

# California Baseball Umpires Association

## 2025 Study Guide



1. The head coach of the home team provides the plate umpire with either of the depicted baseballs to start the game, and that is the only type of baseball the coach has.
  - a. Accept the provided baseballs and play the game. Diamond and Rawlings are both approved vendors per NFHS.
  - b. Accept the provided baseballs and play the game. Following the game the plate umpire must send a report to the CIF-SS office reporting the game was played with unapproved baseballs.
  - c. If the head coach is unable to provide approved baseballs, the plate umpire should declare a forfeit and send a report to the CIF-SS office.
  - d. If the head coach is unable to provide approved baseballs, the plate umpire should declare the game “no contest” and send a report to the CIF-SS office.

**Rule Reference: 1-3-1, NFHS Rule 2022 Rule Interpretations Situation 2**

**<https://www.nfhs.org/media/5546364/2022-baseball-rules-interpretations-final.pdf>),  
and CIF-SS Blue Book Section 1502**

2. Players may use resin or pine tar on non-wooden bats.
  - a. True
  - b. False

**Rule Reference: 1-3-2(c)(1)**



3. The team on offense is using the above one-way electronic device to communicate plays from the dugout to the batter and runners.

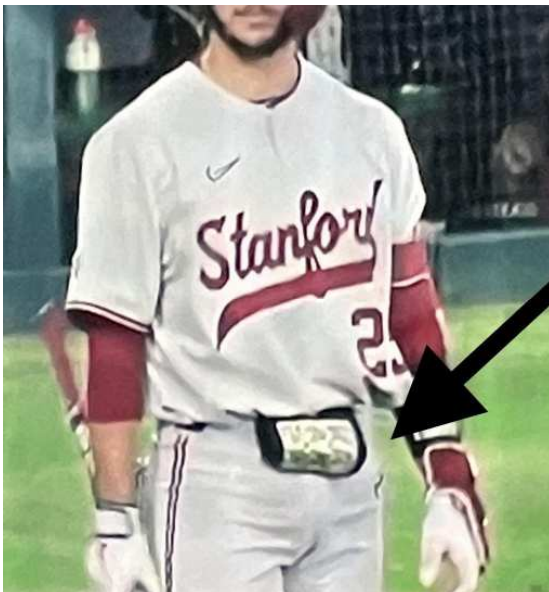
- a. Legal, as it is a one-way device.
- b. Not legal. Only the defense is allowed to use an electronic communication device.

**Rule Reference: 1-6-2 and 3-2-5**

4. Team B is on defense. Both the pitcher and the catcher for Team B are wearing electronic devices that allow pitch and positioning information to be received, but do not allow them to communicate back to the coach.

- a. Legal. One-way electronic communication is allowed defensively to the pitcher and catcher as long as it is one-way.
- b. Not legal. Electronic communication is allowed only between a coach and the catcher. The pitcher cannot receive electronic communication.

**Rule Reference: 1-6-2 and 3-2-5**



5. The player is wearing the play card legally.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 1-6-1**

6. Team A has a uniform that is green and gold. Team A's pitcher comes to the mound with a wristband that holds a card for pitch and play calling. The wristband is a solid purple in color. The rest of the players on Team A are wearing grey wristbands.
- The wristband the pitcher is wearing is legal.
  - The wristband the pitcher is wearing is not legal.

**Rule Reference: 1-6-1 and 2024 NFHS Rule Interpretations – Situation 1**

7. The head coaches meet with the umpire for the plate meeting. Lineups are exchanged, the ground rules are reviewed, and both coaches confirm all players and their equipment are legal. The plate meeting ends and the game starts. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning the visiting coach reports his concern that some part of the field does not meet NFHS requirements. The umpire confirms the field does not meet one or more NFHS requirements and agrees that the issue cannot be immediately corrected. The umpire directs the teams to continue playing anyway. The coach for Team A agrees, but the coach for Team B protests the game, complaining he never agreed to play on a field that was not in compliance with NFHS requirements.
- The umpire will inform the protesting coach the protest will not be considered, and the game will resume anyway.
  - The umpire should have suspended the game before the protest was even made.
  - The umpire must suspend the in-progress game now that the issue has been identified and the coach for Team B does not agree to continue playing.

**Rule Reference: 1.2.12 and Case Play 1.2.12 Situation**



8. The catcher for Team A is wearing the depicted helmet. It has a tinted visor that was installed at the time of manufacture.
- Legal, as long as it was installed at the time of manufacture.
  - Not legal. Tinted visors are never legal.

**Rule Reference: 1.5.4 and Case Play 1.5.4 Situation E, NFHS 2023 Rule Interpretations – Situations 1 and 2: <https://www.nfhs.org/media/6892968/2023-nfhs-baseball-rules-interpretations-final.pdf>**



9. The pitcher fields a ground ball. The ball becomes stuck in the web of the glove. The pitcher throws the entire glove, with the ball still stuck in the web, to the first baseman before the batter runner touches first base.
- The batter runner is safe unless the first baseman can free the ball from the thrown glove before the batter runner touches first base.
  - The batter runner is out.

**Rule Reference: 2.9.1 and Case Play 2.9.1 Situation D**



10. B4 has a 1-1 count, one out, and R3 is at 3B. B4 hits a fly ball down the left field line. The umpire declares the ball foul while it is still in flight. The third baseman catches the ball before it touches the ground. The runner on 3B tags legally and runs home without a play.
- A declared foul ball cannot be changed under any circumstances. The at bat continues with a 1-2 count, and the runner is returned to 3B, and it remains one out.
  - The caught ball is declared an out, but the ball status is dead due to the umpire's declaration the ball was foul.
  - The caught fly ball is declared a catch for the 2<sup>nd</sup> out. The ball remains live, and the run scores.

**Rule Reference: 2.16.1 and Case Play 2.16.1 Situation A(a)**



11. B4 has a 1-1 count, one out, and R3 is at 3B. B4 hits a fly ball down the right field line. The umpire declares the ball foul while it is still in flight. The right fielder initially touches the ball completely in fair territory but is unable to catch the ball. B4 rounds first and easily makes it to 2B without a play, and R3 scored.

- a. The ball should have been ruled fair, so it remained live even though the umpire initially declared it foul.
- b. The foul call cannot be changed in this situation. Since the ball hit the ground after it was declared foul, it must remain foul. B4 resumes his at bat with a 1-2 count and one out, and R3 is returned to 3B and the run nullified.
- c. The ball status is dead as soon as the ball touched the ground. B4 is awarded 1B, and R3 is awarded home.

**Rule Reference: 2.16.1, 5-1-1 and Case Plays 2-16-1 Situation A(b) and 5-1-1 Situation A**



12. B5 is at bat with a 1-2 count, no outs, and a runner, R1, is at 1B. B5 bunts. The bunt rolls down the 3B line in foul territory, as the umpire declares the ball foul as it starts to slow down. The ball finally comes to rest on the 3B foul line. The batter is at 1B and R1 stops at 2B.

- a. The foul call is changed to fair, so the ball remains live. R1 remains at 2B and B5 at 1B with no outs.
- b. The foul call cannot be undone. R1 is returned to 1B and B5 is declared out on strikes.

**Rule Reference: Case Play 2.16.1 Situation B**

13. Backswing interference occurs before the pitch. Follow-through interference occurs after the pitch.

- a. True.
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 2-21-4 and 2-21-5**

14. Both Backswing interference and follow-through interference are both always an immediate dead ball.

- a. True.
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1n and 7-3-5(c) Penalty**



15. The player's slide is legal.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 2-32-1**



16. The player's slide is legal.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 2-32-2(a)**





17. The player's slide is legal.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 2-31-1 and 8-4-2(b)(2)**



18. The player's slide is legal.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference 2-31-1**



19. The depicted pop-up slide is legal.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 2-31-2(a)**



20. The player's slide is legal.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 2-32-2(a)**

21. Team A starts the game on defense. Player #4, John Smith, starts the game as the pitcher. In the top of the fifth inning, Team A takes the field on defense. Team A player # 10, Mike Jones, goes to the mound, picks up the baseball, steps on the pitcher's plate, and throws two warm-up pitches. The coach for Team A did not want #10 Jones to pitch yet and has #4 Smith go to the mound and warm up, returning #4 Smith to the bench. The coach for Team B wants the umpire to recognize #10 Jones as the new pitcher of record.

- a. Team A's coach is correct. Once #10 Jones started throwing warmup pitches, he became an unreported substitute and is now the pitcher of record.
- b. Team A's coach is correct. Once #10 Jones stepped onto the pitcher's plate, he became an unreported substitute and is now the pitcher of record.
- c. Team A's coach is not correct. Even though #10 Jones was on the pitcher's plate and threw warmup pitches, he was not an unreported substitute because the ball was never live while he was in contact with the pitcher's plate.

**Rule Reference: 3-1-1(b)**

22. If a coach uses a DH, the defensive player must be the pitcher.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 3-1-4**

23. Team A is using the standard DH. #4 is the DH, and he is batting for #12. In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the coach substitutes #6 for #4. He wants #12 to continue on defense and #12 to be the new offensive player.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal. Both #4 and #12 are now out of the lineup and Team A is down to nine players in the lineup. The DH is terminated for the remainder of the game.

**Rule Reference: 3-1-4**



24. Team A uses a DH where a single player is both the defensive player and the DH, and that player is #4. In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning Team A's coach wants to substitute player #6 for #4 on offense and leave #4 on defense.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal. #4 is out of the lineup and Team A is down to nine players. The DH is terminated for the remainder of the game.

**Rule Reference: 3-4-1(b)(2)**

25. Player #26 for Team B is catching. A foul ball strikes the catcher's helmet. The umpire and head coach both check #26 for signs of a concussion. The umpire sees signs of a concussion. The player insists he feels fine and the head coach for Team B says he believes #26 is fit to play.

- a. The head coach is solely responsible for the decision. If the head coach believes the player is fit to play, the umpire should allow him to continue to stay in the game.
- b. The head coach is solely responsible for the decision. If the head coach believes the player is fit to play, the umpire should allow him to continue to stay in the game in a role that has a reduced chance for injury, such as an outfielder.
- c. The umpire shares responsibility for protecting the player with the head coach. If the umpire sees signs of a concussion, he must direct the player to be removed from the game.

**Rule Reference: 3-1-5, Rule Appendix B, and CIF State Concussion Directives**

<https://www.cifstate.org/sports-medicine/concussions/index>



26. A team is using an electronic display to send in signals to the offense or defense.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal.

**Rule Reference: 1-6-1 and 3-2-5, and NFHS Baseball Rules Interpretation – 2024**

**Situation 14** (<https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/baseball-rules-interpretations-2024/>)

27. A non-team member scorekeeper reports to the umpire that a player is batting out of order.

- a. The umpire shall ignore the scorekeeper and continue the game, until (and if) a member of the defensive team properly appeals.
- b. The umpire shall immediately confirm whether the scorekeeper is reporting is correct, and if the information is correct, enforce the batting out of order penalty.

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1 and 7-1-2, and Case Book Play 3-3-1 Situation XX**

28. A non-team member scorekeeper reports to the umpire that a player from Team A is illegal.
- a. The umpire shall ignore the scorekeeper and continue the game, until (and if) a member of the defensive team properly appeals.
  - b. The umpire shall immediately confirm what the scorekeeper is reporting, and if correct, enforce the illegal player penalty.

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1 and 7-1-2, and Case Book Play 3-3-1 Situation XX**

29. Team A is on defense. Team B has a runner on 1B. The batter, B3, hits the ball to right field, where the right fielder fields the ball on a hop. As R1 nears 2B, the shortstop, without the ball, fakes a tag on R1. R1 does not slow down or otherwise appear to react to the fake tag and goes into second base standing up as the baseball is returned to the infield.

- a. This is obstruction, and the umpire should award the runner 3B.
- b. This is an unsporting act by the shortstop, and the umpire should issue a team warning to Team A.
- c. This is both obstruction and an unsporting act by the shortstop. The umpire should award the runner 3B if he judges he would have made it to 3B had there not been obstruction, and issue a team warning to Team A.
- d. This is both obstruction and an unsporting act by the shortstop. The umpire should award the runner 3B regardless of whether or not the runner would have made 3B had there not been obstruction.

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1(b) and 8-3-2**



30. The above props are legal.
- Legal at all times.
  - Legal in the dugout only.
  - Not legal at any time.
- Rule Reference: 3-3-1(f) and NFHS Memo**



31. Team A is on offense. In the fifth inning Team B makes a pitching change. While the new pitcher is warming up, players from Team A line up along the front of the dugout and begin making comments that demean or belittle the other team. This is the first issue related to sportsmanship in the game.
- The umpire should warn the offender. If the umpire judges the comments to be major, the offender must be ejected immediately.
  - The umpire should warn the head coach, and the warning is a team warning. If the umpire judges the comments to be major, anyone identified making those comments must be ejected immediately.
  - The head coach must be ejected immediately in all cases.

- d. Because this is the first instance of this type of behavior, the umpire should ignore it.  
**Rule Reference: 3-3-1 and Case Play 3-3-1 Situation J**

32. A team has a video camera set up in the dugout, and coaches are reviewing the video with players after each at bat.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal.

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1, Case Play 3-3-1 Situation QQ, and NFHS Baseball Rule Changes – 2015 (<https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/baseball-rules-changes-2015/>)**

33. Team B sends a pitcher and catcher to the bullpen to warm up. The bullpen is not enclosed. The team sends a third player with the pitcher and catcher to protect them from foul balls.

- a. The player sent to protect the pitcher and catcher must wear a helmet.
- b. The player sent to protect the pitcher and catcher does not have to wear a helmet.

**Rule Reference: 3-3-4**

34. Umpires are required to issue a warning for the first instance of unsporting behavior, unless the unsporting behavior is judged to be major.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1(f-k) Penalty and Case Book 3-3-1 Situation U**

35. In all cases, umpires are required to issue a verbal warning before they can issue a written warning.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1(f-k) Penalty**



36. B4 is batting and following a pitch that is called Ball 4, he flips his bat. The bat falls between the catcher and the umpire. The umpire judges the batter was careless, but did not intentionally throw the bat at anyone.
- The batter must be ejected.
  - The batter must be warned. If the same batter commits a bench or field conduct offense later in the game, he must be ejected.
  - A team warning is issued. If anyone on the warned team commits a bench or field conduct offense later in the game, he must be ejected.
  - The batter is declared out and warned. If the same batter commits a bench or field conduct offense later in the game, he must be ejected.

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1(c) and Case Play 3-3-1 Situation NN**



37. B4 is batting and following a pitch that is called Ball 4, he flips his bat. The bat strikes the umpire. The umpire judges the batter was careless, but did not intentionally throw the bat at anyone.
- The batter must be ejected.
  - The batter must be warned. If the same batter commits a bench or field conduct offense later in the game, he must be ejected.
  - A team warning is issued. If anyone on the warned team commits a bench or field conduct offense later in the game, he must be ejected.
  - The batter is declared out and warned. If the same batter commits a bench or field conduct offense later in the game, he must be ejected.

**Rule Reference: 3-3-1(c) and Case Play 3-3-1 Situation NN**

38. It is legal for a coach to video record a game from the dugout.
- True
  - False

**Rule Reference: Case Play 3-3-1 Situation QQ**

39. The official scorekeeper informs the umpire that Team A is batting out of order.
- The umpire should ignore the information until the issue is raised by the opposing team.
  - The umpire should confirm whether Team A is batting out of order, and if so, immediately address the issue.

**Rule Reference: 7-1-2 Penalty 2 and Case Play 3-3-1 Situation XX**

40. A team is allowed one defensive conference per inning.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 3-4-1**

41. A team that has not yet used any defensive conferences can use up to three defensive conferences in the same inning without penalty.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: 3-4-1**

42. A coach restricted to the dugout may hold a conference with his players.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference 3-4-3 and 3-4-4**

43. Team A is hosting a tournament at their home field. Team B and Team C are playing the first game of the day, with Team C the designated home team. Who is responsible for determining whether the field condition is suitable for play prior to the first pitch?

- a. The head coach of Team A.
- b. The head coach of Team B.
- c. The head coach of Team C.
- d. The onsite game administrator.

**Rule Reference: 4-1-1**

44. Team B is the visiting team. At the plate meeting, the head coach of Team B reports to the umpire that he has 8 players at the game site, and the ninth player is expected to arrive before his team has to take the field defensively. The head coach for Team B wants to start the game with the enroute player listed last in the batting order.

- a. Legal. If the missing player is due to bat before he arrives, he declared out and the game continues.
- b. Legal. If the missing player is due to bat before he arrives, the game is forfeited.
- c. Legal. If the missing player arrives before the game is legal, there is no issue.
- d. Not legal. Both teams must have at least nine eligible players each at the game site for the game to start.

**Rule Reference: 4-1-3, 4-4-1(f), and Case Play 4-4-1 Situation E**

45. A game is in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, with two outs and the score tied. The umpire stops the game due to weather and is unable to restart it that day. The two teams schedule the game to resume the next day. The coaches tell the umpire assigned to the game the following day they intend to restart where they left off the previous day.



- a. Not legal. The game must start from the beginning. The attempt to play the prior day must be declared “No game”.
- b. Legal, if both coaches agree at the plate meeting.
- c. Legal, if the contest is a league game and the league president approves.

**Rule Reference: 4-3-1 and Case Play 4-3-1 Situation A**

46. Team A starts with 9 players. In the third inning, #6 for Team A is injured sliding into the plate and cannot continue. Team A continues playing with 8 players.

- a. Legal. Because #6 left the game due to injury, his spot in the lineup will be skipped without penalty each time he is due to bat.
- b. Legal. Because #6 left the game due to injury, an out is declared the first time he is due to bat again. Any subsequent time #6 is due to bat he will be skipped without penalty.
- c. Legal. Each time #6 is due to bat, an out will be declared.
- d. Not legal. Nine eligible players are required to continue a game.

**Rule Reference: 4-4-1 and Case Play 4-4-1 Situation B**

47. A ball hit down the left field line comes down and hits the chalk and should be ruled a fair ball. The plate umpire was blocked by a player and did not have a clear look at the play and called the ball foul. The base umpire saw the ball hit the chalk and can provide information to the plate umpire.

- a. This is correctable. The base umpire should initiate a conversation with the plate umpire and provide the plate umpire with information to correct the call to a fair ball.
- b. This is not correctable. The foul call will stand.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1 and Case Plate 5-1-1 Situation C**

48. The batter hits a high pop fly near 1B that starts to come down near the line. The first baseman fields the ball straddling the line, just in front of the 1B bag. The first baseman drops the ball, and it hits the ground. The plate umpire signals fair and base umpire signals and declares the ball foul.

- a. The ball is fair. The umpire responsible for the call is the plate umpire, so the plate umpire’s call is upheld.
- b. The ball is foul. Once an umpire declares a ball foul and it touches the ground, the foul decision cannot be reversed. Even though the primary responsibility for the call rested with the plate umpire does, the erroneous foul call made by another umpire cannot be ignored once the ball hit the ground.
- c. The crew should meet to discuss who had the better look and let that umpire’s call stand.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1 and Case Play 5-1-1 Situation B**



49. The batter swings at a pitch but misses. The pitched ball hits the batter in the forearm as he is swinging at the pitch. After the ball hits the batter, it drops and rolls into fair territory.
- Fair batted ball and the ball remains live.
  - Hit by pitch, and the batter is awarded 1B.
  - The batter is charged with a strike, and the ball remains live.
  - The ball status is dead as soon as it touched the batter, and a strike is added to the batter's count.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1(a)(1) and Case Play 5-1-1 Situation E**



50. The batter is attempting to bunt the ball with a 1-0 count. The pitch hits the batter's hand, then the bat. The ball then deflects into the air and is caught in flight by the catcher.
- Fair ball. The ball is live, and the batter is out on the catch.
  - The ball status is dead as soon as it hit the batter's hand, and a strike is added to the batter's count.
  - The ball is foul.
  - The batter is awarded 1B because the ball hit him.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1(a)(1) and Case Play 5-1-1 Situation E**



51. Team A is on defense. Team B is on offense and has a runner at 1B, R1. The batter for Team B hits a foul ball. The ball is returned to the pitcher, who assumes a legal set position. The batter gets into position to hit, the catcher is ready to receive the ball, and R1 leads off of 1B. The umpire has not yet made a verbal or physical signal to make the ball live. The pitcher steps towards 1B and appears to pick R1 off.
- The ball became live once all players on offense and defense were in their proper positions and apparently ready to play. The runner at 1B is out on the play.
  - The ball is not live until the umpire either verbally calls “play” or signals the ball is live. There is no play at 1B. The runner is not out and remains at 1B. The ball is returned to the pitcher and the situation resets.
  - The ball is not live until the umpire both verbally calls play and signals the ball is live. There is no play at 1B. The runner is not out and remains at 1B. The ball is returned to the pitcher and the situation resets.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-4 and Case Play 5-1-4 Situation**

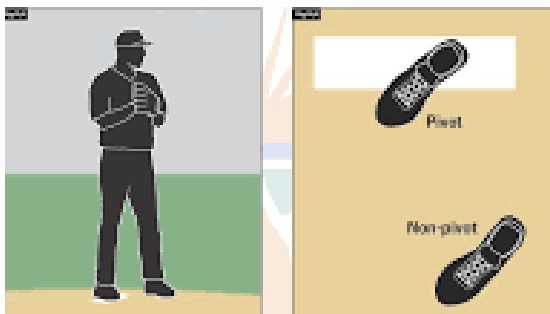


52. The ball is live, and the pitcher is ready to pitch. As the pitcher starts to deliver the pitch, the batter raises his hand as asks for time as he backs out of the batter’s box. The pitcher delivers a pitch that is outside of the strike zone.
- No pitch. The ball status is dead as soon as the batter steps out of the batter’s box.
  - The ball remains live. The umpire must call the pitch a ball, as it was outside of the strike zone.
  - The ball remains live. The umpire must call the pitch a strike regardless of where it was relative to the strike zone because the batter stepped out of the batter’s box.

**Rule Reference: 5-2-1(e) and Case Play 5-2-1 Situation A**

53. Team A is on offense, with R1 at 1B and B7 batting. B7 hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who overthrows the first baseman. R1, running on the ground ball, rounds 2B, but misses touching the base as he rounds towards 3B. The thrown ball goes into the dugout. The umpire calls time and awards R1 third base and the batter runner second base. R1 does not immediately return to 2B and touch it. Instead, he goes to 3B and stands on the bag. While the runner is standing on 3B, his coach tells him to return to 2B and touch it. The runner returns to 2B, touches it, and then jogs back to 3B, per the base award. The defense then properly makes a dead ball appeal that R1 missed 2B.
- The appeal is denied, and the runner remains at 3B. A runner is always allowed to correct baserunning errors during a dead ball without risk of being put out if the error involved awarded bases.
  - R1 is out on the appeal of the missed base. The runner advanced to a succeeding base after the ball became dead, so he cannot then return to 2B to correct the baserunning error.

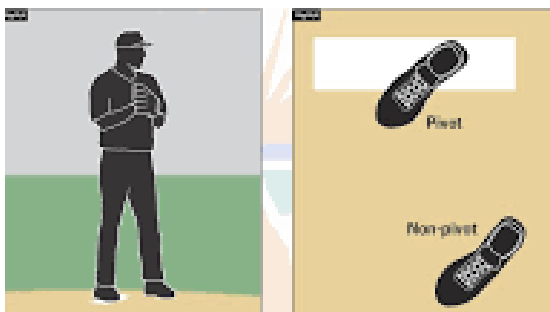
**Rule Reference: 5-2-2(b)(1) and 8-4-2(q)**



54. Which statement accurately describes the pitcher's position?
- Legal set position
  - Legal windup position
  - Illegal hybrid position

**Rule Reference: 6-1-1, 6-1-2, Case Play 6-1-2 Situation J, and NFHS Rules**

**Interpretations 2023 Situation 6 (<https://www.nfhs.org/media/6892968/2023-nfhs-baseball-rules-interpretations-final.pdf>)**



55. Team A is on offense and has a runner at 1B. Team B's pitcher is positioned as depicted above. The pitcher brings his hands together and pauses briefly, then steps towards 1B and throws to the first baseman.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal. This is a balk.

**Rule Reference: 6-1-2, and NFHS Rules Interpretations 2023 - Situation 6**

**(<https://www.nfhs.org/media/6892968/2023-nfhs-baseball-rules-interpretations-final.pdf>)**



56. The pitcher started in a set position. The pitcher then starts his pitching motion by moving his leg as shown above, with his non-pivot foot moving completely behind the pitcher's plate. Instead of delivering a pitch, the pitcher steps towards 1B and throws to the first baseman in an attempt to pick off the runner.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal. This is a balk.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-4(f)**

57. Team A has a runner on 1B. Team B's pitcher gets into a windup position. Before starting his motion to pitch, the pitcher moves his pivot foot forward and adjusts to parallel to the pitcher's plate, into a set position.

- a. Legal, as he had not yet started his pitching motion.
- b. Not legal, and this is a balk. The pitcher cannot change from the windup to a set position (*or vice-versa*) until the next pitch.
- c. Not legal, and this is a balk. The pitcher can change from a windup to a set position (*or vice-versa*) but must step backwards off the pitcher's plate before changing positions.

**Rule Reference: 6-1-3, Case Play 6-1-3 Situation K and NFHS Rules Interpretations 2023 Situation 7 (<https://www.nfhs.org/media/6892968/2023-nfhs-baseball-rules-interpretations-final.pdf>)**

58. Team A is on offense and has a runner at 1B. Team B's pitcher delivers a pitch, and the result is a double play. After the play is over the umpire notices the pitcher has an adhesive bandage on one of the fingers of his throwing hand.

- a. This is an illegal pitch and is a balk. The play result is reversed, and the balk penalty is applied.
- b. It is legal if the umpire judges the bandage is not distracting.
- c. It is not legal. The pitcher's team must be warned. Any future occurrence results in the ejection of the head coach. The play is reversed and a ball is awarded to the batter.
- d. This is not legal. The bandage must be removed, and there is no additional penalty. The double play stands.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-1(g) and associated penalty, and Case Play 6-2-1 Situation C**

59. Team A has a runner at 2B. The pitcher is behind the mound, on the grass, and touches his mouth with his hand, then rubs up the baseball without wiping the hand that was in contact with his mouth.

- a. Legal, as he was not on the pitcher's plate.
- b. Not legal. A ball is awarded to the batter.
- c. Not legal. This is a balk.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-1(e) and associated penalty, and Case Play 6-2-1 Situation B**

60. Team A has runners at 1B and 3B. From the set position, the pitcher steps towards 3B and fakes a throw without disengaging the pitcher's plate. The pitcher then turns, steps, and throws to 1B.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal. This is a balk.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-4 and Case Play 6-2-4 Situation C**

61. Team A has runners at 1B and 3B. From the set position, the pitcher steps towards 3B and fakes a throw without disengaging the pitcher's plate. The pitcher then turns and steps towards 1B and fakes a throw to 1B. During the turn towards 1B the pitcher loses contact with the pitcher's plate.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal. This is a balk.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-4 and Case Play 6-2-4 Situation C**



62. Team A has a runner at 1B. The pitcher for Team B, while looking in for the sign from the catcher, drops the ball while in contact with the pitcher's plate. The ball rolls to the bottom of



the mound and stops. The pitcher steps from the mound and picks up the now stationary baseball.

- a. This is a balk. The ball is immediately dead and the R1 is awarded 2B. The batter's count remains unchanged.
- b. This is a ball on the batter. The ball remains live and R1 can advance at his own risk.
- c. This is a live ball, and the runner can advance at his own risk.

**Rule Reference: 6-1-4(a) and Case Play 6-2-4 Comment B**

63. Team A has a runner at 1B. The pitcher for Team B attempts to pick off the runner. During the pickoff attempt the pitcher moves his non-pivot foot several inches towards 1B but does not cross an imaginary 45 line between the center of the pitcher's plate and between home and 1B.

- a. This is a balk. The ball is immediately dead and R1 is awarded 2B.
- b. This is legal. The pitcher gained direction and distance. The outcome of the play at 1B stands.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-4(b) and Case Play 6-2-4 Situation B**

64. Team A is on offense, with R2 at 2B. The pitcher for Team B fakes a pickoff throw to 2B. The shortstop, second baseman, and centerfielder all act as if the ball was thrown into centerfield. R2, apparently fooled by the actions of the defense, attempts to get to 3B. The pitcher, who still has the baseball, throws to the third baseman, who tags R2 out.

- a. Legal.
- b. Not legal. This should be considered obstruction by the defense.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-4 and Case Play 6-2-4 Situation E**

65. Team A has a runner at 1B. The pitcher is in a set position and brings his hands together at shoulder height. As the pitcher is bringing his hands down, he suddenly jump turns towards 1B and attempts to pick the runner off.

- a. This is legal. The pitcher does not have to come to a discernable stop if attempting a pickoff.
- b. This is a balk. Once the pitcher brings his hands together, he must come to a discernable stop before making a pitch or attempting a pickoff.

**ANSWER: A      Rule Reference: 6-1-3 and Case Play 6-1-3 Situation H**

66. Team A has a runner at 1B. The pitcher for Team B legally disengages from the pitcher's plate and throws to 1B without stepping towards the base.

- a. This is a balk.
- b. This is legal.

**Rule Reference: 6-2-4(b)**

67. Team A has a runner at 1B. The pitcher for Team B attempts to pick the runner off, but the throw is wild and goes down the right field line. The runner makes it to 3B. However, as the attempted pickoff was just starting to develop, the umpire called a balk.

- a. Team A has the option of taking result of the play (*the runner remains at 3B*) or the penalty for a balk (*the runner awarded 2B*)

- b. Team A has no option. The ball is immediately dead on a balk call, and the penalty for the balk will be enforced, even though the result is not as favorable for the offense.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1(k) and Case Play 6-2-5 Situation B**

68. Team B is batting. The lineup is Adams, Jones, and Smith. Adams starts off the inning and walks. Smith then comes to bat. After two pitches, the count is 1-1. The manager for Team A comes out and appeals that Team B is batting out of order, and the umpire agrees.

- a. Since Smith did not complete the at-bat, the umpire has Jones come to the plate and finish the at-bat. Jones will inherit the 1-1 existing count.
- b. Since Jones did not complete the at-bat, the umpire has Jones come to the plate and start his at-bat with a fresh count of 0-0.
- c. Smith is called out because he is batting out of order, and the batter after Smith now comes to the plate to start a new at-bat.
- d. Jones is called out and Smith starts a new at bat.

**Rule Reference: 7-1-1, 7-1-2, Case Play 7-1-1 Situation A& Case Play 7-1-2 Situation A**

69. Team B is batting with no outs. The lineup is Adams, Jones, and Smith. Adams starts off the inning and walks. Smith then comes to bat. Smith comes to bat and hits into a 6-4-3 double-play. The manager for Team A comes out and appeals that Team B is batting out of order, and the umpire agrees.

- a. Both of the outs on the double-play stand, and a third out is added for the batting out of order violation. The batter after Smith will start the next offensive inning for Team B.
- b. Both of the outs on the double-play stand. The batter after Smith then starts a new at-bat with two outs.
- c. The out recorded on Adams stands. Jones is called out because he should have batted but did not. The out on Smith is erased because the out on called on Jones supersedes Smith's out. Smith bats again, as his spot is now actually due to bat.

**Rule Reference: 7-1-1 and Case Play 7-1-1(c)**

70. Team B is batting. The lineup is Adams, Jones, and Smith. Adams starts off the inning and walks. Smith then comes to bat. Adams steals 2B on the first pitch, which is called a strike. Smith then doubles to right field, scoring Adams. The head coach for Team B then appeals the batting out of order, and the umpire agrees.

- a. The run scored by Adams stands. Jones is called out for not batting when he should have, and Smith starts a new at-bat.
- b. Adams is returned to 2B, where he was when Smith hit the double. Jones is called out for not batting when he should have, and Smith starts a new at-bat.
- c. Adams is returned to 1B, where he was when the batting out of order started. Jones is called out for not batting when he should have, and Smith starts a new at-bat.

**Rule Reference: 7-1-1 and Case Play 7-1-1 Situations A and D, and Case Play 7-2-1 Situations A and B**



71. Team A is batting and has a runner at 1B. The runner attempts to steal 2B as the pitcher delivers a pitch. The batter swings and misses the pitch. His momentum from the swing inadvertently takes him a step out of the batter's box and in front of the catcher. The batter attempts to duck out of the way of the catcher. The catcher has light contact with the batter and does get a throw down to 2B, but R1 is safe.
- The batter interfered with the catcher. Once the play on the runner at 2B was not successful, the ball is dead and the batter is declared out for interference. The runner is returned to 1B.
  - The batter interfered with the catcher. Once the play on the runner at 2B was not successful, the ball is dead, and the runner is declared out for the batter's interference. The batter continues his at-bat.
  - The batter interfered with the catcher. Since the catcher was able to get a throw to 2B, the interference is ignored.

**Rule Reference: 7-3-5 and Case Play 7-3-5 Situation A**



72. Team A is batting and has runners at first (R1) and third (R3). R1 attempts to steal second base as the pitcher delivers a pitch. The batter swings and misses the pitch. His momentum from the swing inadvertently takes him a step out of the batter's box and in front of the catcher. The batter attempts to duck out of the way of the catcher. The catcher has light contact with the

batter and does get a throw down to second, and R1 is tagged out. As this play is happening at second, the R3 runs home and scores without a play.

- a. The batter interfered with the catcher. Even though the play on R1 was successful, the ball was dead at the moment of the interference and the batter is declared out for that interference. The runners are returned to first and third, respectively.
- b. The batter interfered with the catcher. Once the play on R1 was successful, the interference is ignored. R1 remains out and the run scored by R3 stands. The batter continues his at-bat.
- c. The batter interfered with the catcher. The defense gets the option of the result of the play or the penalty for interference.

**Rule Reference: 7-3-5 and Case Play 7-3-5 Situation H**



73. Team A is on offense and has a runner (R2) at second base. The pitcher delivers a pitch that the batter takes for a strike. R2 is attempting to steal on the play. The catcher attempt to throw to third to make a play on R2, but the batter, who has not moved at all, is in the way. The catcher's throw hits the batter in the arm.

- a. The batter interfered with the catcher. The ball was dead as soon as it hit the batter. The batter is declared out for interference and R2 is returned to second base.
- b. There is no interference. The play stands and ball remains live.

**Rule Reference: 7-3-5 and Case Play 7-3-5 Situation E**



74. Team A is on offense has a runner (R2) at second base. The pitcher delivers a pitch that the batter takes for a ball. R2 trots back to second base as the catcher prepares to throw the ball

back to the pitcher. The catcher releases the ball on the throw back to the pitcher, but the ball strikes the batter in the helmet and rolls away. R2 sees this happen and runs to 3B. The umpire judges the batter did not do anything to intentionally get in the way of the catcher's throw to the pitcher.

- a. This is interference by the batter.
- b. This is not interference. The umpire should declare the ball dead and return R2 to second base.
- c. This is not interference. The ball remains live and R2's advance to third base stands.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1 and 7-3-5**



75. The batter swings and hits a ground ball that goes towards the pitcher. The bat breaks on contact and the broken barrel of the bat follows the ball towards the pitcher. The pitcher has to dodge the airborne bat fragment before he can field the batted ball. The pitcher finally fields the ball and throws to first base, but the batter beats the play.

- a. The batter is responsible for where his bat goes, broken or otherwise. This is interference and the batter is out.
- b. The batter is not responsible for a bat that breaks during a swing. The ball remains live and the outcome of the play stands.

**Rule Reference: 7-3-6 and Case Play 7-3-6 Situation**



76. The batter swings and hits a ground ball that goes towards the pitcher. The batter loses control of the bat, and the airborne bat follows the ball towards the pitcher. The pitcher has to dodge

the airborne bat before he can field the batted ball. The pitcher finally fields the ball and throws to first base, but the batter beats the play.

- a. The batter is responsible for where his bat goes. This is interference and the batter is out.
- b. The batter is not responsible for a bat that slips from his hands. The ball remains live and the outcome of the play stands.

**Rule Reference: 7-3-6 and Case Play 7-3-6 Situation**



77. Team A is batting. There are no runners on, and the batter has an 0-2 count. The pitcher delivers a pitch that the batter swings at, but misses. The catcher drops the ball. The batter does not attempt to run to first base on the dropped third strike, instead walking towards his dugout. The batter leaves the dirt circle around home plate and is about halfway to his dugout when he hears his coaches and teammates telling him to run to first base. The batter finally starts to run to first. The defense made no play on the batter-runner.

- a. The batter's run to first base was legal, as he was not yet out when he started running to first base.
- b. The batter was out as soon as he walked out of the dirt circle surrounding the plate, and he is still out.
- c. The batter was out as soon as he abandoned any effort to advance, and he is still out.

**Rule Reference: 7-4-1(b)(1) and Case Play 7-4-1 Situation A**

78. Team A is batting. There are no runners on, and the batter has an 0-2 count. The pitcher delivers a pitch that the batter swings at, but misses. The catcher drops the ball. The batter-runner runs to first base as the catcher retrieves the dropped third strike. The catcher throws the ball to first base too late, and the umpire calls the batter-runner safe. The runner apparently thinks he is out and starts walking towards the dugout. The runner is about halfway between first base and his dugout when he hears his coach tell him to get back to the first base bag. The runner quickly gets to first base.

- a. The runner's return was legal, as he was not yet out when he started his return to first base.
- b. The runner was out as soon as he abandoned his base to return to the dugout.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-2 and Case Play 8-4-2 Situation C**





79. The batter hits the ball up the first base line. The batter-runner accidentally runs into the batted ball in foul territory. The umpire judges the batted ball had no chance of returning to fair territory.
- The batter-runner is out.
  - The batter-runner is not out. The ball is foul.

**Rule Reference: 7-4-1(i)**

80. Team A is batting with no outs, and runners at 1B and 2B. The batter hits a pop fly near the shortstop that the umpire properly declares is an infield fly. The shortstop loses sight of the ball in the sun, and it drops untouched to the ground in front of him. Both runners attempt to advance when they see the ball hit the ground. The shortstop picks up the ball and throws it to the third baseman, who tags the runner before he reached third base.
- There is only one out on this play. Once the ball hit the ground, the ball was immediately dead. The batter remains out on the infield fly and the runners are returned to the bases where they started.
  - There are two outs on this play. The ball remained live, caught or uncaught, and the runners advanced at their own risk. The batter was out immediately on the infield fly and the out at third base stands.

**Rule Reference: Case Play 7-4-1 Situation C**

81. Team A is batting with no outs, and runners at 1B and 2B. The batter hits a pop fly near the shortstop that the umpire properly declares is an infield fly. The shortstop intentionally drops the ball in front of him. Both runners attempt to advance when they see the ball hit the ground. The shortstop picks up the ball and throws it to the third baseman, who tags the runner before he reached third base.
- There is only one out on this play. Once the ball hit the ground, the ball was immediately dead. The batter remains out on the infield fly and the runners are returned to the bases where they started.
  - There are two outs on this play. The ball remained live, and the runners advanced at their own risk. The batter was out immediately on the infield fly and the out at third base stands.

**Rule Reference: 5-1-1(j) Exception and 8-4-1(c)**

82. Team A is batting with no outs, and a runner at 1B. The batter hits a pop fly near the shortstop. The shortstop allows the ball to drop untouched in front of him. The shortstop picks up the ball and starts a double play.

- a. There is only one out on this play. Once the ball hit the ground, the ball was immediately dead. The batter is out because the ball was intentionally allowed to drop untouched. The runner is returned to first base.
- b. There are two outs on this play. The ball remained live because it was untouched and the infield fly rule did not apply. The double play stands.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-1(c)**



83. The batter hits a ball that the third baseman fields near third base. The throw to first base takes the first baseman off of the bag, towards the plate. The first baseman collides with the batter-runner, who is outside of the running lane. The first baseman is unable to field the ball, and the batter-runner reaches first base as the ball rolls down the first base line.

- a. Legal play. The throw was not being made from the area behind the runner.
- b. Legal play. The throw was not a “quality throw” so there is no protection for the defense.
- c. This is runner’s lane interference. The batter-runner is out. It does not matter where the throw originates from, and the throw, while offline, was catchable.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-1(g)& 2010 NFHS Rule Interpretations Situation**

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84. The batter bunts the ball up the first base line. The ball is fielded by the catcher about 15’ up the first base line. The catcher cocks his arm to throw but does not actually throw the ball. The batter-runner is running to first base in fair territory, and it appears to the umpire that the catcher did not throw the ball because the runner blocking the throwing lane.

- a. This is interference.
- b. This is not interference. Even though the runner was not in the runner’s lane, he is not guilty of interference unless the catcher throws the ball.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-1(g)& 2010 NFHS Rule Interpretations Situation 7**

**(<https://nebula.wsimg.com/c57ea38e749d4dcc8cdbc2942d111c4f?AccessKeyId=1A9432C9808593CB8812&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>)**



85. The batter hits a ground ball that goes up the third base line. It is fielded by the catcher about 15' up the line. The catcher throws to first base, but the thrown ball hits the first baseman's glove and drops to the ground. The batter-runner was out of the running lane the entire way to first base. The umpire judges that the catcher and first baseman had a clear line of sight to each other, and the throw was not near the runner.

- a. This is interference. The runner is required to always be in the runner's lane.
- b. This is not interference. Even though the runner was not in the runner's lane, he did not interfere with the play at first base.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-1(g)(1)**



86. The batter bunts the ball and runs to first base. The catcher fields the ball and throws to first base, but the thrown ball hits the batter-runner, who is approximately 25' up the line and running in fair territory.

- a. This is interference. The batter-runner is required to run in foul territory. The ball is immediately dead, and the batter-runner is out for the interference.
- b. This is not interference. The runner's lane does not start until the 45' mark of the field. The ball is live and all play stands.

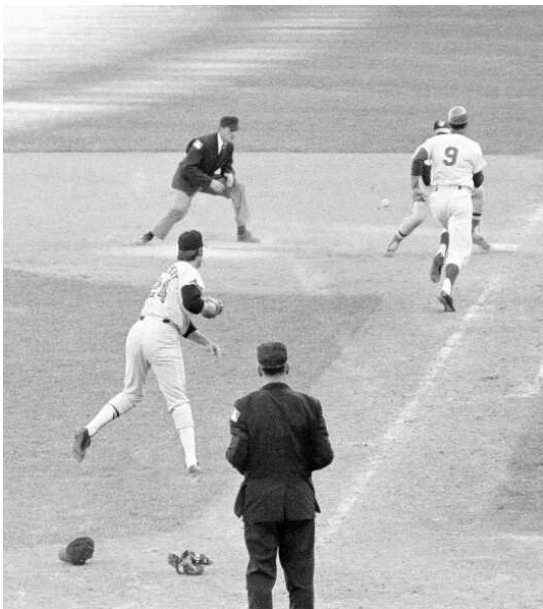
**ANSWER: B     Rule Reference: 8-4-1(g)**



87. The batter hits a ground ball near the first base line. The pitcher attempts to field the ball, but does not field it cleanly and overruns the ball by 2-3 steps. The pitcher is able to turn around and take one step back towards the rolling baseball, then reach down to pick up the baseball. After stepping back to pick up the baseball, the pitcher partially blocks the batter-runner's path to the first base. The batter-runner stumbles slightly over the pitcher's right leg/foot and is out on a close play at first base.

- a. The batter-runner is out for runner's lane interference.
- b. The batter-runner is out on the play.
- c. The pitcher illegally obstructed the batter-runner. The batter-runner is awarded first base.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-2(g)(1)**



88. The batter-runner hits or bunts a ball that the pitcher fields the ball about 10' from the first base line. The pitcher throws the ball to the first baseman. The thrown ball does not hit the batter-runner, but the first baseman is still unable to cleanly catch the ball. The batter-runner was running

inside of the runner's lane and the umpire judged the runner's position made it more difficult for the first baseman to see the ball.

- a. This is interference, even though the batter-runner was not hit by the ball.
- b. This is not interference. The throw was catchable and did not hit the runner.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-1(g)**



89. Team A is on offense. #15 is the batter and hits a fly ball to deep center field. #37, who was on first base, returns to first base to tag up. The centerfielder collides with the wall and is unable to make the catch. As the collision in center field is happening, #15 passes #37 at first base.
- a. #15 is declared out and the ball is immediately dead.
  - b. #15 is declared out and the ball remains live.
  - c. Neither player is out as long as #37 goes to second base and #15 remains at first base.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-2(m) and Case Play 8-4-2 Situation M**



90. On a dropped third strike, the catcher recovers the ball and is able to tag the batter-runner after a brief chase. Following the tag the catcher runs 2-3 more steps and falls to the ground. The contact with the ground causes the catcher to lose control of the ball and it falls to the ground. The batter-runner continues running to first base and makes there without any additional play.



- a. The batter-runner is out. The catcher has secure possession of the ball at the moment of the tag. What happened after he stumbled does not change the result of the play being an out.
- b. The batter-runner is not out. The catcher is required to retain possession of the ball through any subsequent activity. The ball remains live and since the batter-runner was not subsequently tagged or otherwise put out, is safe at first base.

**Rule Reference: 2-24-4 and 8-4-2(h)(2), as well as 2018 NFHS Rule Interpretations Situation 14**

**([https://www.cifstate.org/sports/baseball/rules/2018\\_NFHS\\_Baseball\\_Rules\\_Interpretations.pdf](https://www.cifstate.org/sports/baseball/rules/2018_NFHS_Baseball_Rules_Interpretations.pdf))**



91. Team A is batting with a runner at first base. The batter hits a ground ball that the first baseman is unable to get to, despite diving. The runner, who was behind the first baseman, is then hit by the batted ball. The umpire judges the second baseman was not in a position to make a play on the batted ball.
- a. The runner is out, and the ball is immediately dead. He was struck by a batted ball.
  - b. The runner is out, and the ball remains live.
  - c. The runner is not out and the ball remains live.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-2 and Case Play 8-4-2 Situation J(b)**



92. Team A is on offense, with a runner at first base. The batter hits a slow ground ball up the middle of the infield. The second baseman fields the ball relatively close to second base. The

runner moves more than three feet from his initial basepath to avoid the fielder trying to field the ball.

- a. The runner is out for going more than three feet out of his established basepath.
- b. The runner is not out, as he went more than three feet from his established basepath to avoid a fielder trying to field the ball.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-2(a)(1)**



93. The catcher is blocking the plate without the ball, so the runner jumps over him to avoid a collision and lands on the plate.

- a. The jumping shown is generally illegal, but it is ignored due to the obstruction.
- b. The jumping shown is generally illegal, but it is ignored because the runner was avoiding the fielder.
- c. The jumping shown is illegal. The obstruction is ignored, and the runner is out for interference.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-2(b)(2) and Case Play 8-4-2 Situations A and S**



94. Team A is on offense and has runners at second base and third base. All runners take off for the next base on the pitch, and batter attempts to bunt as the runner from third runs for home. The batter gets the bunt down, which the catcher fields quickly. The catcher chases the runner all the way back to third base. The runner from second base slides into third as the catcher and R3 both arrive at third base. The catcher tags both runners, who by this time are both touching third base.

- a. The runner that started on third is out.
- b. The runner that started on second is out.



**Rule Reference:8-2-8(a)**

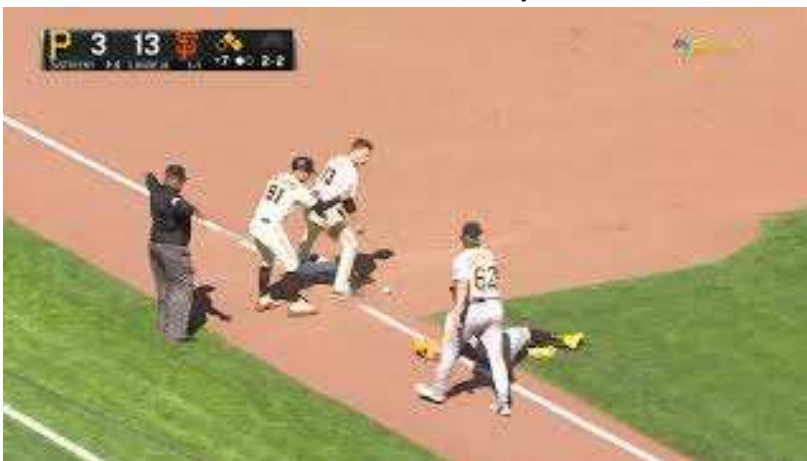


95. Team A is on offense and has the bases loaded. All runners take off for the next base on the pitch, and batter attempts to bunt as the runner from third runs for home. The batter gets the bunt down, which the catcher fields quickly. The catcher chases the runner all the way back to third base. The runner from second base slides into third as the catcher and R3 both arrive at third base. The catcher tags both runners, who by this time are both touching third base.
- The runner that started on third is out.
  - The runner that started on second is out.

**Rule Reference: 8-2-8(a)**

96. Team A has a runner at third base. The batter hits a line drive that hits the runner at third while the runner is standing on the base. The umpire judges the runner did not intentionally let the ball hit him. The third baseman was back, behind the runner.
- The runner at third is out for interference. The ball is immediately dead.
  - The runner at third is not out. Being on the base is safe haven for the runner. The ball remains live.

**Rule Reference: 8-4-2 and Case Play 8-4-2 Situation J**



97. Team A is batting with runners at 1B and 2B. The batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman, who fields it and attempts to tag R2 headed for third. As he applies the tag, the third baseman loses control of the ball. The ball rolls towards third base as the third baseman falls into the grass area. The runner's slide took him off the bag, resulting in the ball, the third baseman, and the runner all on the ground near the base. The runner got to his feet and was off of the base.

The nearby third base coach stepped up to the runner and lightly pushed him back to third base, then held him in place on the bag.

- a. Legal play. The ball remains live.
- b. This is interference by the coach. The ball is immediately dead and the runner at third base is out.
- c. This is inference by the coach. The runner is declared out for the interference by the coach and the ball remains live.

**Rule Reference: 3-2-2 Penalty and 8-4-2(s)**

98. Team A has R3 at third base with two outs. The batter hits the ball into right center field that is not caught. The runner from third scores easily. The batter-runner is thrown out trying to get to third base for the third out. The defense then successfully appeals that the batter-runner missed first base.

- a. The run scored by R3 counts.
- b. The run scored by R3 does not count.

**Rule Reference: 2-20-2 and 9-1-1 Exceptions (a) and (d), Case Play 9-1-1 Situation C, and 2018 NFHS Rules and Interpretations – Situation 8**

**([https://www.cifstate.org/sports/baseball/rules/2018\\_NFHS\\_Baseball\\_Rules\\_Interpretations.pdf](https://www.cifstate.org/sports/baseball/rules/2018_NFHS_Baseball_Rules_Interpretations.pdf))**

99. Team A has R3 at third base with two outs. The batter hits the ball into right center field that is not caught. The runner from third scores easily. The batter-runner is thrown out trying to get to third base for the third out. The defense then successfully appeals that the batter-runner missed second base.

- a. The run scored by R3 counts.
- b. The run scored by R3 does not count.

**Rule Reference: 9-1-1 Exception (d) and Case Play 9-1-1 Situation C**



100. Over the course of the first two innings, the cap worn by the pitcher for Team A falls off of his head repeatedly. The head coach for Team B complains to the umpire that the falling cap is a distraction to his batters.

- a. If the umpire agrees that the falling cap is distracting, he must tell the head coach of Team A that the pitcher will be removed as a pitcher if the cap cannot be secured.

- b. If the umpire agrees that the falling cap is distracting, the umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach of Team A. The next time the cap falls, the coach will be restricted to the dugout.
- c. The falling cap is not an issue the umpire has authority to address.

**Rule Reference: 10-2-3 and Case Play 10-2-3 Situation C**

## MECHANICS QUESTIONS

### Basic Principles

1. Umpires will need to see all plays while on the move when:
  - a. An umpire has multiple responsibilities on the field.
  - b. An umpire is working a game solo.
  - c. Never. An umpire should not strive to make a call on the move.
  - d. A base umpire is ruling on a catch/no catch in the outfield.

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 4, 4.1 Style and Form of Calls #4 p.28)**

2. Umpire movement/mechanics should not be based on:
  - a. Unlikely second or third play developments.
  - b. A series of compromises.
  - c. Limiting the amount of effort and umpire must exert.
  - d. A and C

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 5, 5.1 Mechanics Philosophies/Basic Concepts A-C p.31**

3. Other umpires should mirror a balk call of their partners to ensure everyone on the field is clear that a balk has been called.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 5, 5.3 General Balk Responsibilities C, p.32**

4. Instances of "Trouble" include:

- a. Anytime a catchable fly ball is hit into an area of responsibility of an umpire in the "A" or "D" position.
- b. Anytime a batted ball goes into a bullpen located in live-ball territory.
- c. An outfielder moving in but catching a batted ball above the waist.
- d. Fair/Foul decisions, including a fielder moving aggressively toward the line.

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 6 Previous Points of Emphasis, 2023 Fly Ball Focus, p.35**

5. Erring on the side of "Going Out" and having an umpire out for a routine catch is preferable to fielders diving and crashing with no umpire in the outfield.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 6 Previous Points of Emphasis, 2023 Fly Ball Focus p.37**

6. When a batter is hit by the pitch, the plate umpire should:

- a. Take his mask off and observe all action by walking up the third base line.
- b. Point towards first base and give the pitcher a new baseball, then watch batter-runner.
- c. Immediately read the situation and if necessary, move to a position to prevent the batter from charging the mound.
- d. Stay near the catcher and direct the batter-runner to first base.

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 4, 4.3 Handling Fights, p.30**

7. Umpires should ignore all occurrences on the field if:

- a. They occur in the dugout, as that is the head coach's responsibility.
- b. They involve "trash talking", as "trash talking" has always been a part of the game.
- c. They involve comments directed at another umpire.
- d. None of the Above

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 4, 4.2 Handling Situations, p.29 #3**

8. The umpire position within the infield that is between first base and second base is:

- a. "A" Position

- b. "B" Position
- c. "C" Position
- d. "D" Position

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 5, 5.2 Basic Starting Positions, p.32**

9. Signals Should:

- a. Project decisiveness to the team, fans and media.
- b. Not be elaborate or excessive.
- c. Be used for every judgment made during a game.
- d. A and B

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 4, 4.1 Style of Calls, #2-#3, p. 28**

### **TWO-UMPIRE SYSTEM**

10. On rundowns, the umpire with the clearest view of the tag should take the initiative on making the call.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 5, 5.4 Rundown Plays, p.32**

11. The Two-Umpire System is unique and has no relevance to other umpire systems.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7 Mechanics for Two Umpires, 7.1 Basic Principles, p.43**

12. Whether a left-handed pitcher steps to the plate or to a base is the primary responsibility of:

- a. The Plate Umpire
- b. The Base Umpire

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7 Mechanics for Two Umpires, 7.2 Balk Concentration, p.43, A #1 and B Note**

13. If the base umpire goes out in the two-umpire system, he should plan to return to home plate for any play on the batter-runner there.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7 Mechanics for Two Umpires, 7.3 Basic Outfield Coverage D #4 Exception**

14. U1 has the following responsibilities for catches within the infield:

- a. By the pitcher, moving in and to the left.
- b. By the shortstop, moving towards second base.
- c. Immediately in front of the first baseman.

- d. By the second baseman in both towards second base and towards the line.
- e. Both B and C

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.5.2 No Runners On, Infield Catch Coverage, p.46**

15. U1 has fair/foul responsibility for batted balls that touch third base and/or go beyond.
- a. True
  - b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.5.3 No Runners On, Fair/Foul Coverage p.47**

16. **No Runners on Base**: Which of the following are reasons for why the Plate Umpire should move up the first base line on plays within the infield?
- a. The plate umpire has primary responsibility on a pulled foot decision at first base.
  - b. Assist the base umpire with a swipe tag, if asked.
  - c. Prepare for potential overthrow responsibilities.
  - d. To have a better look to see if the batter-runner beats a throw from an infielder.
  - e. B and C

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.5.4-5 No Runners On, Plays Within the Infield/Plays Within the Infield: Overthrow p.48-49**

17. No Runners on Base: The base umpire is required to rotate home on a clean hit to the outfield that results in extra bases when:
- a. The Batter Runner commits to third base.
  - b. The Plate Umpire rotates to third base
  - c. The Batter Runner rounds third base and heads for home plate
  - d. None of the Above

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.5.7 No Runners On/Clean Hit to the Outfield: Extra Bases, p.51**

18. No Runners on Base: The Base Umpire may “rim” along the infield dirt when he is responsible for the batterrunner, and it is an obvious double.
- a. True
  - b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.5.7 No Runners On/Clean Hit to the Outfield: Extra Bases, p.51**

19. No Runners on Base: The Plate Umpire has responsibility for the batter-runner at all bases when U1 chases on a fly ball.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.5.8 No Runners On/Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch/U1 Goes Out p.52**

20. No Runners on Base: The Base Umpire shall take the batter-runner into third base when there is a fly ball to left field and there is a ruling of “no catch.”

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.5.11 No Runners On/Fly Ball To Left Field: No Catch p.55**

21. **Runner on First Base**: The Base Umpire has infield catch/no catch responsibilities in the following scenario(s):

- a. The pitcher moving in, left or right
- b. The first baseman and third baseman whenever they are moving in or toward the middle of the field
- c. An infielder moving in any direction
- d. None of the above.

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6 Runner on First, Initial Infield Catch Coverage, p.56**

22. Runner on First Base: The plate umpire gives up fair/foul responsibility to the base umpire when a batted ball is:

- a. At the cutout
- b. At first base
- c. At the 45 Foot line
- d. He shouldn't. He has all fair/foul responsibilities

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.3. Runner on First: Fair/Foul Coverage p.59**

23. Runner on First Base: The Plate Umpire has primary responsibility for ruling on the legality of slides at second base.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.4 Runner on First: Plays Within the Infield p.60**

24. Runner on First Base: Starting with the 2025 Season, the base umpire, when starting in the infield, may run to a position out in the dirt looking straight down the baseline toward second base during a steal play.

- a. True
- b. False



**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.5 Runner on First: Steal of Second, p.61**

25. Runner on First Base: What is the plate umpire's immediate next primary responsibility on a bunt after judging fair/foul and potential interference/obstruction near the plate?
- Overthrow Responsibilities
  - A potential play at Home Plate Involving R1
  - Runner's Lane Interference
  - Obstruction/interference involving F5 and R1 at Third Base

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.7 Runner on First: Plays Within The Infield: PU Stays On The Foul Line, p.63**

26. Runner on First: Following a clean hit to the outfield, R1 advances to third base, where there is a play on the runner. The base umpire should take this play from what position?
- The "Working Area" on the Third Base side of the pitcher's mound,
  - The Third base Cutout
  - He shouldn't be taking this play. The Plate Umpire is expected to move into a position for any plays at third base on R1 in this scenario.
  - Directly behind the Pitcher's mound, but halfway towards Second Base.

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.8 Runner on First: Clean Hit To The Outfield, p.64**

27. Runner on First Base: On any clean hit to the outfield, the plate umpire should read whether it is likely that the runner from first base will attempt to go to third base before starting to rotate to third. This allows the plate umpire to be in position for any overthrow responsibilities.
- True
  - False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.9 Runner on First: Clean Hit To The Outfield/Overthrow, p.65**

28. Runner on First Base: On a fly ball down the right field line where a fair/foul decision will need to be made, the plate umpire will not be expected to rotate to third base if he communicates that he is "on the line" to the base umpire.
- True
  - False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.10 Runner on First: Fly Ball Down the Right Field Line: No Catch, p.66**

*Instructional Note: While it is the responsibility of the plate umpire to communicate he is committed to the fair/foul call and will not rotate, it is important for the base umpire to recognize the likelihood of this happening and remain visually aware of where his partner is, verbal communication notwithstanding.*

29. Runner on First Base: If the plate umpire has rotated to third base and a subsequent overthrow happens anywhere on the field, he should rotate back to home plate using a path in fair territory.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.9 Runner on First/ Clean Hit to The Outfield p.65**

30. Runner on First Base: On a fly ball down the left field line, the plate umpire shall:

- a. Position himself on third base line extended to rule on fair/foul and catch/ no catch
- b. Position himself on the third base line between home and third base
- c. Be prepared to rotate to third base if there is a play of R1 there.
- d. Observe the touch of the BR at first base
- e. B and C.

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.6.12 Runner on First: Fly Ball Down the Left Field Line: Catch, p.68**

31. **Runners on First and Second Base**: For plays within the infield, the plate umpire has secondary responsibility for assisting on:

- a. Voluntary Release by F4 or F6 on the front end of a double play.
- b. A pulled foot at first base
- c. The safe/out call at first base
- d. Snap throw back play at third base

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.7.2 Runners on First and Second: Plays Within the Infield, p.72**

32. Runners on First and Second Base: Fly ball to center field with R2 tagging but R1 retreating, The centerfielder throws the ball to third base where there is a play on R2 trying to advance. The plate umpire is expected to stay home as there are multiple runners with one of them being in scoring position.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.7.4 Runners on First and Second: Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch, p.74**

33. Runners on First and Second Base: Fly ball down the right field line. If the plate umpire communicates that he is "on the line," then he is still responsible for a potential play at third base on R2.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.7.6 Runners on First and Second: Fly Ball Down the Right Field Line Catch, p.76**

34. **Bases Loaded**: Clean Hit to the Outfield. Which of the following responsibilities belong to the Base Umpire?

- a. The touch of third base by the batter-runner
- b. The touch of third base by all runners and the batter-runner
- c. Obstruction of all runners and the batter-runner at third base
- d. B and C

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.8.1 Bases Loaded: Clean Hit to the Outfield, p.78**

35. **Runners on First and Third**: Fly Ball Down the Right Field line with a ruling of “no catch,” the plate umpire can move toward first base to rule on fair/foul and catch/no catch before retreating back to home plate.

- a. True
- b. False

**Rule Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.9.5 Runners on First and Third: Fly Ball Down the Right Field Line: No Catch, p.87**

36. **Runners on Second and Third**: On a Fly Ball to hit to left-center field with a possible ruling of catch/no catch, the base umpire may leave the “working area” and take this play on the infield dirt.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.11.3 Runners on Second and Third: Fly Ball to Left Center Field: Catch**

37. Runners on Second and Third: Clean hit to the outfield with R2 and R3 scoring, but the return throw from the right fielder goes to the first baseman to play on the batter-runner back into first. The base umpire is expected to rule on this play.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.11.2 Runners on Second and Third: Clean Hit to the Outfield, p.96**

38. Runners on Second and Third Base. On a fly ball hit to left centerfield, U1 has primary responsibility of R3’s tag up.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.11.3 Runners on Second and Third: Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch, p.97**

39. **Runner on Third Base**: With two outs, the base umpire has the option of starting in either the “B” or “C” position.

- a. True

- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.12 Runner on Third: Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage, p. 100**

40. Runner on Third Base: Umpire responsibilities for plays on the infield are the same for a runner at third only as they are with runners at second and third.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 7, 7.12 Runner on Third: Plays Within the Infield, p. 100**

### **Three Umpire System**

41. Which of the following is a basic principle of the Three-Umpire System?

- a. Angle Over Distance
- b. Reverting Back to the Two-Umpire System
- c. Pre-Pitching A Second and Third Play
- d. Box 'Em In

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.1 Basic Principles #1, p. 106**

42. Umpires will always go out on a fly ball in their coverage area.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.4 Basic Outfield Coverage, p. 107**

*Instructional Note: Umpires are expected to pause, read, and react, going out on fly balls that are like to present trouble for the plate umpire to call correctly. That said, it is better to be out and not be needed than it is to be needed and not be out.*

43. **No Runners on Base**: Which umpire dictates outfield coverage?

- a. Plate Umpire
- b. U1
- c. U3
- d. None of the Above

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.6.1 No Runners on: Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage, p.110**

44. No Runners on Base: U3 has infield catch coverage in which scenario?

- a. By the first and third baseman moving toward the plate or toward the middle of the infield.
- b. By the pitcher moving back
- c. By the second baseman moving out
- d. By the shortstop moving in

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.6.2 No Runners On: Infield Catch Coverage, p.111**

45. **Runner on First Base:** U3 must position himself where?

- a. "B" position always
- b. "C" position always
- c. "B" or "C" position
- d. "Really Deep C" position

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.7.1 Runner on First: Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage, p.119**

46. Runner on First Base: U1 has the option to position himself 3'-5' in foul territory behind first base to rule on a pickoff attempt, then move back to the foul line when the pitch is delivered.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.7.4 Runner on First: Pickoff at First, p.122**

47. **Runners on first and second:** On a clean hit to the outfield, U1 has primary responsibility for:

- a. All plays at first base and second base
- b. BR at first base only
- c. Overthrows on the first base side
- d. All of the above

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.8.3 Runners on First and Second: Clean Hit to the Outfield, p. 134**

48. **Runners on first and third:** The plate umpire must rotate to third base on a clean hit to the outfield when there is ball and runner at third base.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: CCA Manual Section 8, 8.10.1 Runners on First and Third: Clean Hit to the Outfield, p.147**

49. **Runner on Third Less Than Two Outs:** On a fly ball with the runner at third tagging up, the plate umpire is responsible for ruling on an appeal that the runner left early.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: Reference: CCA Manual Section 1 Mechanic Changes for 2024, 1.1 Three-Umpire System, p.13**

50. Umpires have the discretion to use mechanics from either the NFHS manual or the CCA manual.

- a. True
- b. False

**Reference: Common sense!**

