



2014 Softball Australia Basic Rules Examination



To obtain a theory mark required for Level 1 accreditation

1. One paper of 100 questions sat by a candidate in one session. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to achieve an overall pass of 50%.

To obtain a theory mark required for Level 2 candidature (Reference: Tech Bulletin TB2008-2)

1. One paper of 100 questions sat by a candidate in one session. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to achieve an overall pass of 70%.

NOTE:

1. This examination is based on the Australian Rule Book - as revised 2010-2013 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 lead off batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.
For substitutes: S1 is the first substitute player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.
Designated player: DP.
Flex player: FLEX.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer strictly according to SAL Rule Book, NOT local by-laws and/or ground rules.
2. Only the answer sheet of this examination is to be returned to the Local Association or Director of Umpiring. 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. All answers are either TRUE/FALSE or YES/NO and are worth (1) mark each, giving a total of 100 marks.
4. Please indicate your answer by 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 use Black Pen where possible. If you make a mistake you may use correction tape on your incorrect answer.***

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1. A bat is considered altered when the physical structure of a legal bat is changed.
2. B4 bats out of order and gets to first base. A pitch is thrown. Can the defence now appeal batting out of order of B4?
3. Four pitches are judged to be balls by the plate umpire. The umpire awards the batter first base (referred to as a "Walk").
4. The umpire suspends play as two offensive coaches discuss tactics.
Ruling: This is an offensive conference.
5. A delayed dead ball is a situation where the ball remains alive until the conclusion of a play.
6. A batted ball lands in front of the pitcher and then spins into foul territory (between home and 1st base) where it is first touched.
Ruling: This is a Fair Ball.
7. The Flex player's name appears in the 10th position on the line-up card and he fields for the Designated Player (DP).
8. A ball that first touches on foul territory beyond first or third base is a foul ball.
9. A foul tip is a batted ball that goes higher than the batter's head, directly to the catcher's hands.
10. Can an infield fly occur with less than two (2) out and first and second, or first, second and third bases occupied?
11. Obstruction is the act of an offensive player preventing a fielder from making a play.
12. "Play Ball" is the term used by the plate umpire to indicate play should begin.
13. Re-entry is the act of a starting player returning to the game after being legally substituted.
14. A replacement player can only be used for a player who must attend to an injury that has caused bleeding.
15. The strike zone is the space over any part of home plate, between the batter's armpits and the top of his knees, when he assumes his natural batting stance.
16. The distance between the bases is 65ft (19.81m).
17. Batter's boxes are placed each side of home plate, the lines are considered to be within the batter's box.
18. The relevant pitching distance is measured from the front line of the pitchers plate.
19. Other than an approved tolerance, the official bat shall not be more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches (5.7cm) in diameter at its largest part.
20. The safety grip of a bat shall be a minimum of 5 inches (12.7cm) and no more than 15 inches (38.1cm).
21. A pitchers glove can be any combination of colours provided none of the colours are that of the ball (includes lacing).
22. Can a player use a shoe with detachable cleats that screw onto the shoe?
23. Does a warm up catcher have to wear a mask, throat protector and helmet to receive warm up pitches?
24. Only junior catchers must wear a body protector.
25. Are helmets that are cracked, broken, dented or altered allowed to remain in the game?

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26. Is communication equipment allowed between the coaches and the dugout?
27. Can a player who is not present be listed on the line-up card?
28. A minimum of nine (9) players is required to start a game.
29. Players of the team in the field may be stationed anywhere on fair territory, except the catcher, who must be in the catcher's box, and the pitcher, who must be in a legal pitching position at the start of each pitch, or within the pitcher's circle (FP ONLY) when putting the ball in play
30. Is it only injury or illness to a player that can allow a coach to change their starting players at the pre-game meeting?
31. The Designated Player (DP) can bat anywhere in the batting order throughout the game.
32. Can a starting player be substituted and re-entered more than once?
33. If a starting player re-enters the game in a different position in the offensive line up, is this considered an Illegal-Re-Entry?
34. The Penalty for an Illegal Re-entry is the ejection of the coach and the illegal substitute.
35. Can the coach legally make a substitution without notifying the plate umpire?
36. Player A is an unreported substitute currently playing defence. The offending team notifies the umpire prior to an appeal from the team not at fault.
Ruling: There is no penalty regardless of how long the player was in the game.
37. A replacement player can play three (3) full innings for a withdrawn player without being classed as a substitute.
38. After a team warning, a team member disputes a judgement call by an umpire. Should the umpire eject this team member?
39. Can anybody smoke in the designated dugout area?
40. A player has been removed from the game. Can they sit on the bench and participate as a coach?
41. Can a base umpire decide on the fitness of the ground?
42. A game being played seven innings is considered a regulation game.
43. Five (5) complete innings have been played and the plate umpire calls the game off due to heavy rain. Is this a regulation game?
44. The game has begun, and Team A refuse to continue play within 2 minutes of the plate umpire calling "Play Ball".
Ruling: The plate umpire shall declare a forfeit.
45. The score of a forfeited game shall be 10-0 to the team not at fault.
46. After four (4) complete innings, the score is Blue: 2, Red: 12.
Ruling: The run ahead rule applies and the game is over.
47. In a tie-breaker, the runner on second base shall be the last out from the previous inning.
48. Two (2) Out; R1 on 3rd Base, R2 on 2nd Base. B3 hits to F6 who tags R2 out before reaching 3rd base. Prior to the tag, R1 scores.
Ruling: As this is the 3rd out, R1 does not score.
49. An offensive coach is entitled to three offensive conferences per game.
50. There can only be three defensive conferences per 7-inning game.

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51. Before commencing the pitch, the pitcher shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
52. Before commencing the pitch, the pitcher may have either or both feet off the pitcher's plate.
53. A pitch is considered to start if one hand is taken off the ball.
54. The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
55. A legal pitch must be delivered with an underhand motion.
56. The pitcher may deliberately roll the ball to prevent the batter from hitting it.
57. A fielder is allowed to act in a manner to distract the batter.
58. Applying pine tar to the ball is an illegal act.
59. A pitcher is allowed to wear a sweatband or bracelet on the wrist of his pitching arm.
60. With runners on base, the catcher must return the ball directly to the pitcher after each pitch.
61. F1 delivers an illegal pitch which is not hit by B4. B4 is awarded an additional ball and any runners are advanced one base.
62. When an Intentional Base on Balls is notified to the umpire, the ball is dead and runners cannot advance unless forced.
63. Smith is pitching in the 3rd innings, when the coach makes a change, bringing Jones from F3 to pitch. Later in the same half innings, Smith returns to pitch and requests three warm-up pitches. Should the umpire grant this request?
64. When a runner is called out for leaving a base, prior to the pitcher releasing the pitch. The ball is dead and a No Pitch shall be declared.
65. If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery, it is a dead ball.
66. The On Deck Batter may loosen up with one or two official softball bats.
67. The batting order of each team must be on the line-up card and must be delivered, before the game, to the plate umpire.
68. The batter has twenty-five seconds to take his position in the batter's box, after the umpire has declared "Play Ball".
69. The batter must have both feet completely within the batter's box prior to the start of the pitch.
70. A strike is called by the umpire for each legally pitched ball struck at and missed by the batter.
71. A ball is called by the umpire for each legally pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone and the batter does not swing.
72. A legally batted ball that touches first or third base is a fair ball.
73. A legally batted ball that goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's head, to any part of the catcher's body or equipment and is caught by another fielder is a foul ball.
74. A foul tip that is caught will be judged a ball or strike depending on whether the pitch passed through the strike zone.
75. When the third strike is swung at and missed, and the ball touches any part of the batter's person, the batter is not given out.
76. A batter's hands are not to be considered a part of the bat.
77. The batter-runner is out when, after hitting a fair ball, he is tagged while off base, or thrown out prior to reaching first base.

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78. When the batter-runner interferes with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball, the umpire should call the batter-runner out.
79. The batter-runner is allowed to step back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag, without penalty.
80. No runners on, Smith, the lead off batter, hits a pop fly ball toward his team's dug out. F3 is prevented from catching the ball due to interference by the base coach.
Ruling: Smith is called out.
81. Runners must touch bases in legal order (i.e. first, second, third and home plate).
82. Two runners may not occupy the same base simultaneously.
83. When the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on his delivery, runners are entitled to advance, with liability to be put out.
84. The batter receives a base on balls. If, after running past first base, he attempts to continue to second base, he cannot be tagged out if he decides to return to first.
85. A runner can advance without liability to be put out, when forced to vacate a base due to the batter being awarded a base on balls.
86. When obstruction occurs, the obstructed runner will be awarded the base, or bases, they would have reached, in the umpire's judgement, had there been no obstruction.
87. When a fielder intentionally catches a thrown ball with his cap, all runners shall be awarded one base.
88. A fair batted fly ball goes directly off the fielder's glove and over the fence in fair territory. Should the umpire award a home-run?
89. A base-runner need not return to his base after a batted ball is declared foul.
90. The runner is out when anyone, other than another runner, physically assists him.
91. When a runner interferes with a fielder attempting catch a batted foul fly ball, he shall be out.
92. R2 holds his base on a fly ball. As soon as the fielder touches the ball he advances, while the fielder makes a number of juggles before completing the catch.
Ruling: The runner can be called out for leaving base early.
93. It is always a dead ball when a pitched ball touches any part of the batter's person, or clothing, whether the ball is struck at or not.
94. The ball is not dead, and remains alive, when a foul ball is not caught.
95. When a wild pitch, or passed ball, goes under, over, or through the backstop, the ball is dead.
96. The ball is dead when a runner runs bases in reverse order, or off the base line, while not attempting to advance, either to confuse the fielders, or to make a travesty of the game.
97. At the start of the game and each half inning, when the plate umpire calls "Play Ball", the ball is not alive until the pitch reaches home.
98. When a thrown ball accidentally strikes a coach the ball is alive.
99. The ball is alive when a strike has been called on the batter, including on strike three.
100. On an illegal pitch it is a delayed dead ball.

FILL IN THE CIRCLE FOR THE CORRECT ANSWER

CANDIDATE No/NAME.....

ASSOCIATION.....

| | T/Y | F/N | | T/Y | F/N | | T/Y | F/N | | T/Y | F/N |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 1. | O | O | 26. | O | O | 51. | O | O | 76. | O | O |
| 2. | O | O | 27. | O | O | 52. | O | O | 77. | O | O |
| 3. | O | O | 28. | O | O | 53. | O | O | 78. | O | O |
| 4. | O | O | 29. | O | O | 54. | O | O | 79. | O | O |
| 5. | O | O | 30. | O | O | 55. | O | O | 80. | O | O |
| 6. | O | O | 31. | O | O | 56. | O | O | 81. | O | O |
| 7. | O | O | 32. | O | O | 57. | O | O | 82. | O | O |
| 8. | O | O | 33. | O | O | 58. | O | O | 83. | O | O |
| 9. | O | O | 34. | O | O | 59. | O | O | 84. | O | O |
| 10. | O | O | 35. | O | O | 60. | O | O | 85. | O | O |
| 11. | O | O | 36. | O | O | 61. | O | O | 86. | O | O |
| 12. | O | O | 37. | O | O | 62. | O | O | 87. | O | O |
| 13. | O | O | 38. | O | O | 63. | O | O | 88. | O | O |
| 14. | O | O | 39. | O | O | 64. | O | O | 89. | O | O |
| 15. | O | O | 40. | O | O | 65. | O | O | 90. | O | O |
| 16. | O | O | 41. | O | O | 66. | O | O | 91. | O | O |
| 17. | O | O | 42. | O | O | 67. | O | O | 92. | O | O |
| 18. | O | O | 43. | O | O | 68. | O | O | 93. | O | O |
| 19. | O | O | 44. | O | O | 69. | O | O | 94. | O | O |
| 20. | O | O | 45. | O | O | 70. | O | O | 95. | O | O |
| 21. | O | O | 46. | O | O | 71. | O | O | 96. | O | O |
| 22. | O | O | 47. | O | O | 72. | O | O | 97. | O | O |
| 23. | O | O | 48. | O | O | 73. | O | O | 98. | O | O |
| 24. | O | O | 49. | O | O | 74. | O | O | 99. | O | O |
| 25. | O | O | 50. | O | O | 75. | O | O | 100. | O | O |