

2018 NFHS Softball Exam - with answers

Question #1

A fair ball is a batted ball that first falls or is first touched on or over fair territory beyond first, second or third base.

- a. True **Rule 2-20-1f**
- b. False

Question #2

A slide is illegal if:

- 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. **Rule 2-52-2**

Question #3

All of the following are true regarding the catcher's box, EXCEPT:

- a. The catcher must be in the catcher's box from the time the pitcher steps on the pitcher's plate until she releases the pitch.
- b. The catcher's box is a rectangle.
- c. The catcher's box is 8 feet, 5 inches wide.
- d. The catcher's box is 10 feet deep.
- e. The catcher's box includes the area directly behind home plate, between the batter's boxes. **Rule 2-10-2**

Question #4

The umpire rules a catch and the batter is out if the:

- a. Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to throw to second base it drops out of the player's hand.
- b. Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to run the ball in to the infield it pops out of the glove.
- c. Left fielder catches a fly ball in the tip of the glove and it immediately pops out.
- d. A and B **Rule 2-9-3 and Case Book 2.9.2 Situation B Ruling last sentence**

Question #5

When the ball goes out of play, runners must be given the opportunity to complete their baserunning responsibilities before a dead-ball appeal is made.

- a. True **Rule 2-1-3b2**
- b. False

Question #6

The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches.

- a. True
- b. False **Rule 7-3**

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Question #7

All of the following team personnel are permitted outside the designated dugout/bench, EXCEPT:

- a. The batter.
- b. Runners on base.
- c. The on-deck batter.
- d. Defensive players.
- e. The coach giving defensive signals. – Rule 3-6-6

Question #8

A base coach may use a stopwatch while coaching at first or third base.

- a. True – Rule 3-6-10
- b. False

Question #9

Prior to the start of the game at the pregame conference, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying which of the following?

- a. The lineup card is correct.
- b. All players are legally equipped.
- c. Players and equipment are in compliance with all NFHS rules.
- d. A, B, and C. – Rule 3-5-1
- e. None of the above.

Question #10

A legal substitute may replace a courtesy runner on a base, but the substitute is actually replacing the pitcher/catcher in the lineup for whom the courtesy runner is running and the pitcher/catcher has left the game.

- a. True – Rule 8-9-2 Exception
- b. False

Question #11

The ball becomes dead in all of the following situations, EXCEPT:

- a. There is interference by a runner or retired runner.
- b. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
- c. An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.
- d. An illegal pitch is delivered. – Rule 5-1-1p
- e. The batter-runner steps backward toward home plate to avoid being tagged out.

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Question #12

The softball field includes an elevated cement step in front of each dugout. B1 hits a foul fly caught by F3 such that her right foot is on the ground completely in live-ball territory and her left foot is on the elevated cement step with half the foot on the step and the other half over live-ball territory but completely off the ground. What is the result of the play?

- B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is live and in play.
- Foul ball; the ball is dead and B1 remains at bat. – Rule 2-9-5d
- B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is dead.
- Foul ball; the ball is live and in play and B1 remains at bat.
- None of the above.

Question #13

All of the following are true regarding the FLEX player, EXCEPT:

- The FLEX is listed in the 10th position in the lineup.
- The FLEX may be substituted for by the DP playing defense.
- The FLEX may bat anywhere in one of the nine positions of the batting order. – Rule 12-3-1
- The FLEX may be replaced by a legal substitute at any time.
- When the FLEX is substituted for by the DP, the team is down to nine players.

Question #14

If the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX has left the game.

- True – Rule 2-57-1
- False

Question #15

The DP may be substituted for at any time by:

- A legal substitute.
- The FLEX playing offense.
- Anyone else in the batting order.
- A and B only. – Rule 2-57-1
- A, B and C.

Question #16

When the DP/FLEX option is used, the lineup may be reduced to nine and then returned to 10 any number of times.

- True – Rule 3-3-6d
- False

Question #17

A circle of what size shall be drawn around the pitcher's plate?

- 8 feet in diameter.
- 12 feet in diameter.
- 14 feet in diameter.
- 16 feet in diameter. – Rule 1-1-2d
- None of the above.

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Question #18

All fast pitch batting helmets must be equipped with a NOCSAE-approved face protector.

- a. True – Rule 1-6-6
- b. False

Question #19

All of the following are true regarding gloves/mitts, EXCEPT:

- a. Gloves shall be a maximum of two colors, excluding lacing and manufacturer's logo.
- b. Glove lacing shall not be the color of the ball.
- c. Gloves shall not be entirely optic in color.
- d. Gloves may have one American flag not exceeding 2 by 3 inches.
- e. Gloves may have markings that give the appearance of the ball on the outside, but not the inside. -Rule 1-4-1c

Question #20

All of the following are true regarding the knob of the bat, EXCEPT:

- a. It may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened.
- b. Devices, attachments or wrappings are permitted that cause the knob to become flush with the handle.
- c. It must protrude at a 90-degree angle from the handle. – Rule 1-5-2a
- d. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal.

Question #21

With R1 on first, B2 bunts a ball to F5 and both R1 and B2 advance safely. The defense protests the batter before the next pitch because B2 batted with a Reebok Vector that has holes in the taper part of the bat. B2 is declared out and R1 is put back on first base.

- a. True
- b. False – Rule 1-5-2c

Question #22

While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and immediately stops, must then return to first or attempt to advance to second base.

- a. True – Rule 8-7-4b
- b. False

Question #23

While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who rounds first base toward second base may stop, but then must immediately return to first or attempt to advance non-stop to second base.

- a. True – Rule 8-7-2
- b. False

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Question #24

All of the following are true regarding the ball rotation, EXCEPT:

- a. A pitcher has a choice of balls at the start of each half-inning if both balls have been in play.
- b. The unused ball must be put into play in the bottom of the first inning if it is not used in the top of the first inning.
- c. The ball in play should be returned to the 16-foot circle after every half-inning.
- d. The pitcher may possess both balls and choose the one she wants to start that half-inning. **Rule 6-5-1**
- e. None of the above.

Question #25

Which of the following is legal for a pitcher to use on the pitching hand?

- a. Tape on the contact points.
- b. Saliva.
- c. Powdered rosin or any comparable drying agent. **Rule 6-2-2**
- d. Any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thigh that the umpire judges to be distracting to the batter.
- e. All of the above.

Question #26

Exposed undergarments are considered part of the official uniform and shall be black, white, gray or a solid school color.

- a. True – **Rule 3-2-7**
- b. False

Question #27

At the pregame meeting, the head coach must list all team members on the team's roster.

- a. True – **Rule 3-1-3**
- b. False

Question #28

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 – **Rule 2-1-13**
- b. False

Question #29

The pitcher has her choice of balls at the start of each half-inning unless both balls do not get put into play in the first half of the first inning.

- a. True – **Rule 6-5-1**
- b. False

Question #30

A coach is not permitted to project a substitution.

- a. True -**Rule 3-3-3**
- b. False

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Question #31

It is legal for S1 to substitute for the starting pitcher F1 in the third inning, and then re-enter the original pitcher in the fifth inning in the same position in the batting order.

- a. True – Rule 3-3-2 note
- b. False

Question #32

An umpire's judgement involving fair/foul call or a safe/out call may be appealed by requesting assistance from another umpire.

- a. True
- b. False – Rule 10-1-4

Question #33

The plate umpire is responsible for ensuring that a team's bats and helmets are inspected.

- a. True
- b. False - Rule 10-2-3a has been removed as part of official requirement

Question #34

The plate umpire's pregame duties include which of the following:

- a. Inspect batting helmets, catchers' helmets and bats.
- b. Inspect the condition of the field.
- c. Define the dugout/bench areas.
- d. B and C only. – Rule 10-2-3a
- e. A, B, and C.

Question #35

Which of the following are appealable plays?

- a. Missing a base.
- b. Batting out of order.
- c. Leaving a base early on a caught fly ball.
- d. All of the above. – Rule 2-1-2

Question #36

All of the following statements about sliding are true EXCEPT:

- a. If a runner slides, it may be feet first or head first.
- b. In order to complete a legal slide, a runner must be able to touch the base with either her hand or foot.
- c. In order for a runner to avoid unnecessary contact, she is required to slide if a fielder has possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag. – Rule 2-52-1
- d. On an overslide, a runner may be tagged out if she does not remain in contact with the base.

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Question #37

B1 bats out of order and reaches first base. F1 then steps onto the pitcher's plate and commits an illegal pitch. The defense then appeals that B1 has batted out of order. What is the correct ruling?

- B1 is declared out and the next batter comes to the plate.
- B1 is replaced by the legal batter at first base.
- The defense can no longer appeal batting out of order since the infraction was not discovered prior to the next pitch. – Rule 7-1-2 Penalty 3
- The defense is allowed to appeal since the pitch was illegal and the player that B1 batted in place of is called out.

Question #38

B1 fails to promptly take her position in the batter's box within the 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch. What is the correct ruling?

- The umpire awards an additional five seconds and play continues.
- The umpire grants the batter time until she is ready for play to resume.
- The umpire declares the batter out for delaying the game.
- The umpire calls a strike on the batter. – Rule 7-3-1 Penalty

Question #39

The batter is standing in the batter's box when an inside pitch hits her in the knee completely in the batter's box. The proper call is:

- Dead ball and the batter is awarded first base. – Rule 5-1-1a
- Strike on the batter because she needs to make an effort to get out of the way of the pitch.
- Strike on the batter because the pitcher is entitled to throw over the inner part of the batter's box.
- None of the above.

Question #40

A coach cannot have which of the following items in the coaches box on the field?

- A stopwatch.
- A cell phone recording video. – Rule 3-6-10
- A tablet device being used as a scorebook.
- A scorebook.

Question #41

Each team, when on defense, is allowed how many charged conferences without penalty during a seven-inning game?

- One.
- Two.
- Three. – Rule 3-7-1
- Four.

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Question #42

Which action is not legal for a courtesy runner?

- a. She has not participated in the game.
- b. She runs for the pitcher only.
- c. She runs for the catcher only.
- d. She becomes a substitute in the same half inning she was a courtesy runner. – Rule 8-9-3

Question #43

After reaching base legally, a team has the option to use a courtesy runner for:

- a. The pitcher only.
- b. The catcher only.
- c. The pitcher and/or catcher. – Rule 8-9-1
- d. The team's slowest player as designated by the coach during the pre-game meeting.

Question #44

With no outs and R1 on second base, B2 is at bat with a two-ball, one-strike count. On the pitch, the ball contacts the jersey of B2 completely in the batter's box while R1 attempts to steal third base. The catcher throws to third base and R1 is tagged out. What is the correct ruling?

- a. Ball is live, R1 is out and batter has a three-ball, one-strike count.
- b. Ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base, R1 is out at third base.
- c. Ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base, R1 goes back to second base. - Rule 5-1-1a
- d. Live ball, only B2's jersey was contacted, not B2.

Question #45

A head coach who intends to utilize the DP/Flex option must alert the umpires and opposing team:

- a. Before that coach's team bats for the first time.
- b. Before that coach's team throws its first pitch on defense.
- c. During the exchange of lineup cards at home plate during the pregame conference. – Rule 3-3-6
- d. Before the DP's first at-bat.

Question #46

The correct pitching distance in NFHS fastpitch softball is:

- a. 38 feet.
- b. 40 feet.
- c. 43 feet. – Rule 1-1-2b
- d. 45 feet.

Question #47

Which statement about bats is correct?

- a. Bats should be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges.
- b. Materials inside the bat or treatment/devices used to alter bat specifications and/or enhance performances are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
- c. A nick or paint chip in the bat from metal cleats that does not extend into the laminations of the bat should not render a bat illegal.
- d. All of the above. - Rule 1-5-1

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Question #48

A small hole has naturally occurred in front of the pitching plate during the course of the game. On the pitch, the pitcher pushes off the plate with her pivot foot and loses contact with the ground as she drags across the hole. Her pivot foot, however, is no higher than the level plane of the ground around the hole as she delivers the pitch. What is the correct call?

- No call. The pitch is legal because in the umpire's judgment, the foot would have been in contact with the ground had the hole not been present. – **Rule 6-1-2c**
- No pitch, and the game is delayed until the hole can be repaired.
- Illegal pitch because the pivot foot is not touching the ground in the bottom of the hole.
- No pitch and the pitcher receives a warning. If the pivot foot fails to touch the ground in the bottom of the hole on future pitches, an illegal pitch will be called.

Question #49

It is an illegal pitch if:

- F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate and immediately brings her hands together. – **Rule 6-1-1b**
- 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 her hands together.
- 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 her hands together.
- F1's shoulders are in line with first and third base, the ball is in her glove or hand and the hands are separated.

Question #50

The game begins when the:

- Pre-game conference ends.
- Home team takes the field for warm-ups.
- Umpire calls "Play Ball." – **Rule 2-47-1**
- First pitch is thrown.

Question #51

When a coach makes a substitution during a game, the home plate umpire should report the substitution to:

- The opposing team's scorekeeper.
- The opposing team's head coach. – **Rule 3-3-3**
- The opposing team's captain.
- The opposing team's base coaches.

Question #52

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 of F9's glove and lands in fair territory. The correct call is:

- Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched. – **Rule 2-25d**
- Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when she touched the ball.
- Fair ball because after she touched the ball it landed in fair territory.
- Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.

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Question #53

Bases are loaded with two outs. B6 hits a deep fly ball that lands in the gap in right center field. R3 tries to score from first base. Which of the following timing play statements are applied correctly?

- B6 is tagged out at second base before R3 touches home plate. R3's run would not count.
- B6 slides past second base and R3 touches home before the tag on the overslide. R1, R2 and R3's runs would each score since they occurred prior to the third out being made.
- R1, R2, R3 all touch home plate with B6 on first. During the dead ball, F1 correctly appeals R3 missing second base. This is not a timing play so R3 becomes the third out. No runs would count on this play.
- All of the above. – **Rule 2-63**

Question #54

R1 is caught in a rundown between third base and home. As R1 is attempting to return to third base, she is obstructed by F5 and subsequently tagged while off the base by F6. The correct call is:

- The call is always an immediate dead ball when a runner is obstructed.
- 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 she would have reached had there been no obstruction. - **Rule 8-4-3a**
- R1 is awarded home.
- The umpire will issue a warning to F5 and notify her coach.

Question #55

Which of the following situations involving a bunt occurring on a third strike is correct?

- A batter whose third strike bunt attempt ends up a foul ball will be called out.
- An attempted bunt can never be ruled an infield fly.
- A batter whose foot is touching home plate when the bat makes contact with a pitched ball will always be called out (whether the ball is hit fair or foul).
- All of the above. – **Rule 7-4-9 and others**

Question #56

State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for the following reasons:

- Inclement weather.
- Religious reasons.
- Different styles and colors due to budget restrictions.
- A and B. – **Rule 3-2-1**

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Question #57

With the ball in the circle in F1's possession, and there is no attempt by F1 to make a play on a base runner, when is the runner declared out based on the look-back rule?

- The batter-runner is safe at first base on a dropped third strike. She overruns first base and turns to the right. Seeing no fielder near second base, she runs toward second where she is safe. – Rule 8-7-4
- The batter-runner gets a base hit and rounds first base and comes to a complete stop. She then returns to first base.
- The batter-runner who gets an infield hit and overruns first base toward right field turns left, stops and then advances to second base.
- The batter-runner gets a base hit and overruns first base toward right field, turns left and moves toward the infield in any direction except toward second base, then returns to first base.

Question #58

B1 hits a dribbler a few feet down the first-base line. F2 fields the ball and doesn't throw because B1 is outside the running lane and in the way of a potential throw.

- Plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.
- Plate umpire indicates the ball is fair. There is no interference by B1. – Rule 8-2-6
- Plate umpire signals delayed dead ball. At the end of the play, if the umpire judges that F2 could have made an out, call B1 out for interference.
- Plate umpire calls dead ball and issues a warning to the offense for being outside the running lane.

Question #59

Bases are loaded with no outs, with a one-ball, one-strike count. B4 hits a ground ball. As F4 is fielding the ball, R3 collides with her. What is the correct ruling?

- The ball is dead and R3 is out. All other runners return to their bases and B4 returns to bat with the same count.
- R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play, the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. R1 and R2 advance at their own risk.
- Since R3 was in the baseline there is no interference, and all runners advance at their own risk.
- The ball is dead and R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. If not, B4 is awarded first base. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference. – Rule 8-2-11

Question #60

With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a ground ball on the first-base side of the infield. F4 moves into the baseline to make an initial play on a batted ball. R1, using normal movement, alters her base path going either behind or in front of F4 to avoid contact with F4 fielding the ball. The correct call is:

- The umpire signals obstruction on F4 for causing R1 to alter her path. Awarding the base to R1 would have achieved had it not been for the obstruction on F4.
- If R1 runs in front of F4, the umpire should signal dead ball and call interference because R1 is never allowed to run in front of F4 when she is making an initial play on a batted ball.
- R1's movement is to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a batted ball, so as long as in the umpire's judgment there is not interference, this is a legal play. -Rule 8-8-1
- R1 is called out because she is not allowed to alter her base path. She must stop to avoid contacting F4 making the initial play on a batted ball.

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Question #61

With one out, R1 on third base and R2 on second base, B4 hits a fly ball on the first-base side of second base almost directly at F4. As R2 takes a couple of steps toward third base, she makes contact with F6, who is moving toward the batted ball.

- The umpire signals and verbalizes "dead ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make an initial play on a batted ball.
- The umpire signals and verbalizes "dead ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make a live-ball appeal of R2 leaving early if the fly is caught.
- The umpire makes no call; this is nothing more than a "train wreck" with both players doing what they were supposed to do.
- The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes "Obstruction." F6 is guilty of obstructing R2. - **Rule 8-1-1d**

Question #62

In which instance is the runner NOT declared out for interference?

- The coach near third base runs toward home plate near the baseline while a fielder is making a play on a batted ball and draws a throw to home.
- The runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a fair batted ball.
- The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while standing on second base. - **Rule 8-6-11**
- The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while not in contact with a base and before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher.

Question #63

At the end of the top of the first inning, it is discovered that the pitcher's plate is set at the wrong distance.

- After the plate is set at the correct distance, the half-inning is replayed.
- Allow the bottom of the inning to be played before the correction is made.
- Make the correction immediately. - **Rule 1-1-9**

Question #64

Regarding the taper of a softball bat, which statement is NOT in compliance with the current rules?

- The taper connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.
- The taper of a bat is defined as having a solid surface. - **Rule 1-5-2c**
- The taper shall have a conical shape since it connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.
- All are correct statements.

Question #65

Team A's pitcher has a pink digital camouflage arm sleeve on her pitching arm extending from her uniform top all the way down to her wrist. The ruling should be:

- Legal, sleeves are not covered in NFHS softball rules.
- Legal, as long as it does not contain any of the opposing team colors.
- Illegal, the sleeve must be removed or covered. Sleeves must follow the same color restrictions as exposed undergarments. They must be a single solid color: black, white, gray or school color. - **Rule 3-2-7b**
- Illegal, sleeves are not allowed to be worn.

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Question #66

A batting helmet shall be worn by offensive personnel while:

- The ball is live and the player is in live-ball territory.
- The on-deck batter is in the on-deck circle and the ball is live.
- Base runners are on base, the ball is live and they are in live-ball territory.
- All of the above. – Rule 1-6-2

Question #67

An intentional walk can be granted:

- After the first pitch has been thrown to the batter.
- Before any pitches are thrown.
- When the defensive coach, pitcher or catcher makes the request.
- By any defensive player.
- A, B and C. – Rule 2-65-2

Question #68

Wristbands with a playbook/playcard attached:

- Are considered equipment.
- Can be worn if a single solid color, other than optic yellow.
- Are permissible when worn on the non-pitching arm.
- All of the above. – Rule 3-2-7c exception

Question #69

Which of the following is not a responsibility of the umpire during pregame?

- Verifying the field is properly marked.
- Reviewing the lineup cards.
- Reviewing the ground rules.
- Checking all equipment. – Rule 3-2-15

Question #70

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?

- No warm-up is permitted.
- She is entitled to eight warm-up pitches.
- The pitcher determines when she is properly warmed up.
- The umpire is authorized to determine how many warm-up pitches are permitted. – Rule 6-2-5 note 2

Question #71

Which of the following would be an illegal pitch?

- A step backwards is taken after the hands have come together but prior to the start of the pitch.
- Once the pitch has started, the pitcher takes no more than one step forward.
- The hands come together and apart, then together again while standing on the pitching plate. – Rule 6-1-2
- 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.

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Question #72

A batter may be awarded first base when:

- A fair batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment or clothing of an umpire or a runner.
- A pitched ball entirely within the batter's box strikes her clothing.
- 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.
- All of the above. – Rule 8-1-2**

Question #73

What factors should umpires consider in determining when to leave the field at the end of the game?

- Leave the field before all fielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position.
- Return to the field after they have left to make every attempt to get the call right.
- When teams line up to shake hands following the completion of the game. – Rule 10-1-2**
- Umpires should remain on the field to watch for unsporting behavior by either team in the handshake line.

Question #74

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:

- The umpire shall declare the batter who should have batted out.
- All outs stand and runners who were not declared out must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- 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.
- All of the above. – Rule 7-1-2 penalty 2**

Question #75

There are how many types of appeals?

- Two.
- Three.
- Four. – Rule 2-1-2**
- Five.

Question #76

Which situation is not an appeal play?

- The batter-runner legally overruns first base, attempts to run to second and is legally touched while off base.
- An offensive team member, other than another runner, physically assists the runner. – Rule 2-1-2**
- The runner fails to touch home plate.
- The runner leaves a base to advance to another base before a caught fly ball, provided the ball is returned to the infield and is properly appealed.

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Question #77

A base runner establishes her own base path when she is not being played upon.

- a. True - **Rule 32-3-2 note**
- b. False

Question #78

R1 is on first base when B2 hits a ground ball. R1 crashes into F4, in the base path, as she attempts to gain control of a batted ball which is within a step and a reach of the spot of initial contact. The correct call is:

- a. **R1 has committed interference. – Rule 2-32-1**
- b. When F4 fails to gain control of the batted ball, the umpire will give the delayed dead-ball signal and wait to see what happens.
- c. Because F4 was in the runner's base path, F4 is always charged with obstruction.
- d. There is no call since R1 and F4 could not reasonably avoid contact. If judged unintentional the play is allowed to continue.

Question #79

R1 is on first base with one out. B2 hits a long fly ball to left field. The ball is over foul territory when first touched and is dropped by F7. On the fly ball, R1 touched second base and was moving to third as the ball was dropped. R1 shall:

- a. Retrace her path retouching second base before returning to first.
- b. Be awarded second base, as it was legally achieved while the ball was over fair territory.
- c. **Return to first base with or without retouching bases since it is ruled a foul ball. – Rule 5-1-1d**
- d. Retouch first base before the ball gets to the pitching circle.

Question #80

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. – Rule 8-3-7**
- c. R1 is out.
- d. Neither runner is out.

Question #81

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. – Rule 8-10-2**

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Question #82

There are two outs and R1 is on second base. B4 strikes out but F2 drops the ball. B4 is able to reach first base while F2 chases down the ball. F2 then overthrows third base as R1 is advancing and the ball bounces over the fence in foul territory. What is the correct procedure for advancement of the runners?

- R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded second base.
- R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded third base. – Rule 8-4-3f penalty**
- R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded first base.
- R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded second base.

Question #83

Which statement about baserunning is NOT correct?

- R1 was stealing second when B2 hit a deep fly ball to left field. R1 rounds second before she realizes she needs to go back and tag up. She re-tags second and gets back to first, after F7 touches the ball, R1 may legally attempt to advance.
- B4 hits a clean extra-base hit to the left field fence. B4 misses third base while rounding and advances toward home and scores. While B4 is heading to her dugout, F5 tags third for a live-ball appeal. The base umpire calls B4 out on the appeal.
- All runners must remember to re-touch bases in reverse order, even when returning after a foul ball. – Rule 8-3-2**
- Bases loaded, no outs, B4 hits a double and all runners score. After the play, the defense makes a verbal dead-ball appeal that R3 missed second. The base umpire calls R3 out. Result of the play is two runs, one out and a runner at second.

Question #84

Which statement is NOT an example of interference?

- Batter-runner running outside the 3-foot lane interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
- The batter-runner makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base.
- The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out. – Rule 2-32-1**
- The batter-runner remains in the batter's box on a play at home plate in order to prevent an obvious out.

Question #85

B1 bunts a ball that bounces off the plate and rolls in front of the plate. As B1 runs toward first base she has one foot partially touching the foul line and the other foot completely in the running lane. F2 fields the ball and her throw to first base contacts B1. The correct call is:

- F2 is ejected for unsporting behavior.
- B1 is out for interference.
- B1 can choose to use either the white or orange base.
- This is a legal play. B1 is safe at first base if she reaches the base before being put out. – Rule 8-10-2c**

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Question #86

B1 bunts the ball. The first baseman fields the ball and prepares to tag out B1 as she runs toward first base. B1 stops and steps back toward home plate to avoid the tag. The correct ruling is:

- Live ball. This is a legal play.
- Dead ball. The batter is out and runners return to the last bases touched at the time of the infraction. – **Rule 8-2-5**
- Live ball. The batter is out but runners can advance.
- Dead ball. The batter is out and runners are awarded the closest base at the time dead ball is called.

Question #87

B1 hits a dribbler in front of the plate and a few feet down the first-base line. F2 fields the ball and doesn't throw because B1 is outside the running lane and in the way of a potential throw.

- The plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.
- The plate umpire lets the play stand as there is no interference on B1. – **casebook 2-31-1 situation B**
- Plate umpire lets the play stand and signals obstruction on F2.
- Plate umpire calls dead ball and obstruction on F2.

Question #88

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:

- B3 is declared out.
- B2 replaces B3 and assumes the 3 ball-2 strike count. – **Rule 7-1-1**
- B3 is allowed to finish the at-bat.
- B2 replaces B3 and starts with a new count since she hasn't received any pitches.

Question #89

In which of the following situations is the batter out?

- 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.
- A bunt on the third strike is foul.
- The batter throws her bat and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.
- All of the above. – **Rule 7-4-1 and 7-4-9**

Question #90

R1 is on first base. B2 hits a pitch to F6 with one foot touching the ground completely outside the batter's box. F4 obstructs R1 advancing to second base. The correct ruling is:

- Delayed dead ball. B2 is out but R1 is awarded second base for F4 obstructing.
- Dead ball. B2 is out and R1 must return to first base. – **Rule 7-4-8**
- Delayed dead ball. B2 is out and R1 advances at her own risk.
- Dead ball. B2 is out. R1 is awarded second base if F4's obstruction occurred before B2 contacted the ball.

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Question #91

R1 is at third base. B2 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to first base. B2 touches the white portion and collides with F3 who is standing on the white portion about to receive the ball. The correct ruling is:

- B2 is out but R1 will advance on the play.
- B2 may run to the white base and is safe if she beats the ball.
- Since B2 was running to the white base, F3 must use the colored base.
- The ball is dead, B2 is out, and R1 must return to the last base touched at the time of infraction. –

Casebook 8-10-1 Situation B

Question #92

R1 is on third base and the infielders are playing in for a potential play at the plate. B2 hits a ball sharply down the third-base line that passes F6 before striking R1, while she is standing on third base. The correct call is:

- An immediate dead ball for hitting R1. Award B2 first base and leave R1 on third base.
- An immediate dead ball for hitting R1. Award B2 first base and call R1 out.
- An immediate dead ball for hitting R1. Call both R1 and B2 out.
- Make no immediate call because the ball is live. – **Rule 8-8-13**

Question #93

The batter is out when:

- She hits the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the plate. – **Rule 7-4-8**
- She bunts on the second strike.
- Any strike is caught by the catcher.
- 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.

Question #94

The on-deck batter shall not commit interference with the defensive team. Which statement is correct?

- When the interference is with a thrown or pitched ball, the runner closest to home is out.
- If no play is obvious then no player is out, but the runners must return to the last base touched at the time of interference.
- When interference is with a fair batted or foul fly ball, the batter is out.
- All of the above. – **Rule 3-5-5**

Question #95

The plate umpire notices that B1 steps into the batter's box with an altered bat.

- The umpire shall wait for an appeal from the defensive team.
 - The umpire shall penalize a strike on the batter.
 - The umpire shall declare B1 out and remove the bat. B1 and the head coach are both ejected. –
- Casebook 3-6-1 Situation (a)**
- There is no penalty until B1 hits the ball.

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Question #96

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?

- Rolling the wrist and swinging through the pitched ball is considered an attempt.
- If the bat is drawn back before the pitch gets to the bat, it is not an attempt.
- Holding a bat in the strike zone is not a strike nor an attempt to swing. – Casebook 7-2-1 Situation B Ruling**
- The batter makes an attempt to hit the pitch.

Question #97

Which of the following would result in a coach being in violation of bench and field conduct rules?

- Entering behind the catcher while the opposing pitcher and catcher are in their positions.
- Being outside the dugout while his/her team is on defense.
- Having objects other than scorekeeping and stopwatch devices in the coach's box.
- All of the above. – Rule 3-6-6**

Question #98

A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should:

- Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases. – Rule 5-1-1f4 and 8-4-3h**
- Call a dead ball and award the batter a home run.
- Call a dead ball and award the base the umpire judges she would have reached had the ball not become wedged in the fence.
- Award the batter the base she was closest to when the ball became wedged in the fence.

Question #99

The NFHS Authenticating Mark shall be on each softball.

- True– Rule 1-3-8**
- False

Question #100

During the pregame conference with coaches and umpires, a team may take its turn at infield practice.

- True
- False - Rule 4-1-2a**