

UMPIRES QUIZ 2017

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There are multiple runners on base when the catcher obstructs the batter's swing. The batter still manages to hit the ball. Will you be able to sort out the subsequent playing action? See question 12 to test your rules knowledge.

In each of the following, you are given a situation and you may have more than one possible answer. Decide which answer or answers are correct for NFHS, NCAA and pro rules, which may vary. Solutions: p. 4.

1. With R1 on first and one out, B5 hits a shallow pop up to F4. B5, in his disgust for popping up, throws down his bat and begins to slowly jog toward first base. F4 gets under the pop up in plenty of time as R1 gets only two steps off first base, expecting the routine catch. At the

last second, F4 lets the pop up fall to the ground, immediately picks it up and throws to F6 to force out R1. F6 then throws to F3 and B5 is called out on a very close play.

- a. Call time as soon as F4 lets the ball hit the ground.
 - b. Play stands.
 - c. That is an intentionally dropped ball.
 - d. B2 is called out and R1 must return to first.
- 2.** Bases loaded. One out. Batter hits a ground ball that's fielded by F6 and thrown to the catcher at home.

R3 makes a legal slide directly into home before home is touched by the catcher, but R3's momentum carries him past the base and into the catcher, who is knocked down and is unable to make a throw to first base.

- a. Force-play slide rule violation. R3 is out along with the batter-runner. R3's run does not score.
- b. Force-play slide rule violation. R3 is out, but his run scores. The batter-runner is also called out.
- c. Legal. R3 scores.

3. The score is tied in the bottom of the last inning. With the bases loaded and two outs, B1 singles to center and R3 crosses the plate. R1, thinking the game is over, retreats to the dugout without touching second. The defense leaves the field without appealing.

- a. The game is over. R1 is out only if the defense appeals before leaving the diamond.
- b. R1 is out and the run scores.
- c. R1 is out and the run does not score.

4. With the bases loaded and two out, B8 singles. R3 scores, but just before he crosses the plate, his helmet comes off and lands in fair territory. F7 attempts to throw home to retire R2, but the throw hits R3's helmet and deflects away. R1 reaches third and B8 reaches second before F2 retrieves the ball.

- a. R3 is out because his helmet came off.
- b. R3 can be called out if the helmet was intentionally removed.
- c. R2 is out because of the "interference."
- d. Play on.

5. R2 is stealing third on the pitch. F2 catches the pitch cleanly and attempts to throw toward third. The throw hits B6.
- As long as B6 remains in the box, he cannot be guilty of interference, no matter how he moves.
 - As long as B6 remains in his position, he cannot be guilty of interference, and if B6 moves, he must move out of the way of F2.
 - B6 is out, no matter the result of the play.
6. What is required for a proper appeal?
- It may be made only when the ball is live.
 - It may be made when the ball is live or dead.
 - The coach may ask the umpire to rule when the ball is live.
 - The coach may ask the umpire to rule only when the ball is dead.
 - The coach may not ask the umpire to rule.
 - Only the coach may ask for an appeal.
7. The batting order is B1, B2, B3, etc. At the end of the fifth inning, R2 is picked off for the third out while improper batter B3 was hitting with an 0-1 count. B2 should have been at the plate. To start the next inning:
- B3 is the legal hitter; since he started the at-bat in the previous inning, he is the legal batter.
 - B2 is the legal hitter; the end of the inning did nothing to change that.
 - The hitter will start the sixth inning with an 0-1 count.
 - The defense can appeal for an advantageous fourth out for batting out of order.
8. With the bases loaded and one out, B8 hits a ground ball to F6. R1's slide is awkward and he pops up and into F4, hitting his throwing arm. F4 is one-half step off the bag to the left side. R1's actions were not intentional and he was able to reach the bag.
- R1 has committed a violation.
 - R1's slide is legal.
 - B8 is out for R1's violation.
 - B8 is safe at first since F4 made no attempt to retire B8.
 - R3's run scores.
 - No runs score on the play.
9. With R1 on first, B4 hits a line drive to left-center field. As R1 slides into third base, he dislodges the base from its anchor. The base moves several feet into foul territory. The throw from F8 hits R1 and deflects back into left field. R1 gets up and attempts to score and B4 attempts to advance as well.
- R1 is out for interference.
 - B4 must touch the bag, wherever it is.
 - B4 need only touch the area where third base should be.
 - The ball is immediately dead when the base becomes dislodged.
10. B1 hits a fly ball to deep left-center field. The ball bounces off the fence, then off F8's glove and goes over the center field fence.
- B1 is awarded two bases.
 - B1 is awarded three bases.
 - B1 is awarded four bases.
11. The home team is using a designated hitter (DH) for the pitcher and the DH is batting in the fourth position in the lineup. In the seventh inning, because of an injury, the home coach wants the DH to move into the field and play first base. The coach does not want to change pitchers. The previous first baseman was batting in the seventh position of the lineup.
- Legal substitution.
 - Illegal substitution.
12. With R2 on second, R3 on third and no outs, B8 swings the bat as the catcher reaches for the pitch. The catcher's glove makes contact with the bat. B8 is able to hit a fly ball to center field that allows R3 to tag up and score. R2 tags but holds up at second as the throw goes to third.
- Catcher obstruction, B8 is awarded first, R2 is awarded third and R3 is awarded home.
 - The defensive coach may take the result of the play (B8 is out, R2 stays at second and R3 scores on the tag play).
 - Catcher obstruction, B8 is awarded first, R2 stays at second and R3 goes back to third.
13. One out. Bases loaded. On a fly ball to the outfield, the third-base coach provides physical assistance to the runner on third, pushing him off the base once the ball is touched. The plate umpire says, "That's interference. The runner is out." Upon hearing that, the other runners, who had properly tagged up on the catch and then started to advance, stop between the bases. After the ball comes in from the outfield, the shortstop tags R2, who was still off the base. R1 advances to second.
- Dead ball. R3 is out. R2 returns to second. R1 returns to first.
 - Live ball. R3 is out. R2 is out. R1 remains at second.
 - Delayed dead ball. R3 is out. R2 is out. R1 returns to first.
14. Leading off an inning, B6 bunts the ball to the first-base side of the pitcher's mound. F1 misplays the ball and deflects it into the baseline. B6 kicks the ball and it goes into the dugout.
- B6 is out for being hit by a batted ball.
 - B6 is always out for kicking the ball.
 - B6 is out only if he intentionally kicked the ball.
 - If it is ruled B6 did not intentionally kick the ball, B6 is awarded first base.
 - If it is ruled B6 did not intentionally kick the ball, B6 is awarded second base.

- 15.** With R1 on first, R2 on second and one out, B1 squares to bunt on the first pitch. The bunt is popped high into the air toward the pitcher's mound. The base umpire loudly calls, "Infield fly, batter's out!" F1 lets the ball fall to the ground. After the ball hits the ground, R2 starts to run to third. F1 picks up the ball and throws it to F5, who easily tags out R2. R1 is confused by the play and stays at first. B1 reaches first base, where he is standing next to R1. F5 throws the ball to F3, who tags B1 first and then tags R1 while both are standing on first base.
- B1 is out for infield fly.
 - B1 is out because he was tagged out.
 - The umpires need to call time after the play ends and fix their error.
 - R2 is out on the tag.
 - R1 is out on the tag.
- 16.** With R1 on first and no outs, F1, pitching from the stretch, fails to come set. B1 attempts to bunt and pops the ball up to F1. F1 then throws wildly to first in an attempt to double off R1. R1 advances to second on the errant throw.
- The ball is dead immediately when the balk is called.
 - The ball is dead when the pop up is caught.
 - The ball remains live since F1 threw the ball away.
 - The offensive coach has the option of taking the play or the balk penalty.
- 17.** With R1 on first, B4 hits a fly ball to left-center field. R1 touches and rounds second. The ball is uncaught. Thinking the ball was caught, R1 retreats, retouching second. R1 passes B4 headed back toward first. The throw from F8 goes to F6, who relays the ball to F3. F3 makes the catch on the bag just before R1 returns, but tags R1 after his return. B4 is standing on second base.
- B4 is out for passing R1.
 - R1 is out for passing B4.
 - R1 is out for running the bases in reverse.
 - R1 is out on the force back into first base.
 - R1 is legally allowed to remain at first.
 - B4 is legally allowed to remain at second.
- 18.** R1 is stealing when the umpire interferes with the catcher and the throw goes into center field. R1 tries for third and is thrown out by F8.
- The play stands.
 - R1 is returned to second.
 - R1 is returned to first.
 - The ball remains live.
 - The ball is immediately dead.
 - The ball is delayed dead.
- 19.** In the top of the fourth inning, R2 is on second with two outs and there is a 1-2 count on B6. The next pitch is a curveball in the dirt. B6 attempts to check his swing. The plate umpire determines that B6 swung, emphatically pointing at B6 and saying, "Yes he did!" F2 goes to his knees to block the pitch, which bounces off his chest protector a few feet to his side. B6 starts to run to first base. F2 sees R2 break for third and throws to third to retire R2 on a close play. Who leads off the fifth inning?
- B6.
 - B7.
- 20.** With R1 on first, R3 on third, no outs and a 1-1 count, the offense attempts to execute a suicide squeeze. F1 pitches out when he sees R3 attempting to advance. B7, a right-handed batter, steps across the plate and fouls off the pitch with his left foot on the ground clearly outside the batter's box. During the play, R3 crossed home and R1 advanced to second.
- B7 is out.
 - B7 is charged with a foul ball, the count goes to 1-2.
 - R3 scores.
 - R3 is out.
 - R3 returns to third.
 - R1 remains at second.
 - R1 returns to first.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1** – All – b (NFHS 8-4-1c 1, 8-4-1f, 8-4-2j; NCAA 7-11q Note, 8-5j; pro 5.09)
- 2** – All – c (NFHS 2-32-2C; NCAA 8-4, 8-7; pro 6.01i)
- 3** – All – a (NFHS 8-2-6; NCAA 8-6a3; pro 5.08a Cmt AR)
- 4** – All – d (NFHS interp; NCAA 6-1e; pro 5.09a8 comment)
- 5** – All – b (NFHS 7-3-5; NCAA 7-11f; pro 6.03a3)
- 6** – NFHS – b, d (NFHS 8-2 Pen.); NCAA, pro – a, e (NCAA 8-6b; pro 5.09)
- 7** – All – b (NFHS 7-1-1; NCAA 7-11a; pro 6.03)
- 8** – All – a, c, f (NFHS 2-32-2, 8-4-2b; NCAA 8-4a; MiLB 7.4)
- 9** – All – c (NFHS 8-42h (1), NCAA 8-3q; pro 5.09b4 AR (B))
- 10** – All – a (NFHS 8-3-3c; NCAA 8-3o-1; pro 5.06)
- 11** – NFHS – b (2-36-3d, 3-1-4); NCAA, pro – a (NCAA 5-5d, 7-2c; pro 5.11)
- 12** – All – b, c (NFHS 8-1-1e; NCAA 8-2e; pro 6.08c)
- 13** – All – b (NFHS 3-2-2 pen.; NCAA 8-5f; pro 6.01a8)
- 14** – All – c, e (NFHS 8-4-2g, 8-3-3c; NCAA 8-5d, 8-3o2; pro 5.05, 6.01)
- 15** – All – d, e (NFHS 2-19, 8-4-2j, 10.2.3F; NCAA 2-48, 8-5j; pro def-infield fly, 6.03)
- 16** – NFHS – a (5-1-1k); NCAA, pro – b (NCAA 9-3; pro 6.02 Pen.)
- 17** – All – a, e (NFHS 2-28-3, 8-4-2m; NCAA 2-32, 8-5m; pro 2.00-force play, 5.09h)
- 18** – All – c, f (NFHS 5-1-2c, 8-3-6; NCAA 6-3a; pro 6.01f)
- 19** – All – b (NFHS 7-2, 8-1-1b; NCAA 7-3, 8-2c; pro 6.04, 6.09b)
- 20** – All – a, e, g (NFHS 7-3-2; NCAA 7-10a; pro 6.03a1)

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