



2011 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.

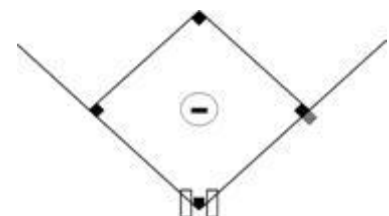
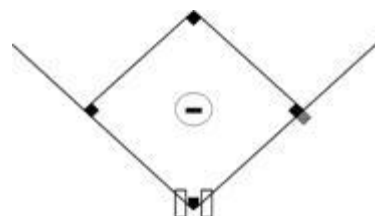
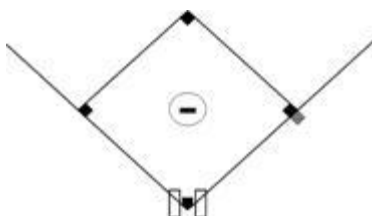
- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer strictly according to the SAL Rule Book, NOT local bylaws and/or ground rules.
 2. Only the answer sheet of this examination is to be returned to the National, State or Association Director of Umpiring through the scrutineer. You retain the question portion for further study. 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.***

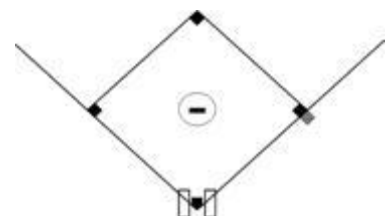
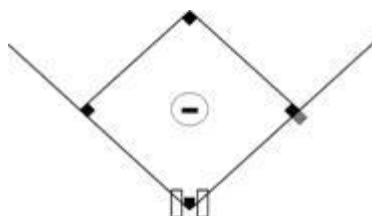
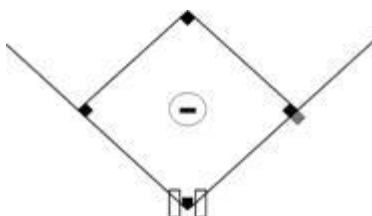
T/Y F/N
e.g. A TRUE or YES answer would be ● ○ on the Answer Sheet provided.

- * ***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.***

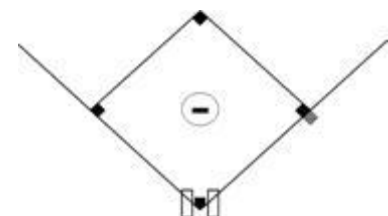
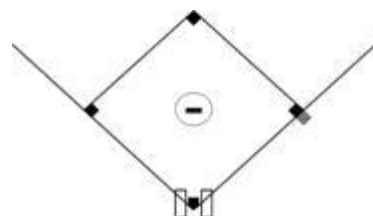
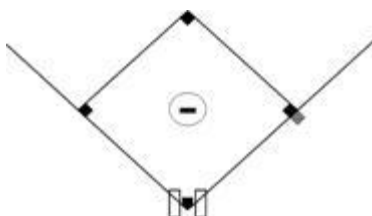
- 1 _____ Catcher's obstruction should be signalled and ruled by the plate umpire if the batter hits the catcher's glove during his swing at a pitched ball.
- 2 _____ The white covered 27.9cm (11 in) ball, with red stitches and a COR of .47, may be used in all divisions of Fast Pitch play.
- 3 _____ A coach or manager can make a dead ball appeal, from the bench area.
- 4 _____ A runner remains on his feet and deliberately crashes into a fielder who has the ball, waiting to tag. If the umpire considers the action to be flagrant, should he eject the runner from the game?
- 5 _____ A Dead Ball is one that touches any object that is not part of the official equipment or official playing area, or a player/person not engaged in the game.
- 6 _____ B1 hits a long, fair fly ball close to the left field foul line. F7 comes across and gets his glove to the ball over fair territory. However, he only succeeds in deflecting the ball over that part of the home-run fence that is in foul territory. RULING: B1 becomes a batter-runner and the hit is declared a home run.
- 7 _____ May a pitcher have more than three (3) warm-up pitches at the start of any inning after the first inning, if the umpire delays the start of play due to announcing a substitution?
- 8 _____ Is the runner out when he is touched, while off base, with a ball not securely held by a defensive player?
- 9 _____ S1, an unreported substitute batter, has a count of Ball 1 Strike 2. He hits the next pitch safely for a single. Before the next pitch the defensive team appeals to the umpire. RULING: S1 is declared an Ineligible Player, called out and removed from the game.
- 10 _____ When a batter is called out for interference, all runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- 11 _____ Must there be physical contact made between a runner and a fielder before an umpire can declare obstruction?
- 12 _____ If a declared Illegal Pitcher has returned to the pitching position, he must throw a pitch, either legal or illegal, before he can be ejected from the game.
- 13 _____ A runner, who misses home plate and then enters the team area, may legally return to touch home plate.
- 14 _____ A turn at bat begins when a player first enters the batter's box and continues until he is put out, or becomes a batter-runner.



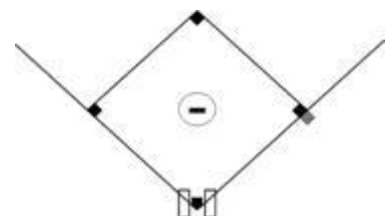
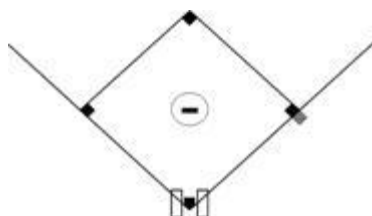
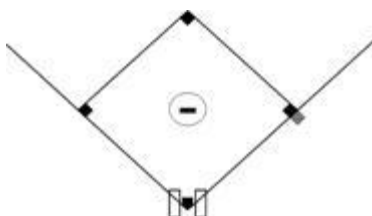
- 15 _____ A batter, hit by a pitched ball out of the strike zone, is hurt and unable to continue playing. He may be substituted and the substitute is allowed to proceed to first base.
- 16 _____ Strike 2 is the call on B1. B1 swings at the next pitch but the ball hits his hands and rolls into foul territory.
RULING: The umpire should call and signal "foul ball" and have B1 return to the batter's box.
- 17 _____ Before pitching, the pitcher must bring his whole body to a complete stop with the ball held in the hand or glove in front of the body. This position must be held for not less than two (2) seconds and not more than ten (10) seconds, before starting the pitch.
- 18 _____ R1 on 1st, B2 bunts the ball in front of home plate. While leaving the batter's box on his way to 1st he unintentionally throws the bat behind him into the path of F2 moving forward to field the ball, causing F2 to error the ball.
Ruling: B2 is out for interference and R1 must return to 1st base as the ball is dead.
- 19 _____ At the start of an inning, while the pitcher is taking his warm-up pitches, the On-Deck Batter is the offensive player that follows the lead-off batter.
- 20 _____ When an umpire notices an unreported substitution, on either offence or defence, he should immediately apply a penalty without waiting for an appeal.
- 21 _____ The ball is dead and the runner may not advance, when a pitched ball that is swung at and missed touches any part of the batter.
- 22 _____ B1 hits a fair line drive that is touched in flight by F4, after which it strikes an umpire standing behind F4. The ball is then caught by F9, before it touches the ground.
RULING: B1 is not out and the ball remains alive.
- 23 _____ The ball remains alive, when a thrown ball strikes an umpire.
- 24 _____ The DP plays defence for one of the other batters in the current line up, this player becomes known as the OPO, and the Flex Player continues to field for the DP. The game legally continues with a DP, Flex Player and an OPO.
- 25 _____ Should a runner be declared out when he is not given sufficient time to return to his base after a pitch is not hit, and he is still off base when the pitcher delivers the next pitch?
- 26 _____ A runner fails to touch a base in regular order, or leaves a base illegally on a caught fly ball.
If a legal appeal is made and this is the third out of the inning, can any succeeding runner score?



- 27 _____ The ball is in play, when a base is dislodged while runners are progressing around the bases.
- 28 _____ No items of jewellery, other than medical alert bracelets and necklaces, may be worn.
- 29 _____ Should a strike be called on the batter, when after a ball is called, he steps out of the batter's box, and delays play while taking a signal from the coach?
- 30 _____ Failure to notify the umpire of the return of a Withdrawn Player shall, upon a legal appeal, subject that player to the provisions of the Unreported Substitution rule.
- 31 _____ 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.
- 32 _____ A batted ball that hits the batter's hands a second time while they are holding the bat within the batter's box is a foul ball.
- 33 _____ A fair fly ball shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not the fielders position.
- 34 _____ When a player is required to be withdrawn due to bleeding, the Replacement Player may act for the Withdrawn Player for as long as it may take to allow the bleeding to stop.
- 35 _____ On an attempted pick-off play, the runner must return to the fair portion of first base.
- 36 _____ Should a bat that has a safety grip of cork be considered an illegal bat?
- 37 _____ Should the batter be declared out, if he steps directly in front of the catcher and changes batter's box while the pitcher is taking the signal from the catcher?
- 38 _____ Shoes with detachable cleats, which screw into the shoe, are considered legal.
- 39 _____ When an On-Deck Batter interferes with a player attempting to catch a fly ball, he shall be ejected from the game.
- 40 _____ Provided the fielder has possession of the ball on any force play, the base may be touched (tagged) with any part of the body. This would then be considered a legal touch (tag).
- 41 _____ When a fielder carries a live ball into the dugout to tag a player, he is considered to have intentionally carried it out of play.
- 42 _____ R1 on 1st. B2 hits a hard ground ball, which deflects off the pitcher's plate toward F3. After the ball passes F3, and with no other fielder having an opportunity to make an out, the ball contacts R1, who is just leaving 1st.
RULING: R1 is out for interference.



- R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st with none out, when B3 swings at a pitch. He hits the ball, which rolls slowly along the first base foul line in fair territory. Both R1 and R2 advance on the hit. However, B3 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.
- 43 _____ 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.
- 44 _____ The only penalty for a violation of the Re-entry Rule is ejection of the player in violation.
- 45 _____ Due to medical reasons and under umpire supervision, a pitcher is allowed to wear a bandage on the fingers of the pitching hand.
- 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, attempting to force R1 out at the plate. The umpire declares R1 safe, as F2 does not have his foot in contact with the plate.
- 46 _____ F2 then throws to F3 in an attempt to retire B4. 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: R1 is safe at home, B4 is out for interfering with the play at 1st and the ball is dead. R2 returns to 2nd and R3 returns to 1st.
- 47 _____ An Ineligible Player is one who may no longer legally participate in the game as a player, because the umpire has removed him.
- B4 leads off the inning and picks a walk. B7 hits a safe single, advancing B4 to 2nd. B5 strikes out. B8 comes to bat, bunts and is thrown out at 1st, with both runners advancing one base.
- 48 _____ An appeal is now made for B8 batting out of order. RULING: B6, the batter who should have batted, is out. The out of B8 also stands; with B4 & B7 returning to the bases they held prior to B8 hitting the ball. B8 is now the next batter, as B7, who should be the next batter, cannot be removed from 1st to bat.
- 49 _____ When a Warning Track is used, it shall be a minimum of 3.65m (12 ft) and a maximum of 4.57m (15 ft) from the outfield and/or side fences.
- 50 _____ The first batter in each inning shall be the batter in the batting order whose name follows that of the last player called out in the previous inning.



51 _____ With R1 on 2nd and R2 on 1st, B3 hits a fly ball high in the air toward F4. Both base umpires believe the ball could be caught with ordinary effort and give the infield fly ball assist signal to the plate umpire. As the ball is descending the base umpires notice that the plate umpire has not called the infield fly. Either base umpire can now call B3 out on the infield fly.

52 _____ Even though 'Time' has not been requested, or declared by the umpire, a player can leave his position on the field, go to the dugout to receive instructions and then return to the playing field, without a defensive conference being charged.

53 _____ At the end of an inning, F2 leaves his mask outside the first base dugout. His team now comes to bat with B1 and B2 both hitting safely and finishing up at 3rd and 2nd respectively. B3 now bats and hits a ground ball to F5, who throws the ball to F2 in an attempt to retire B1. The throw gets away from F2, contacts the mask in front of the dugout and rebounds away from F3, who is backing up the play at home. At the time the ball contacts the mask, B1 has touched home plate, B2 has rounded 3rd and B3 is advancing toward 2nd.
RULING: A blocked ball is declared, B1 is safe at home, B2 is awarded home and B3 is awarded 3rd.

54 _____ The pitcher must not deliberately roll the ball along the ground in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.

55 _____ Can a starting player who has been illegally substituted return to the game as a Re-Entry?

56 _____ The batter's on-deck circle is a 1.52m (5 ft) radius circle, placed at the end of the player's bench, or dugout area, closest to home plate.

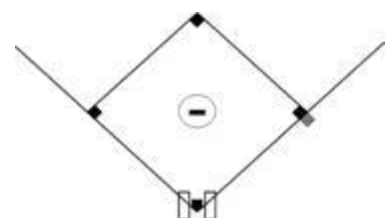
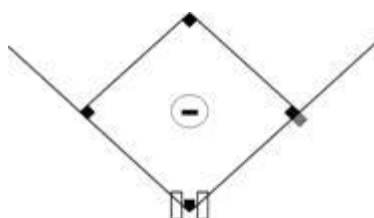
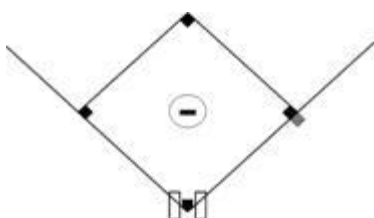
57 _____ Scores are tied after 7 completed innings.
RULING: The offensive team shall begin its turn at bat in the eighth inning with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning, being placed on 2nd.

58 _____ Must the umpire always eject a team official if he makes disparaging remarks about an opposition player?

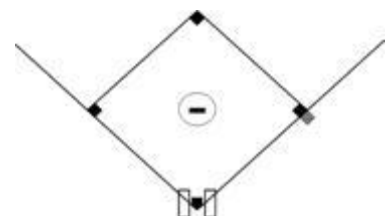
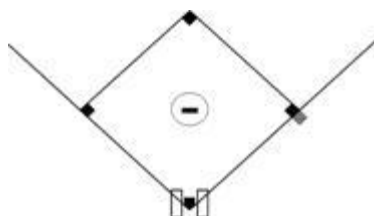
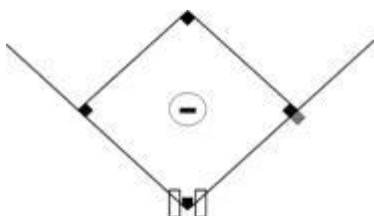
59 _____ B3 has a Strike 2 count with none out. He swings at and misses the next pitch, which F2 drops. The ball rolls some distance to the right of F2, in foul territory. In running toward 1st, B3 accidentally deflects the ball away from F2, who is attempting to recover it. He subsequently beats the ensuing throw to 1st.
RULING: As the deflection was not on a batted ball, B3 should be declared safe.

60 _____ An Illegally Caught Ball occurs when a fielder catches a batted, thrown or pitched ball with any part of his uniform, while it is detached from its proper place.

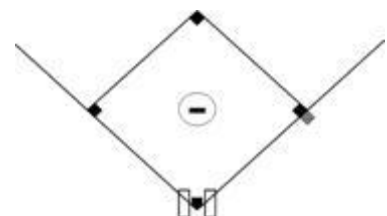
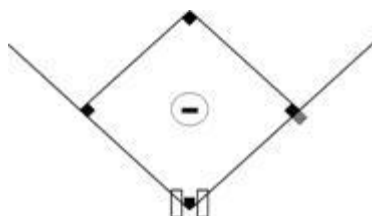
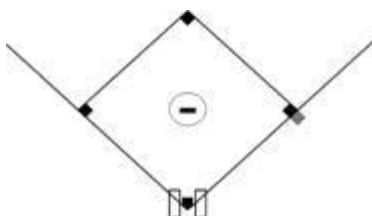
61 _____ When a member of the team at bat, who is not a batter, batter-runner, runner or on-deck batter, interferes with a player attempting to catch a foul fly ball, or with a foul fly ball that a fielder is attempting to catch, the batter is out.



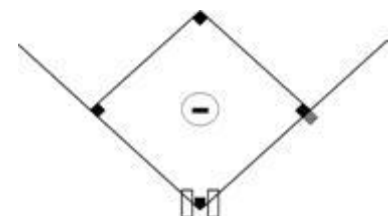
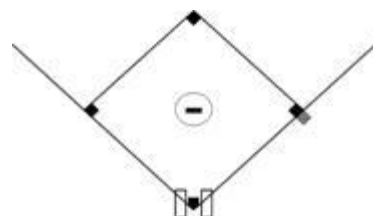
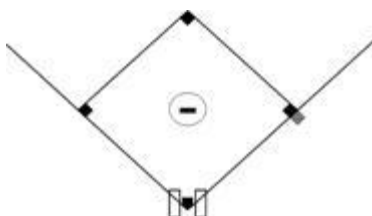
- 62 _____ When the catcher wants the pitcher to deliberately pitch-out in order to prevent the batter from hitting the ball, can he stand outside the lines of the catcher's box before the release of the pitch?
- 63 _____ A full seven innings need not be played, if the team second at bat scores more runs in six innings or before the third out in the bottom of the seventh inning.
- 64 _____ In the case of injury, "Time" shall not be called until all plays in progress have been completed, or runners have been held at their bases, unless the umpire considers the injury serious enough to put the player in danger.
- 65 _____ A player, not one of the starting players, substituted from the game, may re-enter one time only.
- 66 _____ F5 makes a play on a batted ball but is using an illegal glove.
RULING: The manager of the offensive team has the option of having the batter bat again, assuming the ball & strike count prior to the pitch, or taking the result of the play.
- 67 _____ A runner is called out for taking a running start from a base on a fly ball. Should the umpire declare the ball dead?
- 68 _____ 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.
- 69 _____ An umpire makes a ruling on a runner, resulting in the third out of an inning. After all the defensive players have left fair territory, the offensive team considers the umpire failed to apply the correct rule on the play, so they lodge a protest. Has the protest been made in time?
- 70 _____ R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st, with none out. B3 has a Strike 2 count, when he swings at and misses the next pitch, as R2 steals 2nd. In stepping out of the batter's box on his way to the 1st base dugout, B3 pauses in front of F2, thereby denying him the opportunity to make a throw to 2nd.
RULING: B3 is out on the interference. R1 and R2 return to 3rd and 1st respectively.
- 71 _____ A helmet worn by a defensive player, other than the catcher, must have two ear flaps.



- 72 _____ R5 on 1st with one out, when B6 hits a long ground ball to F7. R5 advances to and rounds 2nd on the hit and continues on to 3rd. B6 rounds 1st and is obstructed by F3, so continues on and stops at 2nd, the base he would have made had the obstruction not occurred. F7 then fumbles the ball, so B6 runs to 3rd but is tagged out. R5 is advancing toward home at the time of the tag. RULING: R5 should be awarded home and B6 should be awarded 3rd, because of the obstruction.
- 73 _____ Must **all** defensive players be in fair territory before the ball can be put into play?
- 74 _____ Is the force play re-instated, when a forced runner, after touching the next base, retreats for any reason toward the base he last occupied?
- 75 _____ The ball becomes dead, when the batter fails to enter the batter's box within ten (10) seconds after the umpire calls "Play Ball".
- 76 _____ After 4 completed innings, the score is Red 0 Blue 2. In the fifth inning Red, batting first, score 4 runs. With one out and after Blue have scored 1 run in their half of the inning, a hailstorm causes the game to be abandoned. RULING: The game is not considered to be a regulation game, so must be replayed from the beginning.
- 77 _____ R1 on 1st, with B2 in the batter's box. On the next pitch, which is declared illegal by the umpire, B2 hits safely to F7. R1 reaches 3rd but B2 is tagged out attempting to advance to 2nd. RULING: The manager of the offensive team has the option of (a) taking the award for the Illegal Pitch, or (b) taking the result of the play.
- 78 _____ F1 uses his bat to knock in a peg at the pitcher's plate prior to the game starting and this puts several burrs in the barrel of the bat. The umpire notices this so inspects the bat and discovers the burrs. RULING: The umpire should now declare the bat to be an altered bat.
- 79 _____ When a fielder catches a foul fly ball in his cap, the batter-runner and all runners are awarded three bases.
- 80 _____ A pitch hits B1 and the umpire awards him 1st base. B1 goes to the dugout for treatment before advancing to the base. Should the umpire declare him out for not proceeding directly to the awarded base?



- 81 _____ The Batting order is Brown, Black, Smith, Jones and so on. James comes in to bat for Black in the 5th innings without being announced to the plate umpire. The defensive team then appeals to the umpire that James was an illegal player, the umpire removes James and declares him ineligible. The offensive team leaves Black in the offensive line up. Later in the 6th innings Anderson replaces Black legally. In the top of the 7th innings the offensive coach re-enters Black.
RULING: This is considered legal as Black is the starting player.
- 82 _____ Does the ball become dead because of plate umpire interference, when a thrown ball from F2 hits the umpire, after F2 has recovered a passed ball?
- 83 _____ R1 on 1st with one out. R1 leaves for 2nd on the pitch, as B2 hits a fly ball to F8. R1, thinking the ball will be caught, returns part way to 1st. The ball is dropped by F8, as B2 rounds 1st and passes R1. The ball is then thrown to 2nd in an attempt to retire R1 who believing he is forced is now advancing to 2nd.
RULING: B2 is out for passing a preceding runner, before that runner has been called out, and R1 returns to 1st, because the ball is dead.
- 84 _____ Base coaches must stay in their coaches box at all times.
- 85 _____ One out with R2 on 2nd and R3 on 1st when, B4 hits a slow roller toward F4. R3 removes his helmet while running to 2nd as F4 throws to F5 who plays 3rd base for the force out. F5 then throws to F3 for the out on B4 at first base.
RULING: The umpire calls R2 "Safe, No Force". By removing his helmet R3 is out, thereby breaking the force, so F5 must make a tag.
- 86 _____ Red Team 3, batting first, leads Blue Team 2 at the end of the 5th inning. In the 6th inning, Red Team fails to score and Blue Team scores 2 runs. In the 7th inning, Red Team scores 1 run. Blue Team have one out and have not scored, when the game is called due to darkness.
RULING: This is a regulation game, so the final result is Red Team 3 Blue Team 4.
- 87 _____ The pitch starts when the pitcher makes any motion that is part of his windup
- 88 _____ For a Foul Tip to be declared the ball can only be caught by the catcher.
- 89 _____ B2 has already hit two home runs. The defensive coach calls time from the bench and advises the plate umpire he would like to give the batter an intentional base on balls. The plate umpire denies this as the intentional base on balls request must come directly from the pitcher.
- 90 _____ An offensive team coach at 3rd base may request, and be granted, "Time" to discuss tactics with the 1st base coach, without an offensive charged conference being declared.



- 91 _____ The batter is out, if one foot is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box, when the ball is hit.
- 92 _____ If the starting Designated Player is replaced on offence by a substitute, the Designated Player is considered to have left the game.
- 93 _____ When re-entering a game in the 10th position on the line-up card, can the FLEX play any defensive position?
- 94 _____ R1 on 1st with none out. B2 hits a pop fly to F4, who could easily catch it. However, in an attempt to create a double play, F4 lets the ball fall untouched to the ground in front of him.
RULING: This is considered an intentionally dropped fly ball, so B2 is out.
- 95 _____ The umpire realises that a team has entered a Replacement Player into the game without being notified. Can the umpire impose a penalty without waiting for an appeal from the non-offending team?
- 96 _____ B1, the lead-off batter, steps toward the first pitch. As the pitch is approaching home plate, he realises that it is inside and starts to move back, without swinging the bat.
The pitch then hits him on that part of the arm that is over the 15.2cm (6 in) area between the batter's box and the plate.
RULING: B1 is awarded 1st base.
- 97 _____ Can an outfielder positioned in the infield be considered an infielder, for the purpose of the Infield Fly rule?
- 98 _____ A fair-batted ball strikes a groundsman assigned to the game, while he is repairing a broken sprinkler in deep centre field. Does the ball remain alive?
- 99 _____ A starting player listed on the line-up card becomes ill or injured, while warming up.
RULING: A substitute can be inserted for the injured player at the pre-game meeting with the umpires. This substitute cannot re-enter, if later substituted from the game.
- 100 _____ The ball becomes dead, when a runner is called out for running more than 0.91m (3 ft) from the base path in regular or reverse order, to avoid being touched by the ball in the hand of a fielder.

