

2007 Australian Umpire Examination

(updated to 2010-2013 rule book)

1. A batted ball passes untouched between F3's legs and accidentally strikes R1, who is running behind F3. No other fielder had a chance to make an out. RULING: R1 is out for interference.
2. A chopped ball is a batted ball that is hit downward with a chopping motion of the bat, so that the ball bounces high into the air.
3. A force-out is an out which can only be made when a runner loses the right to the base which he is occupying, because the batter becomes a batter-runner and before the batter-runner, or a succeeding runner, has been put out. The force out is determined by the force situation at the time the appeal is made, not at the time of the infraction.
4. A player will not violate the illegal player rule until one pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown or a play is made.
5. When bases are awarded due to the ball becoming dead, a runner who has left his base prior to a fly ball being caught is not required to retouch his base before advancing to the awarded bases.
6. A mask with an extended wire protection in place of the throat protector may be used by the umpire but not by the catcher.
7. A runner is declared out, during a live ball play, for physically passing a preceding runner before that runner has been called out. Does the ball remain alive?
8. A runner, who slides safely into a base and dislodges it, is exempt from liability to be put out until the base is returned to its proper position, unless he attempts to advance beyond the dislodged base.
9. A runner is injured while running between 3rd and home. The umpire considers that the injury may put the player in danger. He calls "Time", even though the play in progress has not been completed.
RULING: Other runners, if any, are returned to the last legally touched base.
10. A slap hit is a batted ball that has been struck with a controlled short, chopping motion rather than with a full swing.
11. A team may have more than 6 players in the infield, prior to a pitch being delivered.
12. A Trapped Ball can be a pitched ball that touches the ground on a strike, prior to the catcher catching it.
13. All defensive players, except the catcher who must be in the catcher's box, must be in fair territory when the umpire calls "Play Ball".
14. An umpire may declare a game a forfeit if, after suspension of play, one side refuses to resume playing within one minute after the umpire has called 'Play Ball'
15. B1 bunts the ball down the 1st base line. In running to first he accidentally kicks the ball, which is in foul territory and rolling parallel to the line, the ball goes into the infield and settles in fair territory.
RULING: B1 is out for interference.

16. B1 hits a ground ball to F6, who throws to F3 to try for the out. However, the ball gets away from F3. B1 touches then runs past 1st, remaining in fair territory. He turns to his left before returning to 1st. The defence tag B1 before he returns to the base and appeal for B1 being off base. RULING: B1 is safe provided he made no attempt to advance to 2nd before returning to 1st.
17. Bases, other than home plate and the double base, may not be more than 12.7cm (5 in) thick and 38.1cm (15 in) square.
18. B1 is awarded 1st on Ball 4 and the ball is returned to F1, who is in the pitcher's circle. B1 touches and runs past 1st. While returning to 1st he is obstructed by F3 who does not have the ball. On hearing the obstruction call, B1 moves slowly toward 2nd but is tagged off base by F4.
RULING: As the obstruction call does not automatically entitle a runner to an extra base, B1 advanced at his own risk. The out should stand.
19. Can a base umpire declare a forfeit if he is physically attacked by a player?
20. Can runners legally advance, with liability to be put out, when a thrown ball strikes an umpire?
21. Conferences should not be charged if they take place at any time when the umpire has suspended play.
22. Does the ball become dead, when a base is dislodged while runners are progressing around the bases?
23. F4 is noticed placing a foreign substance on the ball and is warned by the umpire. Several batters later, F4 again placed a foreign substance on the ball. RULING: The pitcher should be ejected from the game.
24. If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, the pitcher may simply advise the umpire of his intent. The umpire will then award the batter first base and no pitches need be thrown.
25. Is it permissible for F1 to keep his resin bag in his back pocket while not in use?
26. Is the act of a runner, who has been declared out, continuing to run and drawing a throw considered a form of interference?
27. It is always a dead ball, when a runner leaves the base before a pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
28. May a pitcher wear a white undershirt, even if no other team member is wearing an undershirt?
29. None out with R1 on 2nd and R2 on 1st. S1, an unreported substitute, hits the ball to F4 who forces R2 out at 2nd. R1 and S1 are safe at 3rd base and 1st base respectively. The defence now lodge an appeal for S1 being an unreported substitute. RULING: S1 is called out, declared Ineligible and removed from the game. R2 remains out and R1 returns to 2nd
30. R1 on 1st, when B2 hits a fair ground ball down the left field foul line. F7 moves across into foul territory to field the ball. Before he can do so a policeman, who has been assigned to the game, picks up the ball, thinking it is foul and tosses it back into the infield. RULING: The umpire declares a dead ball and awards R1 and B2 the base, or bases, he considers they would have reached, in his judgement, had the policeman not handled the ball.
31. R1 on 1st. B2 hits a fly ball that contacts the foul pole above the fence level. The ball rebounds back into the playing field, where F7 recovers it and returns it to the infield. RULING: This is a home run, so both R1 and B2 are entitled to advance to the home plate.

32. R1 on 3rd when B2 bunts the 3rd strike. 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, collides with F5, who is on foul territory and the ball falls safely on to foul ground. RULING: B2 is out for bunting foul on the 3rd strike.
33. R3 on 3rd and R4 on 1st, with none out. B5 hits the next pitch to F6, who throws to F4 at 2nd completing the force out. R4, who is still on his feet, intentionally knocks F4's arm, making the throw for the double play go well wide of F3. R3 scores after the interference and B5 advances to 2nd.
RULING: R4 and B5 is out, R3 must return to 3rd and the ball is dead.
34. R5 on 1st. B6 hits a ground ball to F1, who fields and throws to F4 for the force. The throw is wide, so F4 catches the ball in his cap and manages to touch his base before R5 reaches the base.
RULING: R5 is awarded 3rd base. B6 is awarded 2nd base.
35. Runners may advance, when a fielder intentionally drops a bunted fly ball with a runner on 1st and with less than two out.
36. The ball is alive, when a batter uses an illegal bat.
37. The batter is awarded a Ball, if the pitcher fails to pitch the ball within 20 seconds after receiving it, irrespective of whether there is a runner on base or not.
38. The Designated Player may be substituted for at any time, either by a batter or runner, or the FLEX for whom he is batting. This would mean the game is continuing with either 9 or 10 players, depending on the substitution.
39. The minimum home run fence distance is 76.20m (250 ft) for men and 68.58m (225 ft) for women.
40. The 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 (the hands are not part of the bat).
RULING: B1 is awarded first base.
41. The plate umpire has sole authority to decide the fitness of the ground for a game.
42. The Run Ahead Rule applies when one team leads the other by 15 runs after three innings, 10 runs after four innings and 7 runs after five innings.
43. The score of a regulation tie game shall be the tie score when the game is terminated. A regulation tie game shall be replayed from the beginning.
44. Warm-up pitches to base players are not counted in the five (5) at the beginning of the game and three (3) allowed at the beginning of each half inning.
45. The penalty for a violation, when a player acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, is always ejection of the offender from the game.
46. When an on-deck batter interferes with a player attempting to catch a fly ball, the batter-runner shall be declared out.

47. R1 on 1st breaks for 2nd on the pitch. B2 hits a fly ball to F8, who catches the ball as R1 rounds 2nd and is half way to 3rd. R1, realising he has not tagged up, turns and runs back toward 2nd. 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 2nd and 3rd. With the ball out of play, R1 is awarded 3rd. He retouches 2nd and 1st, and then proceeds to 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 denied and R1 remains at 3rd.
48. B2 hits a long fly ball that is caught by F7, who then falls over the fence. At no stage does F7 lose control of the ball.
RULING: This is a valid catch, so B2 is out.
49. With runners at 3rd and 2nd, B2 hits a foul fly ball towards 1st base. F3, in an attempt to catch the ball, collides with the coach, who is standing in the coach's box, and the ball falls to the ground.
RULING: B2 should be declared out.
50. With two strikes, the batter is automatically out when, with two outs and a runner on first base, he swings and misses the pitch and the catcher drops the ball.
51. With R2 on 2nd and two out, B5 comes to bat instead of B4. On the first pitch, a strike, R2 steals 3rd legally and the umpire calls him safe. The defence now appeal that B5 is batting out-of-order. RULING: B4 shall take his place at the plate assuming the 1 strike count of B5. The advance of R2 is legal and no one is out.
52. With R1 on 1st, B2 has a Strike 2 count. R1 breaks for 2nd on the next pitch, which B2 swings at. However, the pitch brushes B2's shirt and R1 reaches 2nd safely. RULING: B2 is out and R1 returns to 1st.
53. When using a windmill pitch, may the pitcher's arm pass the hip twice?
54. When a batter is called out for interference, all runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of the interference.
55. When a throw becomes blocked, or goes out of play, two bases are awarded to all runners. The award is governed from the last base touched at the time of the pitch.
56. The third out of the inning is the result of a batter-runner stepping back toward home plate, to avoid a tag. If a runner crosses the plate before the batter-runner is called out, the run counts.
57. The score is tied in the bottom of the 9th inning with two out. With R2 on 3rd and R3 on 2nd B4 hits safely, scoring what should be the winning run. However, R2 fails to touch home plate. R2 heads toward the dugout but his team mates push him back toward home plate, telling him to touch the plate, which he does. There is a play being made on R2 but not before he touches the plate.
RULING: The run scores and the game is over.
58. The plate umpire must wear a body protector and shin guards.
59. The pitcher may make two full revolutions of the pitching arm on a windmill pitch, prior to releasing the ball.
60. The penalty for an illegal re-entry is the ejection of both the coach and the player in violation.

61. The Head Coach lists the name of his Assistant Coach on the line-up card, as he does not wish to be ejected if he inadvertently violates the Re-entry rule. Is this permissible?
62. The batter's strike zone is determined by the position he takes in the batter's box.
63. The base distance of a game is found to be incorrect part way through an inning. Can the umpire have the distance corrected at that point?
64. Runners on 1st and 2nd. A coach intentionally interferes with a thrown ball, while in the coach's box. Should the umpire declare the runner closest to home, at the time of the interference, out?
65. Red team, first at bat, has a score of 3 runs. Blue team have a score of 4 runs. In the top of the 6th inning Red score 1 run, when the game is called due to bad weather.
RULING: The final score is Red 4, Blue 4.
66. R1 on third base, B2 has a count of two strikes and one ball. B2 turns to bunt as the ball comes way inside; the ball contacts the stationary bat and goes immediately downward onto the batter's foot and rebounds into the diamond.
RULING: The umpire calls a dead ball with the count staying at 2 strikes and one ball and R1 returns to the base he held at the time of the pitch.
67. R4 on 3rd, R5 on 2nd and B6 in the batter's box, with none out. R4 breaks for home on the pitch, as F2, in an attempt to break up the squeeze play, prevents B6 from striking at the ball.
RULING: An Illegal Pitch should be declared. B6 should be awarded 1st, R4 advances home and R5 advances to 3rd.
68. R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st, with F3 playing behind the baseline. B3 hits a line drive ground ball that contacts R2, who is still on the base, before it passes a fielder other than the pitcher. F3 picks up the ball and tags R2, who is still standing on 1st, then touches the base to force B3 out. R1 stays at 3rd.
RULING: R2 advances to 2nd and B3 is safe at 1st, while R1 remains at 3rd.
69. R1 on 1st, when F7 catches a foul fly ball near the dead ball line. R1 legally tags up and advances toward 2nd on the catch. F7 intentionally runs over the dead ball line, after R1 touches 2nd.
RULING: R1 is awarded 3rd and the ball is dead.
70. Prior to the game the umpires inspect the bats. One umpire notices that a bat has two layers of tape wound on top of each other on the handle.
RULING: The umpires should allow the bat to be in the game.
71. Must the pitcher's plate always be made of rubber?
72. It is the bottom of the 7th inning with scores tied and two out. With R1 on 2nd and R2 on 1st, B3 hits a ground ball, which is fumbled by F7. R1 scores. R2, leads off 1st about 4.57m (15 ft) and slows up. B3 rounds 1st and passes R2. F6, with the ball then touches 2nd base.
RULING: No run scores on the play.
73. Is there a penalty if a change of number is required, when a player has to replace his shirt due to blood being on it?
74. Is it permissible to use a red stitch yellow optic covered ball, with a COR of .50, in any division of adult Fast Pitch play?
75. Is it necessary for a player who has been removed from the game for an infraction of the rules to leave the game and return to the dressing room?

76. If a fair batted ball goes: over the home run fence on the full, or directly off a fielder's glove or body and over the fence, or makes contact with the foul pole on the full above fence level, or makes contact with the top of the fence on the full and goes over the fence, or the fielder knocks over the fence and catches the ball while touching the ground outside the fence.
RULING: The batter is awarded a home run in all cases.
77. F1 delivers the pitch to B5, who has one foot touching the plate while swinging at and missing the ball. RULING: The umpire should call a Strike and the ball remains alive.
78. Does the ball become dead when the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during his delivery?
79. Communication equipment may never be used between a coach and coaches, players, spectators or the dugout. A coach discovered using communication equipment would be removed from the game immediately
80. Can an illegally batted ball ever be declared a Fair Ball?
81. Batting order is B1, B2 and B3. B1 hits a line drive through shortstop and is safe on second. B3 comes to bat and hits to F6 who fields the ball, tags B1 and then throws to F3 and retires B3 at first. The defence now appeal for batting out of order; the umpire calls B2 out and allows the out of B1 to stand. The offence then claims that as B3 was an illegal batter his hit has to be nullified, so B1 should not be out. Is the offence correct?
82. 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, because this is not a legal catch.
83. B1 has a Strike 2 count, when he swings at and misses the next pitch. The pitch hits F2's shin guard, rebounds high in the air and is caught by F2, before touching anything else.
RULING: Because the pitch hit the shin guard before being caught, B1 becomes a batter-runner, as this is considered to be a dropped third strike.
84. 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. B3 subsequently beats the throw to 1st.
RULING: B3 should be declared out, for interfering with a dropped 3rd strike.
85. Any member of the defensive team need only wear a helmet, mask and throat protector, while receiving warm-up pitches from the pitcher's plate.
86. An umpire should issue a warning if any team member disputes his judgement on the calling of balls and strikes.
87. A withdrawn player, may be returned to the game at any time during the innings in progress, or the next complete innings.
88. An outfielder may make an appeal for a runner missing a base, provided he is in the field of play, (i.e. anywhere between the foul lines) at the time of making the appeal.
89. A team may have four charged defensive conferences in a seven-inning game without penalty.
90. A skullcap, without earflaps, is considered a legal helmet for the catcher.

91. A runner must return to the base held at the time of the pitch, when a pitched ball swung at and missed touches any part of the batter's person.
92. 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 remain alive?
93. A ruled Ineligible Player may not continue in the game, even as a coach.
94. A pitch is delivered while the catcher is completely outside the lines of the catcher's box.
RULING: The umpire should call "No Pitch".
95. A foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's shoulders, to the catcher's hands and is legally caught by the catcher.
96. A 'Fake Tag' is a form of obstruction and applies when a fielder, who is not in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of a runner by giving the appearance of making a tag.
97. A line drive to right field first touches the foul line and then bounces into foul territory, where it settles.
RULING: This is a Fair Ball.
98. Any defensive player, including an outfielder stationed in the infield area on the play, is considered an infielder for the Infield Fly situation.
99. A runner is entitled to hold a base legally acquired, unless forced to vacate it for a succeeding runner.
100. A team may legally protest on a misinterpretation of a playing rule.