



2009 SOFTBALL AUSTRALIA RULES EXAM

- PLEASE NOTE:**
1. This examination is based on the Australian Rule Book - as revised 2006-2009 - 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.

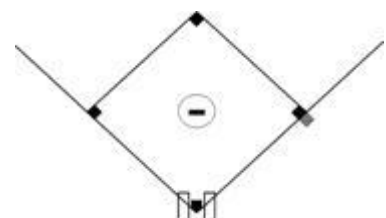
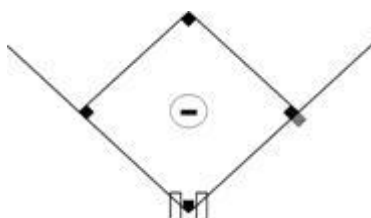
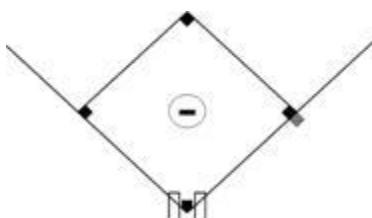
- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer strictly according to ASF Rule Book, NOT local bylaws and/or ground rules.
 2. Only the answer sheet of this examination is to be returned to the National, State or Association Director of Umpiring through the scrutineer. You retain the question portion for further study.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

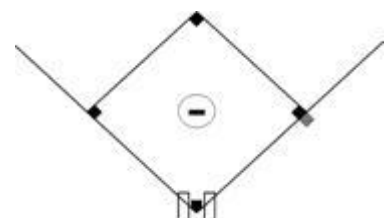
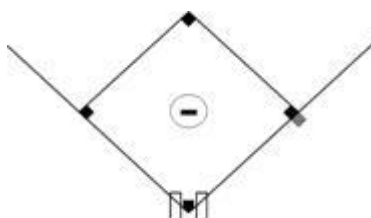
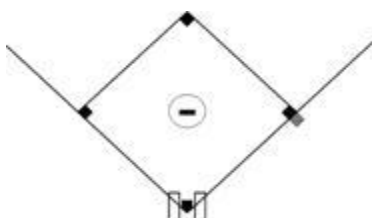
T/Y F/N
e.g. A TRUE or YES answer would be ● ○ on the Answer Sheet provided.

- * **Black pen is the best for this. Please do not cross, put dashes or tick circles for correct answers.**
- * **Please insert your name and current level 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 next to the question number to put your answer; this may aid you in transferring answers to the answer sheet.**

- 1 _____ A team has one charged defensive conference during the first seven innings of an extended game. As they haven't reached their conference limit, can the team then have 2 defensive conferences in the eighth inning without penalty?
- 2 _____ 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.
- 3 _____ The defensive team appeals for the use of an Illegal Re-entry and the appeal is upheld. Should the umpire allow all plays that occurred after a pitch legal or illegal, while the player in violation was in the game, to stand?
- 4 _____ Coaches, players, substitutes or other bench personnel shall not be outside the designated bench/dugout area, except when the rules allow, or it is considered justified by the umpire.
- 5 _____ The batter-runner is out when, on Ball 4, he enters the team area to return the bat before advancing to first base.
- 6 _____ A listed substitute who has not yet been in the game may not be used as a Replacement Player.
- 7 _____ The white covered 27.9cm (11 in) ball, with either red or white stitches and a COR of .47, may be used in all divisions of Fast Pitch play.
- 8 _____ When a runner slides into a base and dislodges it from its proper position, the base is considered to have followed the runner.
- 9 _____ R1 on 3rd, with F5 fielding deep behind the line and toward shortstop. R1 leads off in foul territory, as B3 slams a sharp line drive down the 3rd base foul line. The ball strikes the base, ricochets back and contacts R1, who is still in foul territory, F5 would not have been able to make an out on the hit.
RULING: R1 is out for being hit by a fair ball in foul territory.
- 10 _____ Runners, tagging up on a fly ball, must remain in contact with the base until a fielder has first touched the ball.
- 11 _____ R1 on 1st with one out, when B3 hits a line drive to F6, who makes a diving catch. On the catch, R1 is caught half way between 1st and 2nd, scrambling back to 1st. F6, attempting to pick him off, throws the ball to F3 but it is wild and goes out of play. With the ball out of play R1 is awarded 3rd. He stops, does not retouch 1st and advances to 2nd and 3rd. When the ball is back in the infield, the defence legally appeal for R1 failing to retouch 1st.
RULING: R1 is out.
- 12 _____ 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.



- 13 _____ A protest, based on the eligibility of a team member, is upheld. Will the game be replayed?
- 14 _____ 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.
- 15 _____ The pitcher places resin directly on the ball.
RULING: This an illegal act.
- 16 _____ A runner is hit by a fair, untouched batted ball after it has passed a fielder and the umpire considers no other fielder had a chance to make an out. Should the runner be declared out for interfering with a batted ball?
- 17 _____ The offensive team leaves loose equipment lying on the playing field. A thrown ball subsequently contacts the equipment and causes interference with a play on a runner.
RULING: A blocked ball is declared and the runner being played on is out, provided the runner has not scored prior to the blocked ball declaration.
- 18 _____ When an umpire detects a batter using an illegal bat, he shall declare the batter out. The bat may remain in the dugout but the offending team should be warned that the bat must not be used again.
- 19 _____ The on-deck batter may leave the on-deck circle to direct a runner to slide into home plate.
- 20 _____ 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 sliding into the base. 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.
- 21 _____ A smooth, three-sided bat is considered to be a legal bat.
- 22 _____ A pitched ball not struck at and not in the strike zone, hits B1's hand and the ball rolls slowly toward F1, who fields and throws to 1st for the out.
RULING: Provided B1 attempted to avoid the pitch, he is awarded 1st base and the ball is dead.
- 23 _____ When the pitching distance is found to be incorrect the umpire should correct the error immediately and continue playing the game.
- 24 _____ A Foul Tip is always a strike.



25 _____ A player, withdrawn due to bleeding, is unable to return to the game within the time allowed to treat the injury and the team does not have a legal substitute available.
RULING: The game will be forfeited.

26 _____ At the beginning of the first inning for both teams, or when a pitcher relieves another, no more than one minute may be used to deliver no more than five warm-up pitches to any team member.

27 _____ Can a base umpire determine and declare when a game is forfeited?

28 _____ R4 on 2nd and R5 on 1st, with none out. B6 hits a sharp ground ball to F5, who throws to F4 at 2nd completing the force out. F4 then attempts to throw to 1st for the double play but is knocked over by R5, who is still standing, and therefore cannot make an effective throw. As a result, B6 advances safely to 1st and R4 advances safely to 3rd.
RULING: B6 is out on the interference and R4 remains at 3rd base.

29 _____ R5 is on 3rd and R7 on 1st with none out when the offensive coach is granted "Time" to have a conference with his batter and runners. After the conference is over, R7, being a quicker runner than R5, goes to 3rd while R5 goes to 1st. B8 bats and flies out to F7 for the first out, as R7 scores and R5 advances to 2nd on the catch. After B9 takes the first pitch for a called strike, the defensive team brings to the umpire's attention that R5 and R7 had switched bases after the conference.
RULING: Even though a pitch has been thrown to B9, the umpire should cancel the run, declare both R5 and R7 out and eject the coach for unsportsmanlike conduct.

30 _____ A game that is not considered regulation shall be replayed from the beginning.

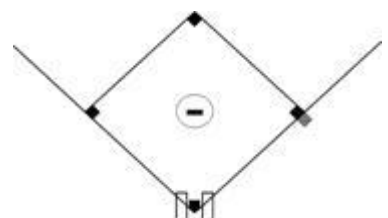
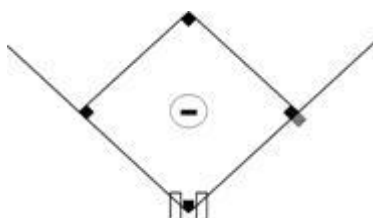
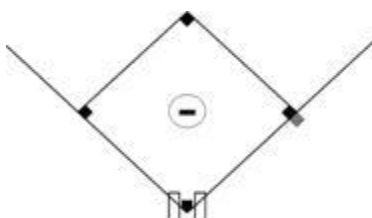
31 _____ B4 hits a deep fly ball to left field and on rounding first base he touches the foul portion of the double base and runs wide. He then runs into F3 who is standing deep behind first base. **RULING:** The umpire does not call obstruction because the base path is a direct line between first and second base and B4 was running outside the line.

32 _____ Does the batter become a batter-runner when the catcher drops a third strike with 2 out and a runner on 1st base?

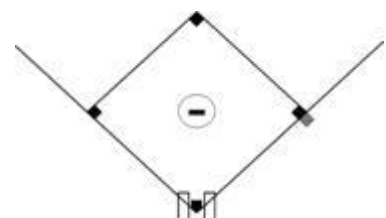
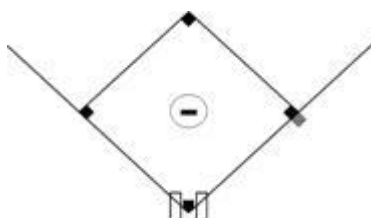
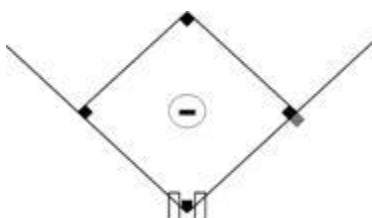
33 _____ Red Team, first at bat, trails Blue Team 1-7. At the start of the 6th inning Red Team refuses to take the field so the plate umpire declares a forfeit in favour of Blue Team. The final score is Blue Team 7 Red Team 1.

34 _____ Other than when applying the rule ahead rule, in order to have a regulation game, the losing team must complete 5 turns at bat.

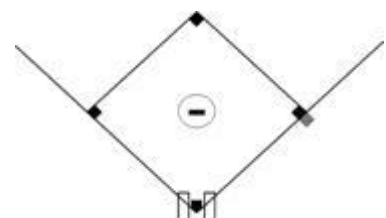
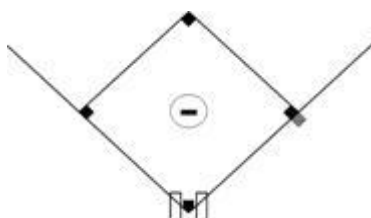
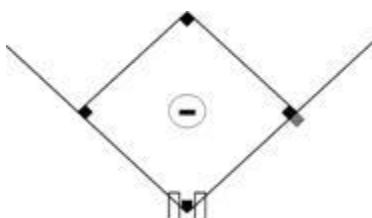
35 _____ B2 is at bat with a Ball 2 Strike 1 count and R1 on 1st, when F1 delivers a pitch that F2 does not handle cleanly. R1 attempts to advance as F2 drags the ball back with his detached mask. R1 is subsequently thrown out at 2nd.
RULING: R1 should be declared safe at 2nd, as he is entitled to one base without liability to be put out as a result of F2 intentionally contacting the pitched ball with detached equipment.



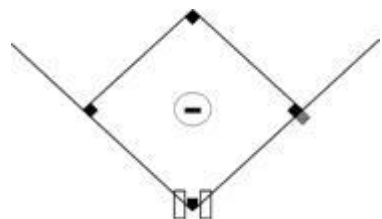
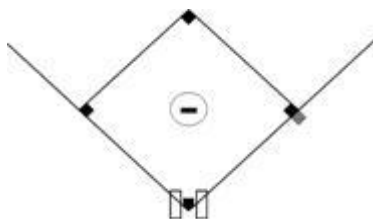
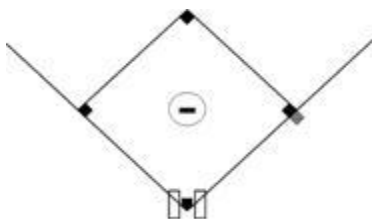
- 36 _____ Other than appeals for unannounced substitutions, both the offensive and defensive teams can make an appeal on a play.
- 37 _____ A player may be designated as a coach in the event the coach is absent, or that player is a playing coach.
- 38 _____ Before commencing the pitch, the pitcher must have his shoulders in line with first and third bases and both feet must be in contact with the pitcher's plate.
- 39 _____ Is it the Head Coach who is responsible for signing the line-up card?
- 40 _____ 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?
- 41 _____ B2 bunts the ball straight down onto home plate. It rebounds straight up and hits the bat, which is over fair territory, a second time. B2 is still in the box with the bat in his hands.
RULING: The umpire should declare a Foul Ball.
- 42 _____ When a runner is physically assisted by anyone other than another runner on a fly ball not caught, the ball becomes dead.
- 43 _____ A thrown ball strikes an umpire at second base.
RULING: The ball is dead.
- 44 _____ When the FLEX re-enters the game and returns to the 10th position on the line-up card, he must resume playing defence in his original fielding position.
- 45 _____ The pivot foot is that foot with which the pitcher pushes off the pitcher's plate.
- 46 _____ When a runner dislodges a base from its proper position, all succeeding runners in the same series of play must touch the base.
- 47 _____ When a batter assumes his position in the batter's box prior to a pitch, he may have part of a foot outside the lines of the box.
- 48 _____ The line-up card is inspected at the pre-game meeting and is approved by the coach and Plate Umpire. Two minutes later and prior to the first pitch of the game, the coach advises he wants to replace one of his players.
RULING: The umpire should allow the change to the original starting line-up. The change is not treated as a substitution.
- 49 _____ A team continues to use an illegal warm-up bat that the plate umpire has removed from the game.
RULING: The player found using the bat should be immediately ejected from the game.



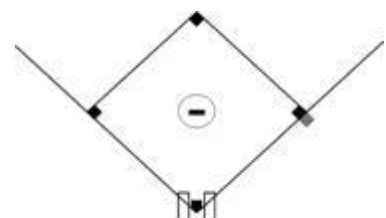
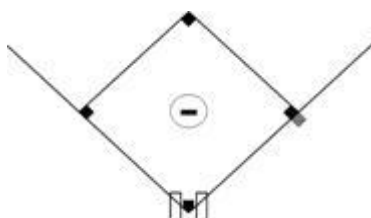
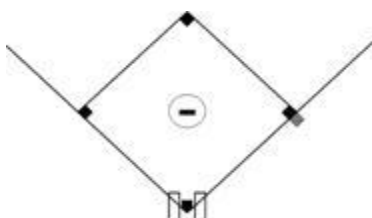
- 50 _____ S1, an unannounced substitute, is at bat with a count of Ball 2 Strike 2 when the defensive team reports the infraction to the umpire. Should the umpire declare S1 an Ineligible Player and remove him from the game, and have him replaced by a legal substitute (or the original starting player) who resumes the count of Ball 2 Strike 2?
- 51 _____ When the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during his delivery, the umpire will declare No Pitch.
- 52 _____ A runner is out if he runs bases in reverse order, either to confuse the fielders, or to make a travesty of the game.
- 53 _____ A batboy who sits on the bench is considered a team member.
- 54 _____ When pitching the ball, the release of the ball and follow through of the hand and wrist must be forward, past the straight line of the body.
- 55 _____ Does the ball become dead, when a runner is called out for positioning himself behind, and not in contact with, a base in order to get a running start on a fly ball?
- 56 _____ 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.
- 57 _____ The batter is out when he leaves the batter's box to gain a running start, but has returned to the box when he makes contact with the ball.
- 58 _____ When the umpire declares an Infield Fly and the fielder intentionally drops the ball after controlling it with his hands, does the ball become dead?
- 59 _____ An umpire being hit by a fair-batted ball before it passes a fielder, excluding the pitcher, is not a form of interference.
- 60 _____ Once the third out has been obtained it is not possible to lodge an appeal in order to remove a run.
- 61 _____ 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, and runs past, 1st and remains in foul territory, before turning to his left toward the foul line on returning to the base. 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 the base.
- 62 _____ 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.
- 63 _____ A Foul Tip is a batted ball that goes directly from the bat, no higher than the batter's head, to the catcher's hands and is legally caught by the catcher.
- 64 _____ After 7 complete innings of play the scores are tied. Does the tiebreaker now come into effect?



- 65 _____ 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.
- 66 _____ 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 fence that is in foul territory.
RULING: B1 becomes a batter-runner and is awarded 2nd base.
- 67 _____ An overthrow is a play in which a ball is thrown from one fielder to another. It can be a ball that remains in play, but then becomes blocked.
- 68 _____ When a player is required to be withdrawn due to bleeding, the Replacement Player may act for the Withdrawn Player for the remainder of the inning in progress and for the following complete inning.
- 69 _____ 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.
- 70 _____ A runner leads off a base on the pitch and stops to watch what F2 will do. F2 returns the ball directly to F1, who is in the pitcher's circle. Can the runner legally attempt to advance to the next base at this point without penalty?
- 71 _____ If an Illegal Pitch hits the batter, the batter will only be awarded first base if the Illegal Pitch is Ball 4.
- 72 _____ When a batter hinders the catcher's attempt to throw to 2nd, by stepping out of the batter's box, he is out and all runners must return to the last base held at the time of the interference.
- 73 _____ If a declared Infield Fly becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul ball.
- 74 _____ The batter must take his position in the batter's box within 10 seconds after the umpire has called "Play Ball".
- 75 _____ Can any player, while playing defence, wear a glove or mitt that has a white or grey circle, giving the appearance of a ball, on the outside?
- 76 _____ 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.
- 77 _____ When catcher's obstruction occurs, the manager of the offensive team has the option to refuse the award for the catcher's obstruction, if the batter and all other runners did not advance one base safely on the play.
- 78 _____ Should a batter-runner be called out, if he runs back toward home plate to avoid a tag?



- 79 _____ The runner is out when, while running to any base, he runs more than 0.91m (3 ft) from the base path, to avoid being touched by the ball in the hands of a fielder.
- 80 _____ When an umpire notices an unannounced substitution, on either offence or defence, he cannot invoke a penalty, unless appealed to by the offended team.
- 81 _____ On any live ball play made from foul territory, on the 1st base side of home plate and when the defensive player uses the foul portion of the double base, the batter-runner can run in fair territory and use the fair portion of the base.
- 82 _____ R1 on 3rd and R4 on 1st with two out. B5 hits a ground ball to F4, who attempts to tag R4. R4 manages to avoid the tag, as R1 scores. After a rundown, R4 is finally retired between 1st and 2nd.
RULING: No run scores on the play.
- 83 _____ 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?
- 84 _____ A Strike should be called for each foul ball not legally caught, when the batter has less than two strikes.
- 85 _____ A player who replaces a Designated Player in the batting line-up must be a player who has not yet been in the game.
- 86 _____ Any player may be substituted from the game at any time while the ball is dead.
- 87 _____ When the batter hits a fair ball with the bat a second time over fair territory and the batter is out of the batter's box, it is a foul ball.
- 88 _____ Once the pitcher has commenced his wind-up, should an umpire call "Time" if so requested?
- 89 _____ R3 on 3rd and R4 on 2nd with none out, when B5 hits a high fly ball to F8. As F8 is getting under the ball, the third base coach taps the leg of R3, in order to help him gauge when to leave 3rd for home. After the coach taps R3's leg, the ball is caught by F8, who then throws to the plate to try for an out but is too late. R4 advances to 3rd on the throw. RULING: R3 and B5 are both out on the play. R4 returns to 2nd and the ball is dead.
- 90 _____ While the ball is dead, an injury prevents R1 from proceeding to an awarded base, so a substitute enters the game for him. Is this substitute required to legally touch all awarded, or missed, bases not previously touched by R1?
- 91 _____ Can a player who is in the current line-up be used as a Replacement Player?



- 92 _____ There is one out with R3 on third base and R4 on second base. R4 leads off on the pitch as B5 hits a fly ball to F8. R3 scores. F8 throws to F4 and plays second base before R4 can return. If the out is made at second base, is the out considered to be a force out?
- 93 _____ The on-deck batter is the offensive player who, in the batting line-up, is the next player to enter the batter's box.
- 94 _____ Is the area immediately behind home plate, between the batter's boxes and home plate, considered to be part of the catcher's box?
- 95 _____ When the ball lodges in umpire's equipment or clothing, it becomes a Dead Ball.
- 96 _____ The ball becomes dead when a runner is called out for passing a preceding runner, while the ball is alive.
- 97 _____ 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 is entitled to advance to the home plate.
- 98 _____ F1 wishes to step away from the pitching position. However, once he has taken the signal from the catcher, he may not legally do so.
- 99 _____ A Strike is called when any part of a legally pitched ball enters the strike zone before touching the ground and at which the batter does not swing.
- 100 _____ A runner is called out for deliberately removing his helmet while running the bases when the ball is alive. If a thrown ball subsequently contacts the helmet while it is on the ground, does the ball remain alive?

