's coach wants to re-enter A1 in the fourth inning as the pitcher. The correct call is:
 - A. This is a legal substitution with no warm-up pitches allowed.
 - B. This is legal and the pitcher can have five warm-up pitches.
 - C. This is not a legal substitution.
 - D. Team A can substitute A1 as pitcher as many times as it wants in the inning.

5. The DP may be substituted for at any time by:
 - A. A legal substitute.
 - B. The FLEX playing offense.
 - C. Anyone else in the batting order.
 - D. A and B only.
 - E. A, B and C.

6. At the pregame conference, the home team coach informs the umpires that the fence in left field is only 180 feet and all balls hit over the fence will be a two-base award.
- A. This must be agreed to by the opposing coach.
 - B. This shall be a ground rule for the game since the home team coach provides the ground rules for the field.
 - C. The umpires will have no choice but to enforce the ground rule as the coach has instructed.
 - D. The umpires shall not permit a ground rule to supersede a rules book rule; any ball hit over the fence is a home run.
7. A delayed dead-ball situation occurs when the umpire interferes with the catcher who is attempting to throw a non-batted ball.
- A. True.
 - B. False.
8. It is an illegal pitch if:
- A. F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes the signal, steps on the pitcher's plate and immediately brings the hands together.
 - B. F1 is on the pitcher's plate, looks to the coach for a signal and then looks to F2 and simulates taking a signal before bringing the hands together.
 - C. F1 stands behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from the coach, steps on the pitcher's plate and simulates taking a signal from F2 before bringing the hands together.
 - D. F1's shoulders are in line with first base and third base, the ball is in the glove or hand and the hands are separated.
9. Which of the following is an infraction by the catcher:
- A. A catcher assumes a position outside the catcher's box before a pitch is released.
 - B. The catcher stands up to give signals to the pitcher.
 - C. The catcher throws the ball directly back to the pitcher after the pitch is delivered.
 - D. The catcher throws the ball around the infield after a strikeout.
10. With R1 on first base and B2 at the plate with a 1 ball-1 strike count, B2 moves to the front of the batter's box. As B2 fakes a drag bunt, B2 withdraws the bat and is struck by the pitch that is in front of the plate. In the umpire's judgment, the ball was prevented from entering the strike zone. What is the correct ruling?
- A. Umpire calls dead ball and awards B2 first base since B2 was hit by the pitch.
 - B. Umpire calls dead ball and credits B2 with a ball.
 - C. Umpire calls dead ball and charges B2 with a strike.
 - D. Umpire calls dead ball and declares B2 out.
11. As F1 starts the pitch, B1 requests time by stepping out of the box. The pitcher legally delivers the ball. What is the correct ruling?
- A. The umpire declares no pitch.
 - B. The batter is granted time and awaits the next pitch.
 - C. The pitch is called either a ball or strike depending upon the location of the pitch.
 - D. The umpire shall call a strike on the batter regardless of the location of the pitch.

12. R1 is on first base and attempts to steal second base. In the catcher's attempt to throw out R1, the throwing arm contacts the plate umpire. The throw is late and R1 reaches second base safely. The correct call is:
- A. This is a delayed dead ball. Since R1 reached second base safely, R1 is permitted to stay at second base.
 - B. This is an immediate dead ball. Because there was umpire interference, R1 must return to first base.
 - C. This is a delayed dead ball. Because there was umpire interference and R1 reached second base safely, R1 must return to first base.
 - D. There is no such thing as umpire interference. Therefore, R1 stays at second base.
13. A run does not score if a preceding runner is declared the fourth out for missing a base, and the defensive team selects that out to its advantage.
- A. True.
 - B. False.
14. B1 hits a high fly ball down the line to right field. F9, with both feet clearly in fair territory, reaches across the foul line in an attempt to catch the ball. While the ball is still in the air, completely over foul ground, the ball deflects off F9's glove and lands in fair territory. The correct call is:
- A. Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.
 - B. Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when F9 touched the ball.
 - C. Fair ball because after F9 touched the ball it landed in fair territory.
 - D. Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.
15. A coach will be restricted to dugout/bench for the remainder of the game for a second violation of the following:
- A. Player or substitutes entering the game unreported.
 - B. A lineup correction.
 - C. Team personnel using illegal equipment.
 - D. All of the above.
16. Team A's players are wearing red exposed upper-body undergarments but solid black playcards. F1 is wearing a playcard on the non-pitching arm. F3, who is the team's backup pitcher, is wearing a playcard on the non-glove arm. Which statement is correct?
- A. This is illegal. All playcards must be the same color as the exposed undergarments.
 - B. This is legal, provided the playcards are a solid color and not optic yellow.
 - C. This is legal. Only F1 has the restriction on placement of the playcard on the non-pitching arm. If F3 were to become the pitcher then F3 would be required to move the playcard to the non-pitching arm.
 - D. Both B and C are correct.
17. With no outs, B1 hits a deep line drive. Sliding into second base safely, B1 dislodges the base from its proper position. F4 tags B1 who is no longer in contact with the dislodged base. What is the proper ruling?
- A. B1 is out and ejected for dislodging the base.
 - B. B1 is out since B1 was legally tagged while not in contact with the base.
 - C. B1 is not out; a runner is not required to follow a base that has become dislodged.
 - D. B1 is out for interference as dislodging the base confused the defensive player.

- 18 . The umpire notices that several players on Team A have adornments in their hair. Which of the following are prohibited from being worn?
- A. F5 has a religious head covering without prior state association approval.
 - B. F3 has a bandanna as a hair covering, F4 is wearing a plastic visor.
 - C. F6 has beads braided into the hair.
 - D. F8 has 3-inch bobby pins being used for hair control.
- 19 . Which of the following requires state association approval prior to being allowed to be worn in a contest?
- A. Any head covering being worn for medical reasons.
 - B. Any religious head covering.
 - C. Any hard items braided into the player's hair.
 - D. A defensive player's face shield.
- 20 . Which of the following attire is not allowed to be worn in live-ball areas by coaches?
- A. A school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt.
 - B. Shorts that are school colors.
 - C. Cut-offs or any type of jeans.
 - D. Leg coverings including yoga pants/leggings that are khaki, black, white, gray or school colors.
- 21 . Which of the following is true about a damaged bat?
- A. A damaged bat is removed from the game without penalty when initially detected.
 - B. If a batter is discovered using a damaged bat that was previously removed from the game by an umpire, that batter is called out.
 - C. In addition to being called out for using a damaged bat that was previously removed from the game by an umpire, the offender and head coach are restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
 - D. All of the above.
- 22 . F1 is wearing an item on the pitching wrist that the umpire judges distracting. What is the proper penalty?
- A. An illegal pitch is ruled; a ball is awarded to the batter.
 - B. An illegal pitch is ruled; a ball is awarded to the batter and all runners are advanced one base.
 - C. The pitcher is required to remove the distracting item in order to continue to pitch.
 - D. The pitcher is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the contest.
- 23 . B1 bunts the ball in front of home plate. As B1 is running to first base, B1 is hit with the throw from F2. Which of the following is used in determining if the runner is out for interference?
- A. If either foot last contacted the ground completely outside of the 3-foot lane.
 - B. If the batter-runner's left foot is outside the 3-foot lane but is in the air at the moment the batter-runner is hit with the throw.
 - C. If the batter-runner was hit in fair territory.
 - D. If the batter-runner has both feet on the ground when hit with the throw.

- 24 . A fair ball is a batted ball that:
- A. Settles or is touched on or over fair territory between home and first base.
 - B. Touches first base.
 - C. While over fair territory, an offensive player interferes with a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball.
 - D. All of the above would result in a fair ball.
- 25 . B1 steps in the batter's box and the umpire immediately notices the batter is wearing jewelry. Which of the following is not allowed during play?
- A. Necklace.
 - B. Small stud earrings.
 - C. A standard watch.
 - D. All of the above are legal to wear during play.
- 26 . The umpire notices F6 is wearing a smartwatch on the playing field. Which of the following is true?
- A. Smartwatches are allowed as long as they are not used to communicate outside of the dugout.
 - B. Smartwatches are allowed to be worn even if they are used to communicate while outside of the dugout.
 - C. Smartwatches are not allowed to be worn.
 - D. No jewelry, including smartwatches, is allowed to be worn on the playing field.
- 27 . Bases are loaded in the bottom of the seventh inning and the score is tied 3-3. B4 hits a fair ball that clears the home run fence. What is the final score?
- A. The final score will be 7-3.
 - B. The final score will be 4-3.
- 28 . It is interference and the batter-runner shall be called out if the batter-runner:
- A. Interferes with a fielder attempting to make an initial play on a fair batted ball.
 - B. Interferes with a fielder attempting to field a fly ball over foul territory.
 - C. Makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base.
 - D. All of the above constitute interference.
- 29 . With one out, R1 on third base and R2 on first base, B4 hits an over-the-fence home run. R2 misses third base and the third-base coach grabs R2 and pulls the runner back to touch third base. What is the proper ruling?
- A. R2 is out for being physically assisted; R1 and B4's (as long as they legally score) runs would count.
 - B. Since the ball is in dead-ball territory, there is no violation and all three runs would score on the play.
 - C. All three runs would score, but the third-base coach should be warned to not physically assist runners.
 - D. R2 is out for being physically assisted and the play is dead. R1's run would score, but B4 would not be allowed to score.
- 30 . Which of the following shall be labeled on all softballs?
- A. COR.
 - B. Compression.
 - C. Both COR and Compression.
 - D. None of the above.

- 31 . Which of the following is true when a non-adult is warming up a pitcher?
- A. The non-adult catcher shall wear all of the catcher's gear, including shinguards, chest protector and an approved catcher's helmet/mask combination with a throat protector.
 - B. The non-adult catcher will be a player who is a legal substitute and has not yet entered the game.
 - C. The non-adult catcher must wear an approved helmet/mask combination with a throat protector. A batting helmet does not qualify as an approved catcher's helmet/mask combination with a throat protector.
 - D. None of the above.
- 32 . Where is it permissible to obtain information from that is reviewed in the dugout for coaching purposes during the game?
- A. In the dugout.
 - B. From a spectator in the stands.
 - C. Camera mounted on the catcher's helmet.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. A and B only.
- 33 . R1 is standing on third base when the pitcher receives the ball in the circle with feet partially outside the line of the circle. R1 takes two steps toward home plate and stops. R1 is:
- A. Safe.
 - B. Out.
 - C. Runner can stop and then continue home.
 - D. Runner can return to third.
- 34 . Team A's school colors are purple and gold. What color ribbons may the players wear?
- A. Players may wear gold ribbons.
 - B. Players may wear gold or purple ribbons.
 - C. Players may wear any color ribbons.
 - D. Players may wear ribbons only with state association approval.
- 35 . Which of the following locations can a pitcher wear a wristband with a playbook/playcard?
- A. Pitching arm.
 - B. Non-pitching arm.
 - C. Belt.
 - D. All of the above.
- 36 . At the end of the sixth inning, the home team is leading 8-5. In the top of the seventh inning, the visiting team scores four runs. During the bottom half of the seventh inning, after two batters reach base but no runs have been scored, the game is halted because of rain.
- A. The visiting team wins by a score of 9-8.
 - B. The home team wins by a score of 8-5.
 - C. Since the seventh inning has not been completed, it is not a regulation game and will be called a "no game."
 - D. The game is suspended.

- 37 . During the act of pitching, which movement is not legal?
- A. The pitcher drags the pivot foot away from the pitcher's plate maintaining contact with the ground.
 - B. The pitcher steps back off the pitcher's plate keeping both hands together and makes the first step back with either foot. Once completely off the pitcher's plate, the pitcher separates the hands.
 - C. The pitcher replants the pivot foot before the act of delivering the pitch.
 - D. While the pitcher is pushing off from the pitching plate, both feet disengage from the ground.
- 38 . A pitcher touches a towel containing an approved drying agent in a back pocket then goes directly to the ball. What is the proper ruling?
- A. Illegal pitch, must wipe hand before going to the ball.
 - B. Ball should be removed from play and pitcher is warned.
 - C. Legal, approved drying agents do not have to be removed from hands.
 - D. Illegal, no drying agents can be used in NFHS softball.
- 39 . A strike is charged to the batter when:
- A. A penalty strike is called because a batter delays.
 - B. A batted ball contacts the batter in the batter's box (foul ball).
 - C. A pitched ball 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).
 - D. All of the above.
- 40 . An on-deck batter may not warm up with more than:
- A. One bat.
 - B. Two bats.
 - C. Three bats.
 - D. NFHS rules do not address this issue.
- 41 . R1 is on second base. The batter has a count of two balls and one strike. The pitcher pitches a ball not in the batter's box and the batter intentionally strikes the ball with their elbow. What is the call?
- A. Dead ball, award batter first base.
 - B. Dead ball, award batter first base and R1 third base.
 - C. Dead ball, batter remains in the batter's box and the count is three balls and one strike.
 - D. None of the above.
- 42 . In the first inning, the umpire notices that the pitcher has a glove with an optic marking on the inside of the glove that gives the appearance of a softball.
- A. The pitcher shall be restricted to the bench for using illegal equipment.
 - B. The pitcher will be allowed to finish the inning before replacing the glove.
 - C. The pitcher can switch the glove with a teammate already playing defense.
 - D. The glove shall be replaced immediately or may use the glove if the optic marking is modified to no longer give the appearance of the ball.

- 43 . In fast pitch softball, all bats shall meet the ASA/USA Softball Bat Performance Standard and have what certification marks?
- A. 2000, 2004 or the USA Softball All Games.
 - B. 2004.
 - C. 2000, 2004 or 2013.
 - D. None of the above.
- 44 . With the bases loaded and less than two outs, F4 is using ordinary effort to catch a pop-up. The correct call is:
- A. "Infield fly if fair" is called by the umpire and if the ball remains fair 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.
- 45 . Which statement about a catch is correct?
- A. The fielder must have control and release of the ball must be voluntary.
 - 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.
 - C. If a fielder catches a ball but drops it while transferring to the throwing hand or in making a throw, the umpire shall still rule it a catch.
 - D. All of the above.
- 46 . With R1 on third base, R2 on second base and one out, B4 hits a deep fly ball to F9 that is caught. R1 leaves the base before F9 first touches the ball, but R2 legally tags. Both R1 and R2 score as F9's throw is off target. Before the next pitch, the opposing team appeals that R1 left early. What is the correct ruling?
- A. R1 is declared out for the third out and R1's run is negated, but R2's run counts since R2 scored prior to the appeal.
 - B. Since F9's throw was off target, both R1 and R2 would have scored easily so both runs count.
 - C. R1 is declared out for the third out and R1's run is negated. R2's run counts since the only appeal that would negate a run is missing a base.
 - D. R1 is declared out for the third out of the inning. Since the third out was an appeal of the lead runner, neither run scores.
- 47 . A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should:
- A. Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases.
 - B. Call a dead ball and award the batter a home run.
 - C. Call a dead ball and award the base the umpire judges would have reached had the ball not become wedged in the fence.
 - D. Award the batter the base the batter was closest to when the ball became wedged in the fence.
- 48 . Which action is not legal for a courtesy runner?
- A. The courtesy runner has not participated in the game.
 - B. The courtesy runner runs for the pitcher only.
 - C. The courtesy runner runs for the catcher only.
 - D. The courtesy runner becomes a substitute in the same half-inning they were a courtesy runner.

- 49 . 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:
- 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.
- 50 . Umpire jurisdiction begins:
- A. Upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field.
 - B. Upon the arrival of two umpires within the confines of the field.
 - C. When the pregame conference begins.
 - D. Upon the conclusion of the pregame conference.
 - E. Upon the arrival of one umpire to the facility/park/school.