



2018 SOFTBALL UMPIRES QUIZ



REFEREE | **NASO**

Sponsored by the National Association of Sports Officials and prepared by the editors of *Referee* magazine.

An overenthusiastic spectator touches a live ball. Where should the umpires place the runners?

See question 17.

Each of the following includes a situation and possible answers. Decide which one answer is correct for USA Softball, NFHS, NCAA or USSSA rules, which might vary. Unless noted, all questions refer to fast pitch. Answers on last page.
(Answers on last page.)

1 R1 occupies first base with no outs. R1 breaks with the pitch as B2 lines a ball that strikes F1 in flight and pops in the air. F1 catches the deflected ball and fires to F3 at first base.

- a. The out on R1 is a force out.
- b. The out on R1 is an appeal play.

2 Three-foot lane interference can occur:

- a. On a throw to the plate.
- b. On a throw to first base.
- c. When the fielder does not make a throw because she withholds her attempt.

3 Fast pitch. A media person wishes to be on the field during play.

- a. Authorized media may be on the playing field but must be mobile and carry equipment.
- b. Media are prohibited from live-ball area, but media may use a designated media area.
- c. No rules provisions.

4 R2 is on second. B3's ground ball deflects off F5's glove and is fielded by F6. With F6 in the baseline, R2 intentionally runs into F6 as she advances toward third base.

- a. That's obstruction by F6.
- b. That's interference; R2 is out.

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5 R2 is on second base when B2 singles. R2 touches home, but the third-base coach yells to R2 that she missed third base. While racing back to third, R2 is tagged out by F5.

- a. The out on R2 stands.
- b. R2's run counts.

6 Which of the following is not true regarding a declared infield fly situation?

- a. The infield fly rule should never be declared when an outfielder settles under a fly ball.
- b. If a declared infield fly is intentionally dropped by a fielder, the ball is live and in play.
- c. Any runner or runners may tag up and advance on a declared infield fly after the caught fly ball is touched by a fielder.

7 Fast pitch. B1 bats with the bases loaded and a 3-2 count. B1 holds her bat motionless in the strike zone and the pitch is high and outside the strike zone.

- a. The pitch is called a ball. B1 walks since B1 did not move the bat toward the ball.

b. B1 is considered to have made a bunt attempt. She is charged with a third strike if she does not withdraw the bat back and away from the ball.

8 Fast pitch. Lefty slap-hitting B1 runs out of the front of the batter's box and is struck by the pitch, preventing the ball from entering the strike zone.

- a. A dead-ball strike is ruled.
- b. No pitch is ruled unless B1 strikes at the pitch.

9 Fast pitch. When B1 is struck by a pitch, which is true?

- a. B1 is not awarded first base if she does not attempt to avoid the pitch.
- b. If the ball is entirely in the batter's box, B1 does not have to attempt to avoid being struck but she may not obviously try to get hit with the pitch.

10 Fast pitch. When F1 is ejected, which is true under the USA Softball, NFHS, NCAA and USSSA rules codes?

- a. F1 must leave the grounds and have no contact with the umpires

or participants in the game.

- b. F1 may remain in the dugout but may not communicate with an opponent or the umpires.
- c. F1 shall remain in the dugout/bench area.

11 Fast pitch. R1 occupies first base. R1 breaks for second on the pitch when B2 hits a looping fly ball to right. R1 holds up between first and second to see if F9 can make the catch. Meanwhile, B2 rounds first. With both R1 and B2 between first and second, F9 fields the ball on a short hop and fires toward first. The throw deflects off F3's glove and enters dead-ball territory.

- a. R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded third.
- b. R1 is awarded third and B2 is awarded second.
- c. R1 is awarded second and B2 is awarded first.

12 Fast pitch. R1 occupies first base. B2 hits a looping fly ball to right field. R1 touches and passes second as B2 rounds second. With both R1 and B2 between second and third, F9 fields the ball and fires toward third, but F5 loses control of the ball after

catching it and it enters dead-ball territory.

- a. R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded third.
- b. R1 is awarded third base and B2 is awarded second.

13 R1 is on first when B2 lines a shot to right field. F9 makes a spectacular catch. As R1 is attempting to return to first, F9 fires the ball over the fence behind first base.

- a. R1 is awarded second base.
- b. R1 is awarded third base.

14 Fast pitch. R1 is on first when B2 hits a hard smash off F1's leg. As F4 attempts to play the batted ball, R1 hinders F4's attempt to field the ball.

- a. R1 is out for interference.
- b. B2 is automatically out for R1's interference.
- c. R1 is out only if she intentionally interferes with F4.
- d. F4 could be charged with obstruction.

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15 Fast pitch. B1 hits a ground ball to F6, whose throw to first is low. F3 stops the ball so her glove is over the ball but the ball is touching the ground. B1 touches first base.

a. B1 is not out unless F3 raises her glove to show control of the ball before B1 reaches first base.

b. B1 is out if F3 demonstrates control of the ball by turning her glove upward either before or after B1 reaches first base.

c. B1 is out if the umpire rules F3 has secure possession of the ball.

16 Fast pitch. On a 1-1 pitch, B1 steps out of the batter's box after F1 releases her pitch to the plate.

a. The pitch shall be called a ball or a strike depending upon the location of the pitch.

b. B1 is charged with a strike.

c. The umpire will declare no pitch and begin play anew.

17 B1 hits a fair ball down the right-field line. With the ball bounding near the sideline fence, a spectator accidentally deflects the ball. After ruling the ball dead, the umpires award B1 third base based on their judgment that is the base she would have reached had the play proceeded as normal.

a. The umpires erred by ruling a dead ball because the spectator accidentally deflected the batted ball.

b. B1 is awarded two bases and is placed on second base.

c. The umpires are correct in awarding B1 third base.

18 R3 occupies third base with two outs. B1 hits a roller to F1, who flips the ball to F2 at the plate. R3 is ruled safe. F2 alertly fires to first base to retire B1 on a close play. The run scores.

a. True.

b. False.

19 It is an appeal play when:

a. R1 is doubled off first base after F6 catches a line drive and throws to F3 on first base before R1 returns.

b. R3 slides by home plate

without touching it and F2 immediately dives and tags R3.

c. After overrunning first base and taking two steps toward second, R1 is tagged before returning to first base.

d. All of the above.

e. Only a. and b.

20 Fast pitch. With no outs, R2 from second base attempts to steal third base. B1 moves in front of F2 in the batter's box and F2 withdraws her throw in fear of striking B1.

a. No problem because there was no contact between B1 and F2.

b. No problem because there was no throw.

c. Interference can be called even though F2 didn't complete a throw.



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ANSWERS

1

All - b

(USA 1-Appeal Play, 8-2C, 8-7F Effect-2); (NFHS 2-1-2b, 2-3a, 8-2-3 Effect, 8-6-6); (NCAA 1.1, 7.1.2.1.1, 12.5.2 Effect); (USSSA FP 8.17B, 8.18J, 9.1B, 9.2); (USSSA SP 8-4C, 3-Appeal Play, 8-5T Effect)

2

All - b

(USA 8-2E Effect; NFHS 8-2 Pen.; NCAA 12.2.8 Effect; USSSA FP 8.17E; USSSA SP 8-4I)

3

**USA,
NCAA - a**

(USA R/S 35); (NCAA 5.12)

NFHS - b

(1-1-7, 5-1-1-o)

USSSA FP - c

(No rules provisions)

4

All - b

(USA 8-7J-4 Effect); (NFHS 8-6-10d); (NCAA 12.8.5 Note 1 Effect); (USSSA FP 8.18H); (USSSA SP 8-5B)

5

All - b

(USA 5-5A-1); (NFHS 2-49, 9-1-1); (NCAA 6.1.2); (USSSA FP 4.2A); (USSSA SP 4-5)

6

All - a

(USA Rule 1 Infield Fly, 8-2K Effect-3); (NFHS 2-30, 8-2-9, 8-2-10 Pen.); (NCAA 11.17, 11.18); (USSSA FP 3. Infield Fly, 8.17H Effect, 8.17C Note); (USSSA SP 3-Infield Fly, 7.H Note, Effect, 7-J Effect)

7

USA - a

(R/S 10)

**NFHS, NCAA,
USSSA FP - b**

(NFHS 2-8-2); (NCAA 11.7.2.1); (USSSA FP 3-Bunt Attempted)

8

**USA, NFHS, USSSA
FP - a**

(USA Softball 7-4L Effect); (NFHS 7-2-1h); (USSSA FP 7-5B)

NCAA - b

(11.15.3.4)

9

USA Softball - a

(8-1F Effect, Exc.)

**NCAA, NFHS,
USSSA FP - b**

(NCAA 11.15.3.1 Effect; 7-3-2 Pen.); (NFHS 3-6-20); (USSSA FP 8.4D)

10

USA - a

(4-8B)

NCAA - b

(13.2 Effect)

NFHS, USSSA FP - c

(NFHS 3-6-20); (USSSA FP 12.2 Youth)

11

All - b

(USA Softball 8-5G Effect 2 Note); (NFHS 8-43f Pen.); (NCAA 9.11.1 Effect Note 3); (USSSA FP 8.14C-3 Note)

12

All - b

(USA Softball 8-5G Effect 2 Note); (NFHS 8-4-3f Pen.); (NCAA 9.11.1 Effect Note 3); (USSSA FP 8.14C-3 Note); (USSSA 8.14C-3 Note)

13

**USA, NFHS, NCAA,
USSSA FP - b**

(USA Softball 8-5G Effect 2); (NFHS 8-4-3f Pen.); (NCAA 9.11.1 Effect Note 1); (USSSA FP 8.14C-3)

USSSA SP - a

(8-7F Effect, 8-9D)

14

**USA, NCAA, USSSA
FP - c**

(USA Softball 8-7J Effect 4); (NCAA 12.19.2.1.4.5); (USSSA FP 8.18G, 8.18H)

NFHS - a

(2-47-3, 8-6-10a, 2.47.3B)

15

**USA,
NCAA - a**

(USA Softball 1-Catch); (NCAA 9.2.8)

NFHS - b

(2-9-5f, 2.9.5C)

USSSA FP - c

(3-Catch)

16

USA, NCAA - a

(USA Softball 7-3F Effect); (NCAA 11.2.2 Effect)

NFHS, USSSA - b

(NFHS 7-3-1, 7.3.1B); (USSSA 7.8)

17

All - c

(USA 8-2O, 8-5L); (NFHS 5-1-1g-1, 8-2-12 Pen., 8-4-3k Pen.); (NCAA 4.9 Effect); (USSSA FP 8.14E); (USSSA SP 9-3U Effect)

18

All - b

(USA 5-5B); (NFHS 9-1-1 Ex); (NCAA 6.2.3.1); (USSSA FP 4.2B); (USSSA SP 4-6A)

19

All - d

(USA 1-Appeals); (NFHS 2-1 Appeals); (NCAA 7.1 Appeals); (USSSA FP 9-Appeals); (USSSA SP 6-12 Effect; 8-5S Effect, 8-5T Effect)

20

All - c

(USA 7-6R, 7-6S, 7-6T Effect); (NFHS 7-4-4 Pen., Section 4); (NCAA 11.21.2 Effect); (USSSA FP 7.12 Pen.)