



2014 SOFTBALL AUSTRALIA RULES EXAM

- PLEASE NOTE:**
1. This examination is based on the **2010-2013** Australian Rule Book - 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 Australian Championship rules or 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 _____ S1, who has been ruled an Ineligible Player as a result of being an unreported substitute, returns to the game in a later inning.
RULING: S1 is ejected from the game.

2 _____ A player substituted into the game is not in violation of the substitution rule until a pitch is thrown, or a play made.

3 _____ B1, the lead-off batter, steps toward the first pitch. As the pitch is approaching home plate, he realises that the pitch is inside and he 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.

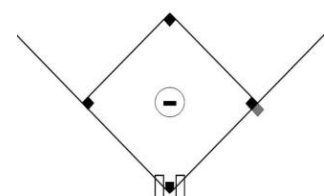
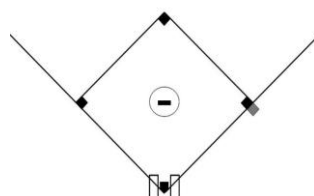
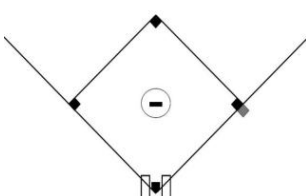
4 _____ The base distance is found to be incorrect part way through an inning. The umpire does not allow the distance to be changed as the rules only allow to correct pitching distances in equal innings, not the base distance and no team is disadvantaged.
 Is the umpire correct?

5 _____ Can an illegally batted ball ever be declared a Fair Ball?

6 _____ 1 out, Red team, batting first, trail Blue team 6-0.
 In the bottom of the 5th inning Jones, batting first, hits a double and is safe at 2nd. Brown, batting second, then hits a single to shallow left field. Jones remains at 2nd and Brown is safe at 1st.
 Smith, batting third, then hits a deep line drive to right field and Jones advances to home and scores safely. F9 fields the ball and throws toward the infield as Brown rounds third base. As he approaches home he slows down as the score is now 7-0 and the Run Ahead Rule is in effect.
 F3 then throws the ball to F5 who tags Smith, who is now jogging off the field. The plate umpire calls "Game". The defensive team now appeal for Jones missing third base.
RULING: The plate umpire was correct in calling "Game" as the 7th run crossed the plate so the game is over.

7 _____ Jones, the lead off batter, positions himself within the lines of the batter's box prior to the pitch. As the pitcher is preparing to pitch he puts his foot out of the back of the batter's box. When the pitch arrives at the plate he places his foot back in the box and hits a line drive up left field line.
RULING: Jones should be called out for stepping out of the batter's box and then returning to the box prior to hitting the ball.

8 _____ A runner is called out for running more than 0.91m (3 ft) from the base path, in order to avoid being touched by the ball in the hand of a fielder. Does the ball become dead?



9 _____ 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 3 strikes; R2 is out on the interference and R1 remains at 3rd.

10 _____ The batter becomes a batter-runner when a fair-batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment or clothing of an umpire, or a runner.

11 _____ The starting player listed as the DP must remain in the same position in the batting order whenever he is in the game.

12 _____ An over-slide is the act of an offensive player when, as a runner, his momentum causes him to lose contact with the base he is attempting to reach.

13 _____ A bat that has a laser marking on the barrel of the bat for "ID" purposes is considered to be an altered bat.

14 _____ 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.

15 _____ A Strike should be called on every occasion, when any part of the batter's person is hit with his own-batted ball, while he is in the batter's box.

16 _____ The ball remains alive, when a runner abandons a base, enters his team area and is called out.

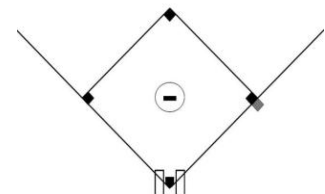
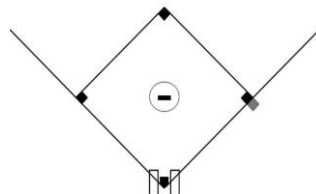
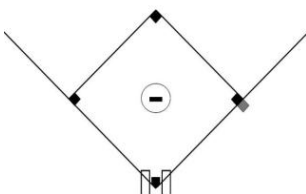
17 _____ A player withdrawn due to bleeding, who is unable to return to the game within the time allowed to treat the injury, may subsequently re-enter the game, subject to the provisions of the Re-entry rule.

18 _____ If the catcher drops the third strike with no runners on base, the batter becomes a batter-runner and he may advance with liability to be put out.

19 _____ The batter's box is an area 0.91m (3 ft) by 2.13m (7 ft), with the front line 1.22m (4 ft) in front of a line drawn through the centre of home plate.

20 _____ Only the plate umpire can determine when a game is forfeited.

21 _____ R1 on 2nd and R2 on 1st, with one out. B3 hits a line drive straight at F6, who catches the ball and then intentionally drops it. F6 recovers the ball and throws it wildly over 2nd base into the outfield. The ball goes all the way to the fence and both R1 & R2 score, while B3 advances to 2nd.
 RULING: The ball is dead and B3 is declared out. R1 and R2 must return to 2nd and 1st respectively.



22 _____ R2 is on 2nd base when B3 slams a line drive directly onto F1's foot. The ball deflects up and is finally caught by F4. R2 left the base when the ball hit F1 on the foot thinking it was a safe hit.

The defensive team then appeals for R2 leaving the base prior to the ball being caught by F4.

RULING: R2 is out for leaving prior to the ball touching F4's glove.

23 _____ After the discovery of runners switching bases following an offensive conference, should the Head Coach of the team be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct?

24 _____ Does the ball become dead when a batter fails to enter the batter's box within 10 seconds after the umpire calls "Play Ball"?

25 _____ R7 trips rounding third base and the coach then helps him to his feet. Does the ball remain alive?

26 _____ A 'Fake Tag' is a form of obstruction and applies when a fielder, who does not have the ball, nor is about to receive the ball, impedes the progress of a runner by giving the appearance of making a tag.

27 _____ At the completion of six innings Red Team 1 and Blue Team 2. Red team does not score in the top of the 7th innings. The umpire does not allow the Blue team to bat the bottom of the 7th inning. Is this ruling correct?

28 _____ When a pitched ball passes under the backstop or goes out of play the ball is dead, and runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch.

29 _____ When a substitution is made, it is the responsibility of the coach to inform the opposition scorer or Official Statistician, if used.

30 _____ 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.

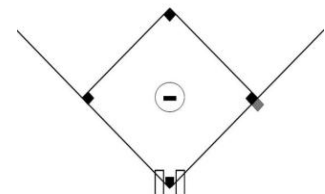
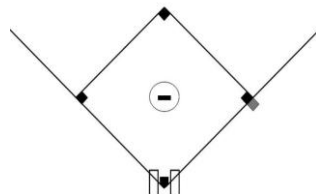
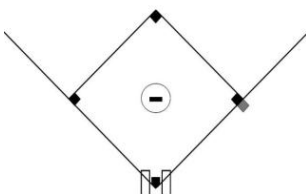
31 _____ Must the Head Coach, who has just been ejected for a violation of the Re-entry rule, provide the umpire with the name of the new coach who is to assume responsibility for the team?

32 _____ R1 is on 3rd and R2 is on 2nd with none out when B3 bunts the 3rd strike in an attempted squeeze play. The ball pops up in the air, over foul territory, toward F5, who is in a position to catch the ball.

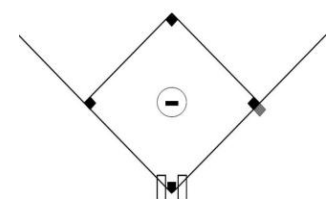
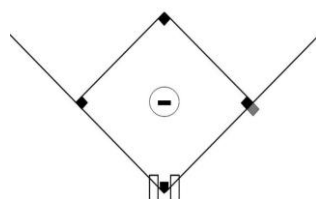
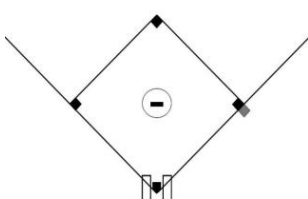
R1, in attempting to return to 3rd, and realising that R2 will be thrown out if the ball is caught, deliberately collides with F5 who is in foul territory and the ball falls safely on to foul ground.

RULING: This is a triple play. B3 is out for bunting foul on the third strike, R1 is out on the interference and R2 is also out for the deliberate attempt by R1 to prevent a double play.

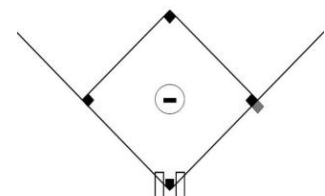
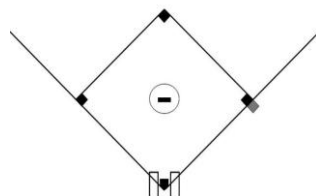
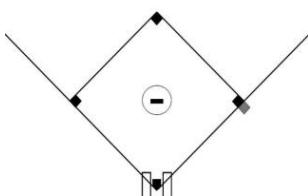
33 _____ The pitcher's pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate, while he is delivering a pitch.



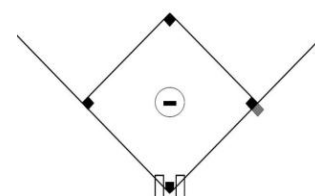
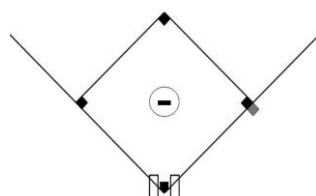
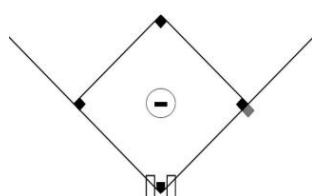
- 34 _____ Must the umpire be advised when a Replacement Player is entering the game?
- 35 _____ A strike that touches the ground prior to the catcher catching the ball is a trapped ball.
- 36 _____ One out, R1 on 2nd, R2 on 1st, B3 hits to deep left field, R2 misses second base, R1 scores, F7 throws wild to F4, all runners advance to home. F9 throws to F2 who tags B3 out at home for the 2nd out; the defence then appeals for R2 missing 2nd base.
RULING: No runs count. The appeal is considered a force out.
- 37 _____ A pitcher may use powdered resin to dry his hands as long as it is under the supervision and control of the umpire.
- 38 _____ During the pre-game meeting, the Red Team coach advises that one of his players Smith, batting in the 5th position, is unwell. He advises the umpire he wants to bring Brown into the game for Smith, but not as a substitute, as he wants to be able to re-enter Brown later in the game, if required. The plate umpires agrees to the change. However, as this illness has changed the whole dynamic of the batting line-up, the coach then wants to move Brown out of the 5th batting position into the 2nd batting position, move the batter in the 2nd position to the 5th position and swap the batter's in the 4th & 9th positions respectively.
RULING: The umpire should allow the changes to the batting line-up as requested.
- 39 _____ Can a legally batted fly ball that first lands on foul territory beyond 1st or 3rd base ever be declared a Fair Ball, even when it is subsequently fielded over fair territory?
- 40 _____ An On-Deck Batter interferes with a defensive player attempting to retire a runner, so the umpire declares the runner closest to home out. Should other runners be returned to the bases they held at the time of the pitch?
- 41 _____ The base coach may leave the coach's box to signal a runner to slide.
- 42 _____ Umpires may not be changed during a game by consent of the opposing teams, unless an umpire is incapacitated by injury, or illness.
- 43 _____ A succeeding runner may score a run, even when a preceding runner has been declared the third out of an inning.
- 44 _____ Does the ball remain alive when the batter-runner steps back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag by a fielder?
- 45 _____ R1 on 1st base, F1 pitches the next ball to B2 for a called strike. F2 returns the ball directly back to F1, however F1 does not pitch the ball within 20 seconds.
RULING: The plate umpire should call an illegal pitch, R1 advances to 2nd base.
- 46 _____ R1 on 3rd, R2 on 2nd with one out, when B4 hits a long fly ball to F8, who catches the ball. R1 tags up after the catch but R2 leaves 2nd before F8 touches the ball. R1 crosses home plate before an appeal is made at 2nd. Does the run count?



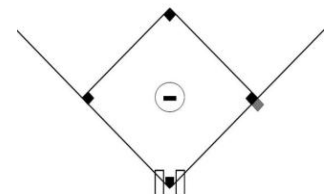
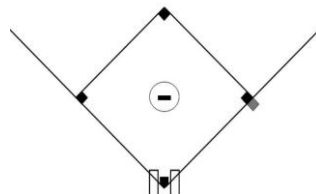
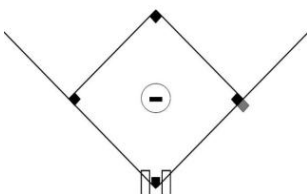
- 47 _____ The ball remains alive, when a runner runs the bases in reverse order in an attempt to confuse the defensive team.
- 48 _____ Can an offensive team coach request, and be granted, a suspension of play to communicate with any member of his team without being charged with an offensive conference?
- 49 _____ Is the runner out when he is touched, while off base, with a ball not securely held by a defensive player?
- 50 _____ F3 and F4 are fielding well behind the base line as B2 is a big hitter. B2 proceeds to hit a line drive toward F4. The base umpire is then hit by the fair-batted ball before it reaches any infielder.
RULING: The plate umpire rules interference.
- 51 _____ Does the ball become dead, when a live ball strikes a policeman who has been assigned to the game?
- 52 _____ The umpire is announcing a defensive substitution. B2 is ready and waiting in the batter's box, so F1 proceeds to pitch before the umpire has returned to his position behind F2.
B2 hits to the infield and is forced out at first base, so U1 calls the out.
RULING: As there was no disadvantage to either side, the play is allowed to stand.
- 53 _____ R1 is on 2nd with none out. B2 hits the pitched ball for a single and his helmet accidentally falls off as he leaves the batter's box.
F9 fields the batted ball and throws it toward F2 in an effort to retire R1 at the plate. The thrown ball makes contact with B2's helmet allowing R1 to score on the play.
RULING: The ball is declared dead, B2 is out and R1 must return to 3rd.
- 54 _____ 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.
- 55 _____ R2 on 1st base, stealing on the pitch, runs behind F4 fielding on the base line. F2 throws the ball to F4 to attempt to tag. However, F4 misses R2. The defensive team appeal because they claim the runner is not allowed to run off the base line.
RULING: R2 is safe.
- 56 _____ While the ball is alive, the pitcher may legally remove himself from the pitching position by stepping backwards, or sideways, off the pitcher's plate prior to separating the hands.
- 57 _____ When the Batter-Runner touches only the fair portion of the double base when a play has been made at the base is it necessary for the defence to make an appeal for a missed base, before the batter-runner returns to the fair portion of the base after over running the base?
- 58 _____ The score of a forfeited game shall be 1-0 in favour of the team not at fault



- 69 _____ One out with Brown on 2nd and Smith on 1st. Jones hits the ball to F4 who forces Smith out at 2nd. Jones and Brown are safe at 1st and 3rd respectively.
The defence now lodge an appeal for Jones being an unreported substitute.
RULING: Jones is called out, declared Ineligible and removed from the game. Smith remains out and Brown is safe at 3rd.
- 60 _____ A runner from 1st base may advance, after the batter-runner has been called out, when a fielder intentionally drops a bunted fly ball with less than 2 out.
- 61 _____ Following a suspension in play, the plate umpire shall declare a forfeit if one team fails to resume play within two minutes after the umpire has called "PLAY BALL".
- 62 _____ Gloves with a circle of white, grey or the colour of the ball on the outside, giving the appearance of a ball, are legal for all players.
- 63 _____ The playing field shall have an unobstructed area of not less than 7.62m (25 ft), nor more than 9.14m (30 ft) in width, outside the foul lines and between home plate and the backstop.
- 64 _____ R1 and B2 are both between first and second base when F9 throws the ball out-of-play. B2 is awarded second base and R1 is awarded 3rd.
- 65 _____ 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 pitch, unless forced to advance.
- 66 _____ Red Team line-up is: Young, Barnett and Lee. It is supposed to be Young's turn to bat to start the inning but Barnett bats instead. He hits a single and remains safely at 1st.
Lee then enters the batter's box but before F1 delivers a pitch, the defence appeal for Barnett batting out of order.
RULING: The umpire declares Young out and removes Barnett from 1st base who now bats again.
- 67 _____ B5 hits a long foul fly ball to the left field corner. F7 makes up a lot of ground but, just as he is about to catch the ball, a spectator leans over the fence and deflects it away from him.
RULING: The umpire declares a Foul Ball and B5 resumes his position in the batter's box.
- 68 _____ B5, a known slap hitter, positions himself in the left hand batter's box. The defensive coach gives a signal and all defensive players, except F1 and F2 who remain in the pitcher's circle and the catcher's box respectively, position themselves in the infield and F9 stands on first base.
B5 slaps the ball to F7 standing in front of third base and F7 then throws to F9 playing first base for the out.
The offensive coach claims it is unfair that all the players are in the infield and F9 cannot play first base.
Is the coach correct with his claim?



- 69 _____ May a substitute, upon entering the game for an injured runner, proceed directly to the awarded base without first touching all awarded bases not previously touched by the injured runner?
- 70 _____ Should a bat that has a safety grip of cork be considered an illegal bat?
- 71 _____ The OPO is in effect when the FLEX player bats for the Designated Player (DP).
- 72 _____ A player may be designated as a coach in the event the coach is absent, or that player is a playing coach.
- 73 _____ R1 on 1st, when B2 hits a ground ball to F4. F4 attempts to tag R1, who turns and runs back toward 1st.
RULING: The umpire should immediately call R1 out for running bases in reverse order.
- 74 _____ 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?
- 75 _____ The batter is not out if his foot is touching home plate when he hits the ball, as long as part of his foot is also touching the line of the batter's box.
- 76 _____ Runners may advance on a Foul Tip, because the ball is alive.
- 77 _____ 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 declared out and B3 returns to 1st.
- 78 _____ The catcher's box is that area within which the catcher must remain until the pitch is released. The lines are not considered within the catcher's box.
- 79 _____ When any of the starting players, except the Designated Player (DP), returns to the game after being legally, or illegally, substituted this is known as Re-Entry.
- 80 _____ The Designated Player (DP) may play on defence for any player, including the FLEX.
- 81 _____ When a runner, or batter-runner, acquires the right to a base by touching it before being put out, he is entitled to hold the base until he has legally touched the next base in order, or is forced to vacate it for a succeeding runner.



82 _____ For the Infield Fly rule to be in effect, there must be less than two outs and runners on first and second, or runners on first and third.

R1 on 1st. He leads off with the pitch, which is hit along the ground to F9. F9 fields and returns the ball directly to F1, who steps onto the pitcher's plate. R1 advances to and rounds 2nd on the hit, and on seeing F9 throw to F1, continues on to 3rd. F1 does not attempt to prevent the advance.
 The defensive team call for the umpire to declare R1 out, stating that R1 cannot advance while F1 is on the plate with the ball.
 RULING: The umpire ignores the request and the advance of R1 is legal.

83 _____

84 _____ When preparing the line-up card, can the FLEX Player be listed in any other position other than the 10th position?

85 _____ When a runner is required to return to his base after a foul ball, is he required to touch the intervening bases?

R1 on 1st breaks for 2nd on the pitch. B2 hits a fly ball to F8, who catches the ball as R1 rounds 2nd. R1, realising he has not tagged up, turns back, retouches 2nd and heads for 1st.
 F8 throws the ball to F3 but the throw is wild and goes out of play. At the time the ball goes dead, R1 is between 1st and 2nd.
 With the ball out of play, R1 is awarded 3rd. He retouches 1st, then proceeds to 2nd and 3rd.
 When F1 receives a new ball from the umpire, the defence make a legal appeal for R1 leaving his base before the fly ball was caught.
 RULING: The appeal is upheld and R1 is out.

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87 _____ When a batter-runner is called out for creating interference, the ball is dead and all other runners must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the interference.

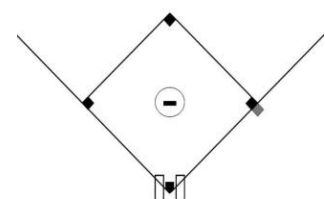
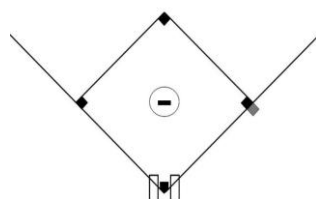
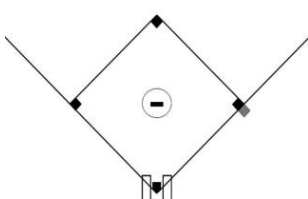
88 _____ Obstruction on a runner occurs when a fielder, not in the act of fielding a batted ball, impedes the progress of a runner, who is legally running the bases.

89 _____ Does an obstructed runner retain his protection from being put out if, after having attained the base the umpire considers he would have reached had obstruction not occurred, there is a subsequent play on a different runner?

90 _____ With two out, B1 bats safely for a single. B5 now comes to bat and hits the ball to F6, who throws to F4 and retires B1 for the third out. Before all the players leave the field, the defensive team lodge an appeal for B5 batting out of order. Is this a legal appeal?

91 _____ During the pre-game meeting the coach of the batting team deliberately erases the lines of the batter's box while he is inspecting the line-up card. The umpire should warn the coach.

92 _____ If an Illegal Pitch hits the batter, the batter will only be awarded first base if the Illegal Pitch is Ball 4.



- 93 _____ When the umpire ejects a player, he can no longer participate in that game in any capacity.
- 94 _____ Is it possible for a starting player, who has been legally substituted from the game on one occasion, to be entered into the game as a replacement player?
- 95 _____ 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.
- 96 _____ When a pitcher accidentally drops the ball during the delivery, a ball will be called on the batter. The ball is dead and runners may not advance.
- 97 _____ Must all defensive players be in fair territory before the ball can be put into play?
- 98 _____ A coach takes a 4th defensive conference in a seven innings game.
RULING: The umpire should declare the pitcher an illegal pitcher who may not pitch for the rest of the game.
- 99 _____ The pitcher must come to a complete stop for 2 seconds after taking the signal from the catcher and pitch the ball within 10 seconds.
- 100 _____ Illegal re-entry is ruled when a substitute is placed back into the game.
RULING: The coach and the player in violation are removed from the game.

