



2008 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 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 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

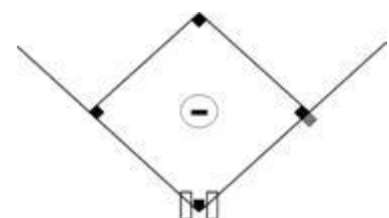
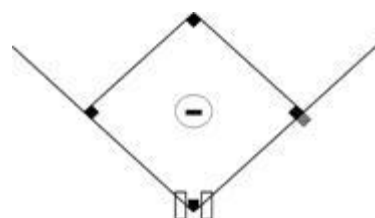
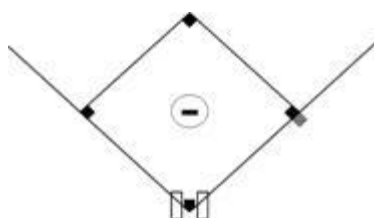
e.g. A TRUE or YES answer would be ● ○ on the Answer Sheet provided.

- * **Please insert your 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 and minimize mistakes.**
- * **Please use Black Pen where possible.**
- * **Please do not cross, put dashes or tick circles for correct answers. If you make a mistake you may use correction tape on your incorrect answer.**

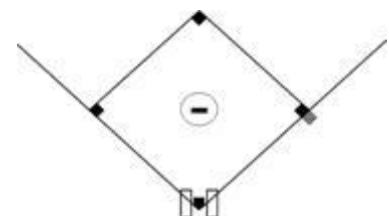
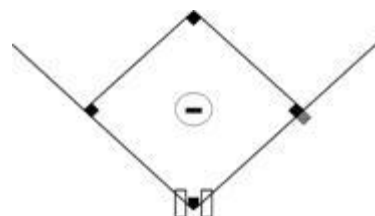
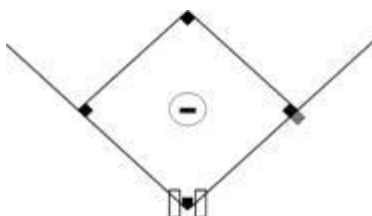
T/F

Questions

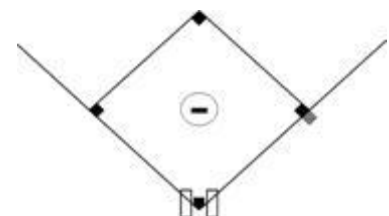
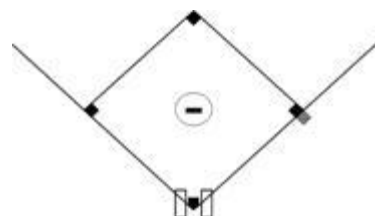
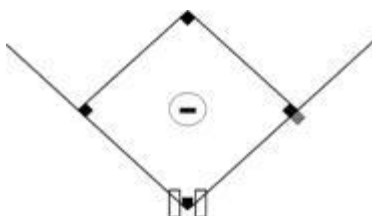
- 1 ___ A batter is an offensive player who enters the batter's box with the intention of aiding his team to obtain runs. He continues to be a batter until he is either declared out by the umpire or he becomes a batter-runner.
- 2 ___ Any obstruction on fair territory, at a distance less than the prescribed distance from home plate, should be clearly marked for the umpire's information.
- 3 ___ A squeeze play is a play in which the offensive team, with a runner on third base, attempts to score that runner by means of the batter contacting the pitched ball.
- 4 ___ A metal bat, not made of one-piece construction with the barrel end closed, will be considered legal if it has a rubber, or vinyl plastic, insert firmly secured at the barrel end.
- 5 ___ Can a 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 then caught by another fielder be considered a legal catch?
- 6 ___ In the act of delivering a pitch, the pitcher must take one forward step simultaneous with the release of the ball. Can this forward step extend beyond the 61cm (24 inch) length of the pitcher's plate?
- 7 ___ R1 is on 1st with one out when B2 comes to bat. On the first pitch B2 leaves the batter's box to gain a running start on the pitch. He returns to the box and makes contact with the ball, resulting in R1 advancing to 3rd and B2 safely at 2nd. RULING: B2 is out, R1 returns to 1st and the ball is dead.
- 8 ___ Runners are entitled to advance, with liability to be put out, when the ball is thrown into fair or foul territory and is not blocked.
- 9 ___ 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.
- 10 ___ When four balls have been called on the batter, the ball is dead until such time as the batter-runner reaches first base.
- 11 ___ A Strike is called, when any part of a legally pitched ball bounces through the strike zone and the batter does not swing at the pitch.
- 12 ___ A blocked ball is declared when a thrown ball accidentally hits a coach, while he is in the coach's box.
- 13 ___ Interference is the act of a spectator who reaches into the playing field and impedes a fielder playing the ball, or makes contact with the ball that a fielder is attempting a play on.
- 14 ___ May the player who is scheduled to run as the tiebreak runner in the eighth inning be substituted in accordance with the substitution rule?
- 15 ___ Red Team, first at bat, trails Blue Team 0-9. At the start of the 6th inning Red Team refuse 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 0.
- 16 ___ 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 in foul territory and the ball falls safely on to foul ground. RULING: R1 is out causing interference and B2 returns to bat with 2 strikes.



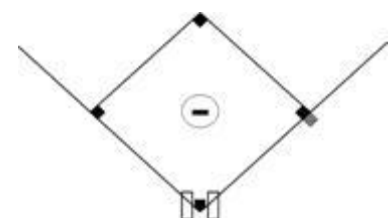
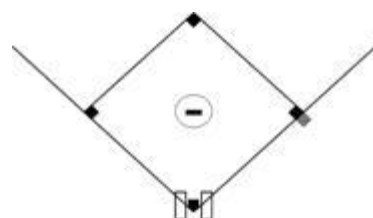
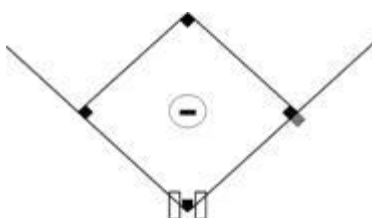
- 17 ___ B2 is walked on Ball 4. He jogs down to 1st and over-runs the base directly along the foul line. B2 then stops, turns around and is returning to first when the ball is thrown to F3, who tags B2 while he is still 1.52m (5 feet) beyond 1st, and then appeals for an out. RULING: The umpire should rule B2 safe.
- 18 ___ The ball is alive, when the runners have reached the bases to which they are entitled after a fielder has illegally fielded a batted, thrown or pitched ball.
- 19 ___ Can a plate umpire wear a mask with an extended wire protector, rather than one with a black throat protector attached?
- 20 ___ An Ineligible Replacement Player is a player who may not enter the game to replace a player who must leave the game to attend to an injury that has caused bleeding.
- 21 ___ Is it compulsory for the playing field to have a warning track?
- 22 ___ Helmets must be worn by all batters, On-Deck Batters, batter-runners, catchers, junior age players who coach in the 1st & 3rd base coaching boxes and junior age representatives acting as bat boys.
- 23 ___ Can a starting player (batting in the #2 position on the line-up) who has been substituted from the game but is still eligible to re-enter one time, be brought into the line-up as a Replacement Player in the #8 position on the line-up?
- 24 ___ A forfeited game shall be considered a regulation game
- 25 ___ The umpire suspends play to announce 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 flies out to F8. RULING: As there was no disadvantage to either side, the play is allowed to stand.
- 26 ___ F1 has taken the pitching position, with his feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. May he now legally throw to a base to make an appeal play, while the ball is alive?
- 27 ___ A pitched ball goes off the batter's fingers while swinging at the pitch and goes directly to the catcher's glove and is held securely. Ruling: This a foul tip.
- 28 ___ B3 has a count of 3 balls and 2 strikes, B3 swings at the next pitch which goes directly from the bat to the batter's foot and is caught by the pitcher. Ruling, B3 is out.
- 29 ___ After swinging at a pitch (strike one), B2 steps out of the batter's box. R1 attempts to steal home on F2's return throw to F1. B2, unaware that R1 is running, steps back into the batter's box. F1 returns the ball to F2 but F2 is unable to make a play on R1 sliding to the plate due to B2 being in the box. RULING: B2 should be declared out for interference. R1 is permitted to score.
- 30 ___ The On-Deck Batter may warm-up with two official bats.
- 31 ___ If a pitched ball bounces in front of home plate and hits the batter as he jumps to avoid the ball, should he be awarded first base?
- 32 ___ B5 has a count of 1 strike and 3 balls, on the next pitch the umpire calls strike as the pitch comes through the strike zone waist high and just clips the outside edge by one millimetre. B5 looks back at the umpire while he walks to his bench thinking it was strike 3. The umpire should call B5 out as he leaves the field of play and enters the dugout.
- 33 ___ With 2 runners on base, it is always the runner closest to home plate that is called out, when the immediate preceding runner, who is not yet out, deliberately crashes into a fielder about to throw the ball, in an attempt to break up an obvious double play on the batter-runner.



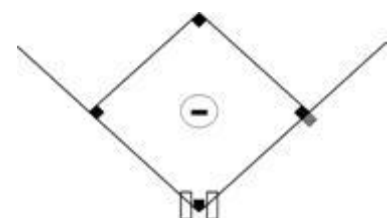
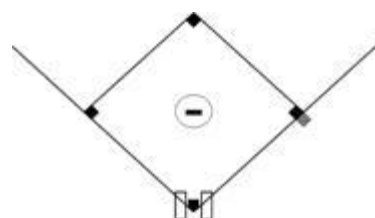
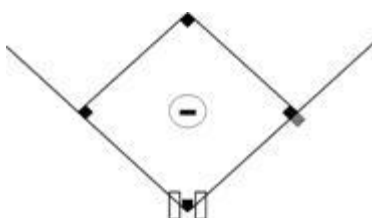
- 34 ___ The batter-runner is not out when a fielder makes a play on him while using an illegal glove.
- 35 ___ R1 is on third when B2 attempts a bunt on a squeeze play. B2 misses the bunt attempt, as R1 is approaching the plate. B2 then bumps F2 in an attempt to prevent F2 from completing the obvious out on the sliding R1. As a result, F2 misses the tag and R1 is safe. RULING: R1 is declared out and B2 remains in the box with an additional strike on the count.
- 36 ___ R1 on 1st, when B2 hits a fair ground ball down the left field foul line. F7, while moving into foul territory to field the ball, sees that R1 has rounded 2nd. F7 considers that R1 will advance to home, so he kicks the ball across the dead ball line in an attempt to prevent R1 advancing beyond 3rd. At this point B2 is advancing toward 2nd. RULING: The umpire should declare a dead ball, advance R1 to 3rd and advance B2 to 2nd.
- 37 ___ R1 is on 1st when a pitched ball bounces up and lodges in F2's chest protector. On seeing this, R1 advances all the way to 3rd before F2 can recover the ball. The defensive team suggest that R1 should be returned to 1st, as they were denied an opportunity to make a play. Is the defence correct?
- 38 ___ Does a runner forfeit his exemption from liability to be put out if he runs past first base and attempts to go to second base?
- 39 ___ R1 on 1st, when B2 hits a fly ball to deep left field. R1 leaves 1st, rounds 2nd and is between 2nd and 3rd when he believes F7 will be able to catch the ball. He then retreats, retouching 2nd on his way back to 1st, and is between 2nd and 1st when F7 is unable to make the catch. F7 fields the ball and throws to 2nd in time for an out. RULING: R1 is out on a force out.
- 40 ___ A team manager, or a team representative, fails to announce a substitution to the plate umpire. The offended team realises this and lodges an appeal, before a pitch is thrown. RULING: There is no penalty for the failure to notify and the Illegal Substitute shall be declared legal.
- 41 ___ Must a substitute, who is replacing an injured runner while the ball is dead, legally touch any bases that may have been awarded to the injured runner but not yet touched?
- 42 ___ Can the circumference of an official 30.5cm (12 inch) softball be more than 30.8cm (12 1/8 inches)?
- 43 ___ Multiple substitutions can be made for a player listed on the starting line-up. However, no substitute can return to the game after being withdrawn from the line-up, unless entering as a Replacement Player.
- 44 ___ Does the batter become a batter-runner, when the catcher drops a third strike with 2 out and a runner on 1st base?
- 45 ___ It is a fair ball, when a legally batted ball, while over fair territory, passes out of the playing field beyond the outfield fence.
- 46 ___ When the third out is made before the batter has completed his turn at bat, that batter shall be the first batter in the next inning. However, the Ball and Strike count shall be cancelled.
- 47 ___ When a runner is assisted by anyone (other than another runner) while the ball is in play, the assisted runner is called out.
- 48 ___ After taking the signal, the pitcher must come to a full and complete stop with the ball in either hand in front of the body, prior to pitching the ball.
- 49 ___ Does the ball become dead, when a runner is called out for abandoning his base and leaving the field of play while the ball is alive?



- 50 ___ A protest shall not be considered on the judgement of a safe or out call made by the umpire.
- 51 ___ R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st with none out, when B3 swings at a pitch. He mishits the ball, which rolls slowly along the first base foul line in fair territory. Both R1 and R2 advance on the hit. However, B3 thinking the ball is foul, 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. 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 the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- 52 ___ Does the ball become dead when a Foul Tip has been legally caught?
- 53 ___ It is not considered to be a charged defensive conference if a fielder leaves his position and goes to the dugout, regardless of whether the umpire had reason to believe that he received instruction or not.
- 54 ___ A legally batted fly ball that first lands on fair territory beyond first base, before spinning back and being fielded by a fielder in foul territory, will always be a Fair Ball.
- 55 ___ A starting player shall be official when the line-up card is inspected, and approved, by the plate umpire and team representative at the pre-game meeting.
- 56 ___ A substitute is not officially in the game until a pitch has been thrown or a play made.
- 57 ___ After 4 completed innings Red Team, batting second, leads Blue Team 6-0. With one out in the bottom of the 5th inning, Red Team scores 1 run and now leads by 7 runs. The umpire immediately declares Red Team the winner under the Run Ahead Rule. Is this decision correct?
- 58 ___ Once an inning has started, the On-Deck Batter is the offensive player who, in the batting line-up, is the next player to enter the batter's box.
- 59 ___ When using a baseball field, it is not necessary to remove the pitching mound but the backstop must be set at the prescribed distance from home plate.
- 60 ___ When the batter does not swing at the pitch, the umpire should call a Strike if the ball passes through the strike zone and drops down to hit the back corner of home plate.
- 61 ___ Can a run score when the third out of an inning is the result of the batter-runner being declared out for stepping back toward home plate to avoid a tag?
- 62 ___ An offensive team member may not, under any circumstance, deliberately erase the lines of the batter's box at any time during a game.
- 63 ___ For taking excessive warm-up pitches, the pitcher is penalised by removing him from the pitching position.
- 64 ___ An outfielder, who is still in an outfield position, makes a Dead Ball appeal for a runner missing a base. Should the umpire accept and make a ruling on the appeal?
- 65 ___ When a runner has been obstructed at a base and the obstruction prevents him from touching the base, does the runner forfeit his exemption from liability to be put out for failing to touch the base?
- 66 ___ R1 on 1st. B2 hits a fly ball that touches the fielder's glove above the fence level, and then goes over the fence. RULING: This is a two base hit, so R1 advanced to 3rd.
- 67 ___ The plate umpire, or the base umpire, shall have equal authority to call an Illegal Pitch.



- 68 ____ When an obstructed runner safely obtains the base he would have been awarded, in the umpire's judgement, and there is a subsequent play on a different runner, the obstructed runner is no longer protected and may be put out.
- 69 ____ A fielder who simulates a tag on a runner while not in possession of the ball, and that action causes the runner to slide, is considered to have impeded the progress of the runner, resulting in an 'Obstruction' call.
- 70 ____ An umpire should issue a warning if any team member disputes his judgement on the calling of balls and strikes.
- 71 ____ Placing the FLEX in a position in the batting order other than that of the starting Designated Player is considered to be an Illegal Re-entry.
- 72 ____ Is a Replacement Player who remains in the game as an unannounced substitute for a Withdrawn Player, who has not returned to the game within the time permitted, considered to be an Illegal Substitute?
- 73 ____ When a Designated Player is being used, can he bat for any player other than the Flex Player listed in the 10th position on the line-up card?
- 74 ____ A team may play with one less player than they started with when a starting player is injured, provided both teams agree.
- 75 ____ An Illegal Pitch is declared if a runner is called out for leaving the base prior to the pitcher releasing the ball on a pitch.
- 76 ____ At the change of innings, several players stand near the batter's box watching F1 warm-up. The umpire requests they return to the bench and warns the team that players must remain on the bench until they enter the on-deck circle. Two innings later, one of the team members stands and watches the warm-up pitches again. RULING: As the team has already been warned against this action, the offender should be removed from the game.
- 77 ____ The batter is not out if he hits a foul ball while a foot is completely outside the lines of the batter's box and touching the ground at the time of contact with the ball.
- 78 ____ When the catcher obstructs the batter, the coach of the offensive team is always given the option of (a) taking the result of the play, or (b) the award for the obstruction.
- 79 ____ After assuming the set pitching position, is it legal for F1 to step backwards off the pitcher's plate, before separating his hands, without penalty?
- 80 ____ If a base coach requests, and is granted, a 'Time Out' to have a discussion with his other base coach, the team should be charged with an offensive conference.
- 81 ____ R3 on 3rd, with one out. F3 is fielding close to the foul line, half way between home and 1st. B5 slaps the ball past F3 and it is fielded near first base by F4. R3 advances toward home on the hit, as F4 throws to F2. In an effort to get out of the way of F4's throw to home, F3 hinders B5, who is running to 1st. R3 crosses home plate safely and B5 reaches 1st. RULING: The umpire should allow the play to stand.
- 82 ____ B2 swings over and misses the first pitch, in an attempt to assist R1, who is stealing to 2nd. In trying to throw R1 out at 2nd, F2's arm contacts the plate umpire and the ball drops to the ground. R1 reaches 2nd safely. RULING: The umpire should declare the ball dead and return R1 to 1st.
- 83 ____ An Illegal Pitch becomes a Delayed Dead Ball, until the result of the play is known.



- 84 ____ Medical alert bracelets, or necklaces, are not considered to be jewellery. However, if worn, they must be taped to the body.
- 85 ____ Any of the starting players, except the Designated Player, may be withdrawn and re-enter once, provided such players occupy the same batting position whenever they are in the line-up.
- 86 ____ An Illegal Pitcher returns to the pitching position and throws an Illegal Pitch. Should the umpire remove him from the game?
- 87 ____ Is a runner, who is hit by a fair-batted ball while in contact with a base, always considered to be safe?
- 88 ____ The ball becomes dead when a runner not being played on is obstructed.
- 89 ____ When a runner is returning to a base left before a caught fly ball is first touched, while the ball is in play, he must touch the bases in reverse order.
- 90 ____ After the discovery of runners switching bases following an offensive conference, should the Head Coach of the team be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct?
- 91 ____ A fielder who is in possession of the ball pushes a runner off a base in an attempt to tag the runner off base. Is this action a form of obstruction?
- 92 ____ A runner is a player of the team at bat who has finished a turn at bat, reached first base and has not yet been put out.
- 93 ____ Eligible team roster members may be added to the available substitute list, at any time during the game.
- 94 ____ A charged conference takes place when the offensive team requests a suspension of play to allow the manager, or other team representative, to confer with any member of their team.
- 95 ____ A runner is called out for interference. Are all other runners required to return to the last legally touched base at the time of the interference, unless forced to advance?
- 96 ____ A runner may legally return to touch a missed base, or one left illegally, after a following runner has scored.
- 97 ____ Is it permissible for a coach to take any form of communication equipment into the coach's box?
- 98 ____ Junior age catchers must wear shin guards that will offer protection to the kneecap.
- 99 ____ A wild throw is a play in which a ball is thrown from one fielder to another, and cannot be caught or controlled, is not blocked and remains in play.
- 100 ____ Should the umpire declare a helmet illegal and remove it from the game when he notices that it has become dented after a batter throws it to the ground?

