

**NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
RULES EXAMINATION – 2016**

ALL FIELDS REGULATION - 2 UMPIRE SYSTEM
GIRLS FAST PITCH RULES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

Read the statement EXACTLY as written. IF ANY PART of the statement is false, mark it false.

ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:

1. When an outfielder throws the ball out of play, the runner is always awarded the base she is going to plus one extra base.
2. The Flex may never play offense only.
3. When the batter-runner is entitled to advance to 1st base, she is out and the ball is dead if she fails to advance to 1st base and enters the team area.
4. The batter-runner is out if she abandons her effort to advance to 1st base and leaves the home plate area.

MORE ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:

5. The batter-runner is out when an infielder intentionally drops a ball bunted in the air with at least 1st base occupied and fewer than two outs.
6. The batter is out when she contacts a pitch and any part of her foot is touching the ground outside of the batter's box.
7. The starting pitchers will receive eight warm-up pitches before the 1st inning and five warm-up pitches in all subsequent innings.
8. Only active roster players may warm-up a pitcher between innings.

EVEN MORE ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:

9. The pitcher may not release the ball with her palm facing the ground.
10. The pitcher may not contact her hip with the ball on the delivery motion.
11. Although unconventional, the pitcher may elect to deliver a pitch flat-footed without taking a step.
12. The pitcher must release the pitch the first time the ball passes her hip.

YET EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:

13. If an illegal pitch hits the batter, the batter is awarded 1st base and only runners forced to advance receive one base.
14. To measure a proper starting distance from 1st base, the base umpire should measure 6-7 steps (18-21 feet) from 1st base.
15. The batter-runner is out and so is the runner when the batter-runner interferes with a play at home plate to prevent an out.
16. The batter-runner is out when a declared infield fly falls untouched in fair territory and settles in foul ground beyond 1st or 3rd base.

ABOUT NEW RULES & OFFENSIVE BATTING HELMETS

17. All batting helmets must be equipped with chin straps.
18. In addition to being NOCSAE approved, all batting helmets must contain an exterior warning label.
19. Batting helmet masks are not mandated but are still allowed.
20. A batter may bat with her chin strap unfastened.

ABOUT NEW RULES & ON-DECK BATTERS:

21. It is not mandatory that the on-deck circle be occupied by the next batter.
22. The on-deck batter may use either on-deck circle.
23. If the pitcher is scheduled to bat next another player may occupy the on-deck circle providing the pitcher is immediately prepared to come to the plate.
24. The on-deck batter may not leave the circle and approach the home plate area to signal to a runner attempting to score.

ABOUT RECENT NEW RULES:

25. If a bat is not marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL it may not be used.
26. Ball caps and visors are optional for players.
27. Ball caps or visors may be worn by team players.
28. Chin straps on batting helmets are not mandatory but are still allowed.

ABOUT APPEAL PLAYS:

29. Batting out of order is an appeal play.
30. A request by the plate umpire to a base umpire about whether a batter swung at a pitch is not an appeal play.
31. It is not an appeal play when a runner is doubled off a base after a caught fly ball.
32. It is not an appeal play when the catcher after missing a tag dives and tags a runner after the runner misses home plate.

ABOUT BATTER CONTACTING BALL ON FOLLOW THROUGH:

33. B1 batting with one strike is declared out for interference when she contacts the ball with her bat on her follow through swing because she is responsible for controlling her bat.
34. B1 batting with one strike is charged with a strike and the ball becomes dead after she contacts the ball with her bat on her follow through swing.
35. The ball is live and in play if B1 batting with one strike contacts the ball on her follow through swing.
36. The catcher is charged with catcher's obstruction when her glove is receiving the ball and B1's follow through swing strikes the ball and glove.

ABOUT RECENT RULE CHANGES - BATTING OUT OF ORDER:

37. The batting order is Alice, Betty, Cindy, Dana, etc. It is Alice's turn to bat, but Betty erroneously bats and hits a double. A proper appeal is made immediately following Betty's time at bat. The umpire declares Alice out, Betty is removed from base and the next proper batter is Betty.
38. The player that batted out of turn is declared out if a proper appeal is made before the next pitch.
39. Any runner who is called out prior to the discovery of batting out of order remains out.

40. When a proper appeal is made, runners called out must return to the last bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

ABOUT THE DOUBLE 1st BASE:

41. F6's offline throw pulls F3 into foul territory. F3 secures the ball in her glove and contacts the colored portion of the base before the BR reaches 1st base. BR is out.
42. BR beats the throw to 1st base but only contacts the white portion of 1st base *in violation* of the rule. The base umpire shall declare the BR out immediately.
43. After the BR reaches 1st base safely, she stands on the colored portion of the base to speak to the 1st base coach. The pitcher has possession of the ball in the circle and doesn't attempt to make on play. The base umpire shall declare the runner out.
44. The double 1st base is optional in modified school play.

ABOUT PITCHING DISTANCES:

45. For varsity play, pitchers may pitch at 40 ft. if both coaches agree
46. The pitching distance for modified school softball is either 40 or 43 feet.
47. For varsity play, the pitching distance is 43 feet.
48. For Frosh (freshman), the pitching distance is 40 feet.

ABOUT A BATTER'S DOUBLE HIT

49. B1 is out if after hitting a ball she again hits the ball in fair territory while holding her bat and one foot is completely out of the batter's box and touching the ground.
50. B1 is out after hitting a batted ball if she again hits the ball in fair territory while holding her bat when she is in the batter's box.
51. B1 squares to bunt. The bunted ball goes straight down, hits the plate and contacts the bat while the bat is still in the batter's hands and her feet are within the batter's box. The batter is out.
52. When B1 is called out for hitting a ball twice, other runners are returned to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch.

ABOUT THE LOOK-BACK (CIRCLE) RULE:

The following questions all assume that the look-back rule is in effect (*i.e.*, the pitcher has control of the ball in the circle after the batter-runner has reached 1st base).

53. BR walks and stops on 1st base. BR steps off of 1st base. BR is not out if she immediately returns non-stop to 1st base or advances non-stop to 2nd base.
54. A pitcher making a play on one runner is considered to be making a play on all runners.
55. R3 is on 3rd base. BR walks. BR rounds 1st base and continues non-stop toward 2nd base. BR stops one step before 2nd base. BR is not out if she immediately continues to 2nd base or returns to 1st base.
56. If BR overruns 1st base and starts back to the base, BR still may attempt to advance to 2nd base.

ABOUT FOUL TIPS:

57. A foul tip is a pitched ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's hand(s) or glove/mitt and is legally caught by the catcher.
58. Right-handed batter B1 bunts the pitched ball. The ball goes off the end cap of the bat. The catcher stretches out and dives to her right and catches the ball. This is a foul tip.
59. The ball is dead on a foul tip and any advancing runners must return to their original bases.
60. A foul tip may be caught by the catcher or any other fielder.

ABOUT PLATE UMPIRE MECHANICS:

61. The plate umpire's chin should never drop below the top of the catcher's helmet when calling balls and strikes.
62. The plate umpire will rule on all fair/foul decisions unless the base umpire on the foul line goes to the outfield to rule on a possible catch.
63. The plate umpire will make all calls at third base.
64. The base umpire will make all calls at home whenever the plate umpire covers third base.

ABOUT BASE UMPIRE MECHANICS:

65. Getting close to a play is more important than obtaining a proper angle.
66. When ruling on a catch in the outfield always turn and face the infield when announcing your decision.
67. Always agree with the plate umpire's decision when asked for help on a checked swing.
68. When a batter is struck with her batted ball near the plate and the plate umpire does not respond call, "Dead Ball!"

SELECT THE BEST ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION

D – DEAD BALL IMMEDIATELY

DD – DELAYED DEAD BALL

L – BALL ALIVE AND IN PLAY

69. At the time a batted ball is touched by a thrown glove.
70. A runner contacts a fielder who does not have a legitimate chance to make a play on a batted ball.
71. The base umpire knocks a runner down and the runner is tagged out.
72. R1 leaves 1st base prior to the release of the pitch.
73. A batted ball strikes a photographer who is assigned to the game.
74. After completing her swing, B1 is struck by a pitched ball.
75. R2 is declared out for a circle rule (look-back rule) violation.

76. B1 foul tips the ball while one foot is on the ground entirely outside the batter's box.

MULTIPLE CHOICE – SELECT THE BEST RESPONSE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

77. About declaring forfeits:

- A game is not forfeited if a player previously ejected for unsporting conduct is discovered playing in the game but the player is ejected from the game for a second time and is automatically suspended for two additional games;
- Only the umpire-in-chief may forfeit a game;
- The base umpire may forfeit a game but the umpire-in-chief must agree and may reverse the forfeit;
- Both the plate umpire and the base umpire have equal authority to forfeit a game.

78. Obstruction will be called:

- With R1 on 1st base, F3 stands directly in the baseline between 1st base and 2nd base.
- When F3, while holding the ball, stands in R1's basepath and tags her out.
- Whenever F2 and B1 collide after a batted ball.
- When, on a safe hit to the outfield, F6 impedes the progress of R1 about ten feet behind the baseline.

79. Interference occurs:

- Anytime the batter and catcher collide after a batted ball.
- Anytime the fielder contacts a runner.
- When a runner verbally distracts a fielder who is fielding a batted ball
- When a fielder not fielding a ball impedes a runner's progress.

80. R1 is attempting to steal 2nd base when the batter interferes with the catcher. The following ruling is correct:

- If R1 is put out, the ball remains alive and in play;
- R1 is out for the batter's interference;
- The Ball is dead and the batter is out;
- The defense has the option to have either R1 or the batter called out.

81. B1 hits a ground ball to F6 and beats the throw to 1st base. However, B1 steps completely over 1st base without touching the base. F3 leaps in the air to catch the ball and comes down with the ball on 1st base.

- The umpire will make no call
- B1 is out if the defensive team makes a proper appeal before B1 returns to 1st base
- The umpire will ask his or her partner for help
- The umpire will immediately declare B1 automatically out for missing 1st base

82. B1 is struck in the batter's box by a pitch on an inside tailing fast ball.

- B1 is awarded first base unless she intentionally moves into the pitch.
- B1 is charged with a strike if she allows the ball to strike her.
- B1 is not awarded first base if she 'freezes' and is struck by a pitch.
- B1 can be awarded first base even if she is charged with a strike.

83. On foul balls behind the plate, the plate umpire should:

- Immediately attempt to locate the ball by looking up (rip, spring and sprint)
- Observe the catcher's shoulders to determine which way she will turn so you may pivot out of the way
- Realize that catchers usually turn to their left, so umpires should move quickly to their right
- Call umpire interference if they bump the catcher

84. B1 steps into the batter's box while holding an altered or non-approved bat:

- B1 is declared out
- B1 is ejected from the game
- B1 is out only if she hits a fair or foul ball
- A and B are both correct

85. With R3 on 3rd base, B4 receives a base-on-balls and becomes a BR. The circle rule ("look-back rule") violation responsibility is divided between the umpires as follows:

- Plate umpire has both R3 & BR
- Base umpire has both R3 & BR
- Plate umpire has BR & base umpire has R3
- Plate umpire has R3 & base umpire has BR

86. When a runner's interference prevents a fielder from catching a routine fly ball with ordinary effort:

- Only the batter is out
- Only the runner is out
- Only a strike is charged to the batter if the ball is foul
- Both the runner and batter are out

LIST THE PROPER BASE AWARDED AFTER EACH QUESTION:

**FIRST BASE = 1
THIRD BASE = 3**

**SECOND BASE = 2
HOME = H**

87. R1 on 1st base is attempting to steal 2nd base. F2's careless throw strikes B3's bat and the ball goes out of play. R1 is awarded ____.

88. F2 carries the ball into the dugout to tag R3 who missed home plate. When F2 enters the dugout, the R1 is standing on 1st base. R1 standing on 1st base is awarded ____.

89. Batter hits a long fly ball to center field. The center fielder throws her glove and prevents the ball from going over the fence. The batter is awarded ____.

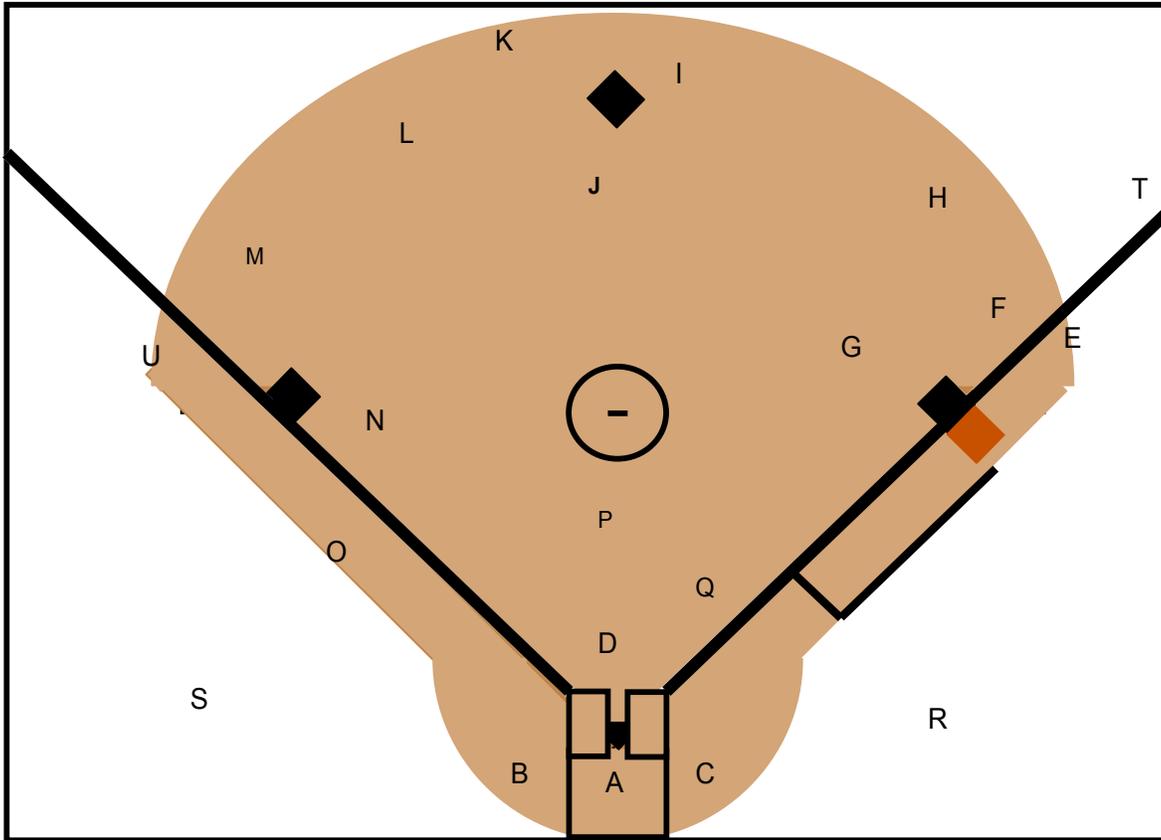
90. R2 on 2nd base. B3 is struck by an illegal pitch. R2 is awarded ____.

91. A fair batted ball deflects off of the fence and strikes the fielder before going over the fence. The batter is awarded ____.

92. B1 hits a shot down the right field line. The ball deflects off of the right fielder's glove. The BR has already passed 1st base when the ball goes out of play. BR is awarded ____.

93. R1 from 1st base is nearing 3rd base when B4's batted ball bounces over the center field fence. R1 is awarded ____ base.

94. R2 on 2nd base. F2 commits catcher's obstruction against B3, who misses the pitch. The penalty for catcher's obstruction is enforced. R2 is awarded ____ base.



Using the letters on the diagram above, select the BEST position for the umpire to judge the play. A letter may be used more than once.

BASE UMPIRE ONLY

95. R1 is on first base and R2 is on second base. There is a force out on R1 at second base.
96. No runners are on base. The batter hits a sinking drive between the right fielder and the right field line.
97. Runner on 1st base. Time of pitch.

PLATE UMPIRE ONLY

98. R2 from 2nd base attempts to score on B1's hit to right field. F2 catches F9's off-line throw three feet in fair territory and six feet up the 3rd base line.
99. R2 from 2nd base advances to 3rd base after a play at 1st base. No play at 3rd base occurs.
100. R1 is on 1st base. The ball is hit to right field. The play is on R1 at 3rd base. There is a short overthrow into foul ground. The play is now at the plate. What is the best calling position for the call at the plate?