



2012 SOFTBALL AUSTRALIA RULES EXAM

- PLEASE NOTE:**
1. This examination is based on the Australian Rule Book - as revised 2010-2011 - and relates to Fast Pitch only.
 2. Defensive Team = Fielding Team
Offensive Team = Batting Team
 3. For the sake of brevity in some questions the following symbols will be used:

For fielders: F1 = Pitcher; F2 = Catcher; F3 = 1st Base; F4 = 2nd Base;
F5 = 3rd Base; F6 = Shortstop; F7 = Left Field; F8 = Centre Field;
F9 = Right Field.

For runners: R1 is always the lead runner, followed by R2, R3 etc.

For batters: B1 is the leadoff batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.

For substitutes: S1 is the first substitute player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer strictly according to the SAL Rule Book, NOT local bylaws and/or ground rules.
 2. Only the answer sheet of this examination is to be returned to the National, State or Association Director of Umpiring through the scrutineer. You retain the question portion for further study. Your answer sheet, along with your examination mark will be returned to you after it is marked.
 3. There are 100 questions in total.
 4. All answers are either TRUE/FALSE or YES/NO and are worth (1) mark each, giving a total of 100 marks.

5. **Please indicate your answer by completely filling in the circle for the correct answer.**

e.g. A TRUE or YES answer would be **T/Y** **F/N** on the Answer Sheet provided.

- * Please insert your state, name, current level and candidate/exam number in the space provided on the answer sheet.
- * **Please do not make markings or make comments on the answer sheets.**
- * You will notice there is a provision on the EXAM paper itself next to the question number to put your answer; this may aid you in transferring answers to the answer sheet and minimize mistakes. It will also allow you to take the exam home and review.
- * **Please use Black Pen.**
- * **Please do not cross, put dashes or tick circles for correct answers. If you make a mistake you may use white correction tape on your incorrect answer.**

1 _____ With none out and no runners on base, B1 is in the box with a Strike 2 count. F1 pitches the ball, which bounces on the ground before reaching the plate. However, B1 swings at and misses the pitch and F2 cleanly takes it in the glove. RULING: This is considered a dropped third strike and B1 becomes a batter-runner.

2 _____ None out, R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st, with F3 playing behind the baseline. B3 hits a line drive ground ball that strikes R2, who is still standing on the base, before it passes a fielder other than the pitcher. F3 picks up the ball and tags R2, who by now is off base, then touches the base to force B3 out. R1 advances home on the play. RULING: All plays are legal, so the run scores on the double play.

3 _____ When an unreported substitute is in a game, there is no violation if the manager, or player in violation, informs the umpire prior to the opposing team's appeal, regardless of how long the player has been in the game.

4 _____ In the 5th inning, the team manager has three charged defensive conferences with his pitcher. Later in the same inning, the manager requests a 'Time Out' and then crosses the foul line, goes to the pitcher, and after a discussion advises the umpire he is substituting the pitcher. Ruling: This is legal

5 _____ Does the act of calling a runner out for deliberately removing a helmet during a live ball play cancel any force play?

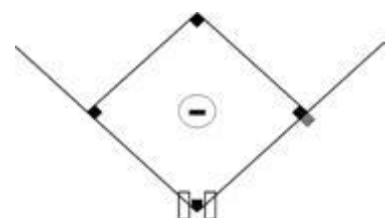
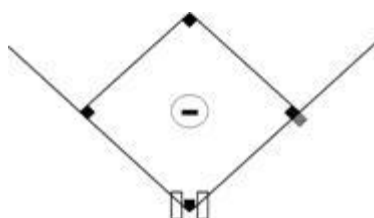
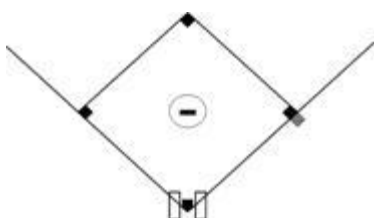
6 _____ The area immediately behind home plate, between the batters' boxes and home plate, is part of the catcher's box.

7 _____ The Designated Player may never play on defence; he can only be an offensive player.

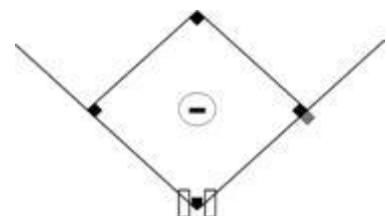
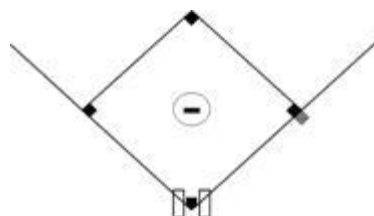
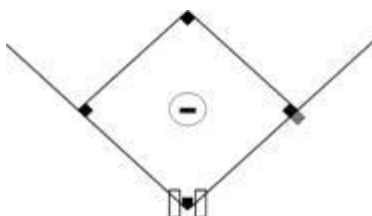
8 _____ B1 at bat. F1 pitches the ball, which is low and inside and heading straight toward B1's leg. B1 makes no attempt to move away from the pitch, which slightly brushes his leg. On hearing the umpire call Dead Ball, B1 advances to 1st. RULING: The ball is dead and B1 is entitled to stay at 1st because he was hit by a pitched ball.

9 _____ It is only the plate umpire who has the authority to eject a player or team official from the game for a violation of the rules.

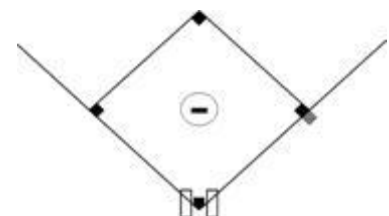
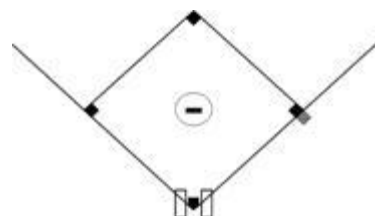
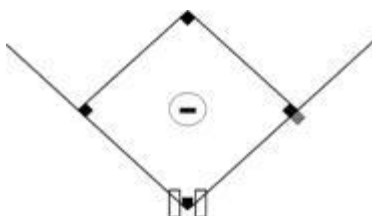
10 _____ R1 on 1st with none out, when B2 hits a ground ball to F4, who fields it cleanly. F4 takes the ball out of the glove, tags R1 with the glove as he runs past, then throws to F3 in an attempt to complete a double play. The throw reaches F3 before B2 arrives at the base. RULING: This is not a double play, as R1 has not been legally tagged.



- 11 _____ A pitched ball that enters the front of the strike zone over the plate, quickly drops and just tips the back corner of the plate is a strike, providing it was below the arm pits and above the knee of the batter.
- 12 _____ Two out, R2 is on 3rd, R3 on 2nd and R4 on 1st as F1 pitches "Ball 2" to B5. R4 leads off a long way on the pitch and before R4 is able to return to 1st, F1 pitches the next pitch. R4 turns without re-touching 1st and advances to 2nd on a wild pitch, "Ball 3", to B5. R2 scores and all runners advance one base. The defence now claim that R4 did not return to his base prior to the pitch and want R4 called out. Should the umpire call R4 out?
- 13 _____ A force out can only be accomplished by the fielder, in possession of the ball, touching the base to which the runner is forced to advance.
- 14 _____ If the third out of an inning is made on a runner prior to the discovery of a batting out of order infringement, can an appeal still be made in order to re-instate the correct batting order?
- 15 _____ The On-Deck Batter may loosen up with any number of bats, provided he does not place any of them on the ground.
- 16 _____ A batter takes a pitch for a called ball. Before the pitcher can deliver the next pitch he has to wait, as the batter has left the batter's box while taking a couple of practice swings. Because of the delay the umpire should declare the ball dead and call a strike on the batter.
- 17 _____ When the tiebreaker commences, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning being placed on 2nd base.
- 18 _____ The FLEX player can be placed in any position on the line-up card.
- 19 _____ With 1 out and R1 on 2nd, B2 hits the first pitch high towards 1st base in foul territory. F3, in attempting to catch the ball, has to deviate around the coach, who makes no attempt to move out of the way. The ball tips F3's glove and falls to the ground.
RULING: This is coach's interference, so R1 should be declared out. B2 continues to bat with one strike the count.
- 20 _____ R1 is at 2nd when B2 hits a pitched ball sharply toward F1 who deflects the batted ball but cannot make a play. F6 moves in to attempt to field the deflected ball but just as he reaches for the ball R1 collides with him.
RULING: Because the ball has been deflected by F1 the contact on F6 by R1 is considered to be incidental, so play continues.
- 21 _____ The maximum weight of a 30.5cm (12 in) softball is 198.4g (7 ounces).



- 22 _____ A starting pitcher, who has been removed from the pitching position as a result of the defensive team exceeding their limit of charged conferences, is substituted by the coach from the game.
Because he has been declared an Illegal Pitcher, he cannot re-enter the game.
- 23 _____ When a runner collides with an umpire, while running bases, is it permissible for the umpire to declare interference and return the runner to the last legally held base?
- 24 _____ F1, after having been moved by the coach to right field, returns to pitch in the same half inning and takes two (2) warm-up pitches.
RULING: The umpire should award a ball to the batter for each pitch taken.
- 25 _____ B1 hits a ground ball to F5, who fields and throws to F3. The ball bounces, forcing F3 to scramble for the ball. He controls the ball in his bare hand and then dives for the base, touching it with his glove before B1 reaches the base.
RULING: B1 is safe, because the ball was not held in the glove.
- 26 _____ R1 on 3rd base with one out. B2 hits a fly ball to F7 who catches the ball with a first base mitt. R1 tags up and is thrown out at home for the 3rd out.
RULING: This is the third out and the innings is over, even if the offensive team appeal for an illegal catch.
- 27 _____ The ball is in play and the Batter becomes a Batter-Runner when four balls have been called on him. However the Batter-Runner may not be put out before he reaches first base.
- 28 _____ A game that is tied at the end of seven innings shall be declared a tied game.
- 29 _____ While the ball is in play, can a runner be assisted by anyone other than another runner, without penalty?
- 30 _____ A team employs tactics designed to delay, or hasten, a game.
RULING: The plate umpire shall allow the game to continue and then report the team to the organisation responsible for the competition.
- 31 _____ B1 hits a sharp ground ball down the left field foul line. The ball is declared fair. It then runs into foul territory towards the fence along the boundary of the playing field. Before F7 can retrieve the ball, a spectator leaps the fence, grabs the ball and tosses it back toward the infield as B1 rounds 2nd base.
RULING: The umpire declares the ball dead and returns B1 to 1st base.
- 32 _____ Blue team is playing with 10 players including the DP and Flex. In the 4th innings the defensive team places the DP into field for the Flex player, but the coach does not advise the plate umpire of the change.
Ruling: There is no penalty as this is a defensive positional change only.
- 33 _____ When a runner dislodges a base from its proper position, neither he nor the succeeding runners in the same series of plays are compelled to follow a base out of position.



34 _____ During the delivery, is it legal for the pitcher's pivot foot to push off and drag away from the pitcher's plate prior to the stepping foot touching the ground?

35 _____ The playing field is the area within which the ball may be legally fielded.

36 _____ It is not necessary for a batter to have both feet completely within the lines of the batter's box, prior to the pitch. He may have part of a foot outside the line.

37 _____ Team 'B' protests a misinterpretation of a rule in the 5th inning. The protest is upheld.
RULING: The game is replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made, with the decision reversed.

38 _____ R2 on 2nd with none out, when B3 hits a ground ball into the gap between F5 and F6. F5, in a better position to field the ball, cuts in front of F6, who is fielding deep. F5 fields the ball, as R2 knocks over F6, who is now on the baseline. R2 reaches 3rd safely, so the defence appeal to the umpire, suggesting that R2 should be out for interfering with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball.
RULING: R2 is safe at 3rd if, in the opinion of the umpire, F6 was not entitled to field the ball.

39 _____ Is the line that forms the pitcher's circle considered to be within the circle?

40 _____ The batter-runner is out and the ball is dead, when a fielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with less than two out and a runner on 1st.

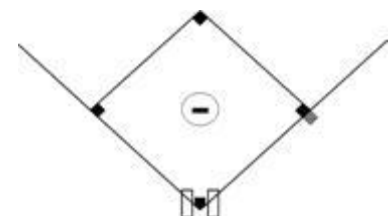
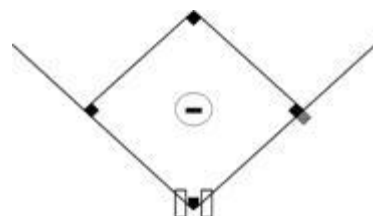
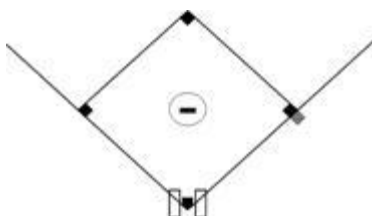
41 _____ The double base at first could be white and green or white and orange, or any other contrasting colour.

42 _____ R1 on 1st. He attempts to steal on the next pitch, as B3 deliberately blocks F2's attempt to throw to 2nd. The throw is successful and R1 is tagged out.
RULING: The umpire should declare a dead ball, call B3 out and return R1 to 1st.

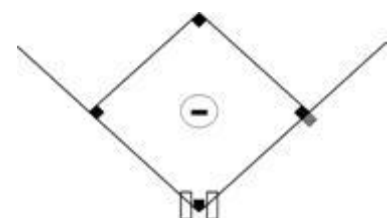
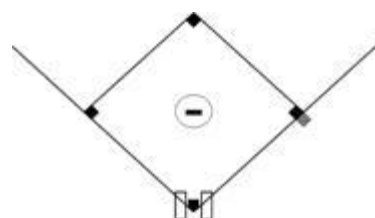
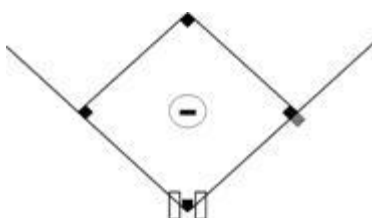
43 _____ With runners on base, a thrown ball is deflected by F2 and the ball lands in the umpire's mask that is held in his hand.
RULING: The ball is dead and runners are advanced to the base, or bases, they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, had the ball not been lodged in the umpire's mask.

44 _____ B1 hits a fair ball along the first base line in fair territory and F3 throws his glove and contacts the ball, B1 stops running as the ball settles near 1st base.
RULING: The umpire should award B1 third base.

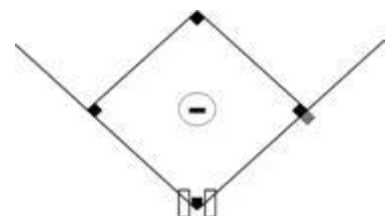
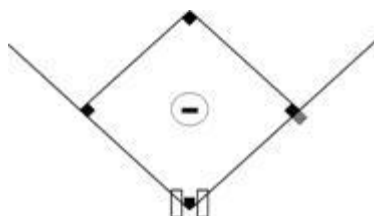
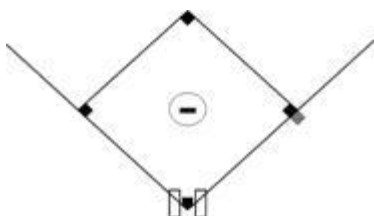
45 _____ The ball remains alive, when a thrown ball strikes an umpire.



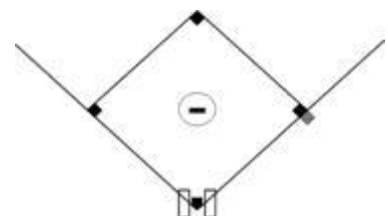
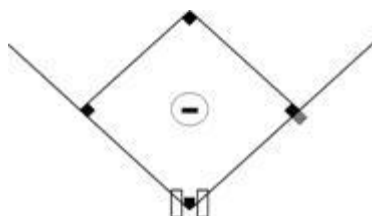
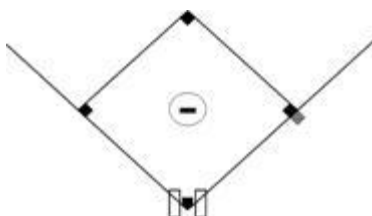
- 46 _____ There is one out with R3 on 3rd and R4 on 2nd. R4 leads off on the pitch as B5 hits a fly ball to F8, who catches the ball. R3 scores on the catch. F8 throws to F4 and plays 2nd before R4 can return. Is the out made at 2nd considered to be a force out?
- 47 _____ Tape applied to any bat must be continuously spiral. It must also be a solid layer that shall not exceed two layers.
- 48 _____ Can a catcher wear a mask that does not have a throat protector or an extended wire protection attached to the mask?
- 49 _____ An Infield Fly is a legally batted ball that is bunted and can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort.
- 50 _____ R1 on 1st. B2 hits a fly ball that touches the fielder's glove above the home run fence level and then goes over the fence. RULING: This is a home run, so R1 & B2 are entitled to advance to the home plate.
- 51 _____ A legally batted ball that comes to rest on top of home plate is a Fair Ball.
- 52 _____ When the plate umpire interferes with the catcher's attempt to throw to 2nd on a steal attempt, the runner will remain out, if the defence successfully obtain the out on the play.
- 53 _____ Should an umpire declare 'Obstruction' if a fielder, who is in possession of the ball, intentionally impedes the progress of a runner who is legally running the bases, but does not attempt to make a play on that runner?
- 54 _____ The ball is dead and runners may not advance, when a pitched ball that is swung at and missed, touches any part of the batter.
- 55 _____ A Delayed Dead Ball is a game situation in which the ball remains alive until the conclusion of a play.
- 56 _____ R1 on 1st with one out, when B3 bats out of order. He hits into a double play and both R1 and B3 are forced out. The offence now appeals for batting out-of-order, in an attempt to overturn the double play. Is this a legal appeal that the umpire can act on?
- 57 _____ Can a starting player who is still in the line-up be used as a Replacement Player?
- 58 _____ The batter-runner is out, when a fair-batted fly ball is eventually caught by an outfielder, after having been first touched by an infielder and deflected onto a runner.
- 59 _____ May a player, who has been ruled ineligible, return to the game as a coach?



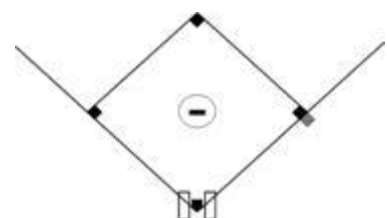
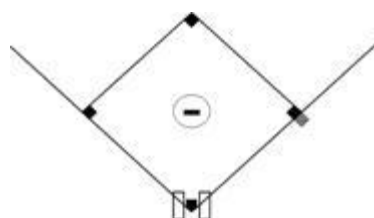
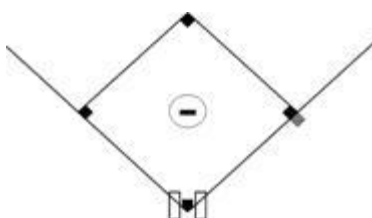
- 60 _____ A batted ball goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's head, to the catcher's glove, hits the chest protector, rebounds and is then held in the glove for a catch.
RULING: This is a Foul Tip.
- 61 _____ Can an offensive team coach request, and be granted, a suspension of play to communicate with any member of his team without being charged with an offensive conference?
- 62 _____ A thrown ball to any base for a force out which is caught with the glove over the ball on the ground, rather than under the ball, is a Trapped Ball.
- 63 _____ R2 is obstructed at 2nd base, preventing him from touching the base. He continues to 3rd. If appealed, R2 is out for missing 2nd base.
- 64 _____ The umpire shall forfeit the game if any player disputes his call, after having given a team warning.
- 65 _____ A coach makes an insulting remark to an opposition player and this is the first offence. However the umpire considers the remark to be serious so ejects the coach. Is this the correct action by the umpire?
- 66 _____ A fair fly ball shall not be judged by the position of the ball and the foul line, but by the position of the fielder who touched the ball.
- 67 _____ The ball remains alive, when a runner abandons a base, enters his team area and is called out.
- 68 _____ A pitched ball curves through the strike zone as B1 moves his body in an attempt to avoid being hit. However, the ball contacts B1's hands, which are in the strike zone.
RULING: B1 is awarded 1st and the ball is dead.
- 69 _____ The On-Deck Batter may leave the on-deck circle to direct the batter-runner to 1st base.
- 70 _____ R3 on 2nd, when B4 hits a sharp ground ball to F5, who lets the ball pass, untouched, between his legs. The ball contacts R3 just as F6, who is backing up, is about to field the ball. F6 had ample time to throw B5 out at 1st. Should R3 be declared out for interference?
- 71 _____ When the batter drops the bat and the ball rolls against the stationary bat in fair territory, the batter is out and the ball is dead.
- 72 _____ An Illegal Pitch should be declared when a pitcher, after commencing the wind-up and taking one hand off the ball, does not release the ball because he hears the offensive coach call "Time".



- 73 _____ F9 is standing in foul territory, when the pitch is released to the batter. He was there prior to the start of the pitch.
RULING: The umpire should declare an Illegal Pitch.
- 74 _____ The ball is always immediately dead, when the catcher obstructs a batter in his attempt to hit a pitched ball.
- 75 _____ Does the ball become dead when the pitcher issues an Intentional Base on Balls to a batter?
- 76 _____ The umpire realises that a Withdrawn Player has returned to the game without being notified. Can the umpire impose a penalty without waiting for an appeal from the non-offending team?
- 77 _____ R1 on 3rd, R2 on 2nd and R3 on 1st with one out. The count on B4 is Ball 3 Strike 2. B4 swings at a rising pitch that gets away from F2, hits the back net and rebounds at a sharp angle. By the time F2 retrieves the ball, both R1 and R2 have scored, R3 is at 3rd and B4 is at 2nd.
RULING: The umpire should allow R3 to remain at 3rd and B4 to remain at 2nd.
- 78 _____ The ball becomes dead, when a thrown ball strikes an offensive player.
- 79 _____ The ball becomes dead, when the batter fails to enter the batter's box within ten (10) seconds after the umpire calls "Play Ball".
- 80 _____ A batter, hit by a pitched ball out of the strike zone, is hurt and unable to continue playing. He may be substituted and the substitute is allowed to proceed to first base.
- 81 _____ After the line-up has been given to the plate umpire, a change may be made to the starting line-up at the pre-game meeting, without the original player having been considered as being in the game, provided such change is made due to sickness or injury.
- 82 _____ Is it permissible for the pitcher, after taking the signal, to hold the ball in both hands to the side of the body, rather than in front of the body, prior to releasing the pitch?
- 83 _____ R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st with none out, when B3 swings at a pitch. He mishits the ball, which rolls slowly along the first base foul line in fair territory. Both R1 and R2 advance on the hit.
 B3, thinking the ball is foul, does not leave the batter's box. F1 fields the ball and throws to F2 in an attempt to retire R1 advancing to the plate.
 At this point, B3 begins to run to 1st but, in doing so, brushes F2's arm, causing F2 to miss the obvious tag on R1.
 As a result, R1 scores, R2 advances to 3rd and B3 is safe at 1st.
RULING: The action of B3 not advancing on the hit and subsequently contacting F2 constitutes interference. The ball is dead and B3 is out. R1 is also declared out on the interference and R2 returns to 1st.



- 84 _____ When the physical structure of a legal bat has been changed, the bat is considered to be an Illegal Bat.
- 85 _____ If a succeeding runner scores before a preceding runner is appealed for missing a base and is declared the third out, does that run score
- 86 _____ With no runners on base, F3 recovers a wild pitch and throws the ball to F5, who then proceeds to throw the ball around the diamond.
RULING: The umpire should award an additional ball to the batter.
- 87 _____ The batter-runner may not over-slide 1st base without being in jeopardy, even when he immediately returns to that base.
- 88 _____ When a runner is called out for interference, all other runners must return to the last base legally touched by them at the time of the interference, unless forced to advance.
- 89 _____ The umpire may give permission for a metal knee brace to be worn, as long as all metal is covered by soft material and taped.
- 90 _____ R1 on 3rd, R2 on 2nd and R3 on 1st with none out.
B4 hits a soft ground ball to F1, who fields and throws to F2, forcing R1 out at the plate.
F2 then throws to F3 in an attempt at a double play. However, the throw strikes B4 who is running inside the diamond and only one stride from 1st. The ball deflects away from F3.
By the time F3 recovers the ball, R2 has scored, R3 is on 2nd and B4 is on 1st.
RULING: B4 is out for interfering with the take at first and the ball is dead. R1 returns to 3rd, R2 returns to 2nd and R3 returns to 1st.
- 91 _____ B1 hits the ball with an illegal bat and reaches 1st.
RULING: B1 is out and ejected from the game for using an illegal bat.
- 92 _____ R1 on 3rd, R2 on 2nd and R3 on 1st, when B4 hits a ground ball to F7. R1 scores on the hit. F7 returns the ball wildly back to the infield, as R2 rounds 3rd and advances toward home.
R1, while returning to the bench, interferes with F2's attempt to recover the ball, thereby preventing F2 from an opportunity to make a play on any other runner.
RULING: The umpire should declare the ball dead, call R2 out for R1's interference and return all other runners to the last base touched before the interference.
- 93 _____ After 5 innings the score is tied. In the top of the 6th inning the visiting team scores two runs before the umpire abandons the game due to torrential rain.
RULING: This is a regulation game, so the visitors should be declared the winners.



- 94 _____ B1 hits a line drive over the head of F6, who leaps in an attempt to catch the ball. The force of the ball knocks the glove from F6's hand and the glove lands on the ground, with the ball inside. F6 then retrieves the glove and ball and claims a catch. RULING: B1 is not out, as this is not a legal catch.
- 95 _____ The umpire shall suspend play whenever a batter, or pitcher, steps out of position for a legitimate reason.
- 96 _____ B2, a left handed batter steps out of the back of the batter's box to gain a running start, he then returns to the box and slap hits the ball through the infield. RULING: There is no penalty as B2 contacted the ball while within the batters box.
- 97 _____ You notice that a coach is talking on his mobile phone in the dugout. RULING: This is illegal.
- 98 _____ Other than entering as a Replacement Player, is it possible for a starting player, who has been legally substituted from the game on two (2) occasions, to return to the game as a player?
- 99 _____ A starting player (batting in the number 2 position on the line-up) has been substituted from the game but is still eligible to re-enter. He is entered into the line-up as a Replacement Player in the number 8 position. RULING: This should be treated as an Illegal Re-entry.
- 100 _____ When a coach intentionally interferes with a thrown ball, while in the coach's box, is it always the runner being played on who is declared out, if there are multiple runners on base?

