

**NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL  
RULES EXAMINATION – 2020  
ALL FIELDS REGULATION - 2 UMPIRE SYSTEM  
GIRLS FAST PITCH RULES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED**

**Read the statement EXACTLY as written. IF ANY PART of the statement is false, mark it false.**

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**ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

1. A runner cannot be obstructed by a fielder's verbal call.
2. The ball is delayed-dead when 3-foot lane interference occurs.
3. An appeal play can never result in a force out.
4. If the third out of an inning is a force out, no runs will score.

**MORE ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

5. If a courtesy runner is used for the pitcher in the top of the 1st inning, that pitcher is required to pitch to one batter in the bottom of the 1st inning.
6. On a checked swing, if the batter is hit on the hands with the pitched ball, she cannot be awarded 1st base because the hands are part of the bat.
7. After having been warned by the umpire, the batter is automatically out if the bat slips from her hands and it hits another participant in the game.
8. B1 is out if, after hitting a ball, she again hits the ball in fair territory while holding her bat and any portion of her foot is out of the batter's box and touching the ground.

**EVEN MORE ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

9. The player who batted out of turn is declared out if a proper appeal is made after the at bat is completed and before the next pitch.
10. When a proper appeal is made, runners called out must return to the last bases occupied at the time of the pitch.
11. When the look-back (circle) rule is in effect, if the BR overruns 1st base and starts back to the base, the BR still may attempt to advance to 2nd base.
12. Provide an alternate ball to the pitcher when she requests another ball. Do not say, "You made your choice at the start of the inning. You must pitch that ball until it goes out of play."

**ABOUT NEW RULES – ILLEGAL PITCHES**

13. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a ball on the batter and all runners who are forced to advance move up one base.
14. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a ball on the batter and all runners, both forced and unforced, move up one base.
15. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a ball on the batter.
16. B1 is struck by an illegal pitch. B1 is required to remain at bat with a ball added to her count.

### **ABOUT NEW RULES – METAL CLEATS**

- 17. Metal cleats are permitted in Modified play.
- 18. Metal cleats are permitted in Frosh/Freshman play.
- 19. Metal cleats are permitted in JV play.
- 20. Metal cleats are permitted in Varsity play.

### **ABOUT NEW RULES – MISCELLANEOUS**

- 21. The pitcher may only step back during her delivery if she initially started with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.
- 22. Helmets shall have a non-glare (not mirror-like) finish.
- 23. The official bat may bear the new USA Softball Certification Mark.
- 24. Bats with the 2013 ASA certification mark are legal.

### **ABOUT NEW RULES – PITCHING**

- 25. Both feet must be on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
- 26. The pitcher may take a position with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.
- 27. The pitcher may take a position with her pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and her non-pivot foot behind the pitcher's plate.
- 28. A backwards step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together.

### **NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART I**

- 29. A player may wear religious headwear provided the use of safety equipment (e.g., batter's helmet) is not compromised.
- 30. Upon checking the field prior to the start of the game, the umpires notice there are no foul poles. The umpires rule that the game cannot be played. This is the proper ruling.
- 31. Bats that contain a USSSA Certification Mark but not the ASA/USA Certification Mark are legal.
- 32. Bats that contain the proper ASA/USA Certification Mark but also the USSSA Certification Mark are illegal.

### **NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART II**

- 33. A player who has a medical/NYSPHSAA waiver to wear a daith piercing/earring must tape the earring.
- 34. With R3 on 3rd base and 2 outs, B4 lays down a squeeze bunt. R3 crosses home plate. Then, B4 is called out for 3-foot lane interference. R3's run counts.
- 35. With R3 on 3rd base and R2 on 2nd base, F1 pitches a passed ball. R3 advances toward home plate but stops and retreats back to 3rd base. F5 tags both R3 and R2 while they are standing on 3rd base simultaneously. R3 is out.
- 36. With R3 on 3rd base and R2 on 2nd base, F1 pitches a passed ball. R3 advances toward home plate but stops and retreats back to 3rd base. Before R3 reaches 3rd base, F5 tags R2 who is standing on 3rd base. R2 is out.

### **NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART III**

37. The game is played with a temporary fence. B1's fly ball hits 6 inches below the top plain of the fence. The force of the impact causes the fence to buckle allowing the ball to "fall" over the fence. This is a homerun.

38. With regard to a homerun, when the rulebook refers to the "top of the fence" it is addressing the actual top, which faces the sky, not merely the upper portion of the vertical fence.

39. With R2 on 2nd base, B3 hits a fly ball to center field. The base umpire is responsible for the play on R2 going into 3rd base.

40. With R2 on 2nd base, B3 hits a long fly ball down the right field line. The plate umpire is pinned at home plate due to legitimate fair/foul and catch/no catch concerns. In this specific scenario, the plate umpire may direct the base umpire to assume responsibility for R2 going into 3rd base.

### **NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART IV**

41. Team A submitted an official lineup card using the DP/Flex. After the batter in the 9th spot hits, the Flex comes to bat. By definition, this is batting out of order.

42. A batting helmet has a NOCSAE stamp, but no external warning label. On that basis, the umpire rule that the helmet cannot be used. This is the proper ruling.

43. Team A's head coach reports a change to the plate umpire. Team A's head coach then says, "I'll let them know" referring to the opposing team. This is the proper procedure.

44. Right-handed B1 bats the ball, which lands just outside the batter's box in fair territory. B1 takes her first step toward 1st base and kicks the ball with her left foot. When B1 does this, her right foot is still within the batter's box, but her left foot is completely outside the batter's box. This is interference.

### **NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART V**

45. R2 from 2nd base is advancing home on B3's hit to the outfield. F2 is legally blocking the plate as R2 attempts to do a slide by. F2 misses the tag and R2 misses and passes the plate. While in possession of the ball and standing on home plate, F2 makes a live ball verbal appeal for R2 missing home plate prior to R2 going back and touching the plate. The plate umpire calls R2 out. This is the proper ruling.

46. B1 hits an over-the-fence home run. As she rounds 3rd base and is heading home, she removes her helmet and tosses it in the air in celebration. B1 is ruled out for intentionally removing her helmet. This is the proper ruling.

47. If a runner intentionally removes her helmet during a live ball and is declared out, this removes the force on other runners.

48. The 3rd base coach requests time and asks to have the "last batted out" run for his pitcher on 1st base. Because the coach says, "We do that every game" the umpires allow it. This is the proper ruling.

### **NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART VI**

49. The 3rd base coach requests time and reports to the plate umpire "#12 is batting for #20 and then #20 is going to re-enter." This is the proper procedure for reporting a re-entry.

50. At the beginning of their offensive inning, the head coach reports substitutions for her first three batters. This is permissible.

51. An offensive coach is yelling out location of pitches once he sees where the catcher is setting up. The umpires rule this to be unsporting conduct and issue a warning. This is the proper procedure.

52. B1 comes to bat. After the first pitch to her, the plate umpire sees she is wearing jewelry. The plate umpire immediately ejects B1 and her head coach. This is the proper procedure.

#### **NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART VII**

53. An obstructed runner who chooses to go back rather than advance forward may never be awarded an additional base(s).

54. B1 hits cleanly to center field. B1 rounds 1st base, stops and heads back to 1st base. F3 obstructs BR returning to 1st base. F8 throws to F6 covering 2nd base. BR never would have reached 2nd base safely. When BR is obstructed returning to 1st base, her base coach yells “go to 2nd base.” B1 is thrown out at 2nd base. B1 is declared out. This is the proper procedure.

55. Regarding applying a foreign substance to the ball, dirt is considered a foreign substance when the game is played on a natural field (i.e., dirt and grass).

56. Regarding applying a foreign substance to the ball, dirt is considered a foreign substance when the game is played on an artificial field (e.g., AstroTurf).

#### **ABOUT NYSPHSAA RULES:**

57. There is no player penalty for an unreported substitution.

58. There is no tie breaker rule for regional and state play.

59. The pitching distance for Modified Play is either 40’ or 43’ feet.

60. During live playing action, a base coach must wear a protective helmet and it must be worn as the manufacturer intended.

#### **ABOUT THE COACHES’ PRE-GAME MEETING:**

61. The plate umpire should instruct players to raise their hands if the player believes the ball has gone out of play.

62. The umpires should offer to explain the DP/Flex rule during the coaches’ pre-game conference.

63. A coach must verify that their equipment is legal and proper and that their players are legally and properly equipped.

64. The field shall be cleared of all warm-up practice during the coaches’ pre-game meeting.

#### **ABOUT THE LOOK-BACK (CIRCLE) RULE:**

65. The pitcher is not considered in the circle if either foot is completely outside the lines and on the ground.

66. If F1 makes a play on one runner, she is considered to have made a play on all runners.

67. With R3 on 3rd base, B1 receives a base-on-balls. B1 rounds 1st base and continues non-stop toward 2nd base. The lookback rule is in effect. One step prior to reaching 2nd base, B1 reverses direction and continues non-stop back to 1st base. B1 has violated the look-back rule.

68. The rule is in effect when F3 is in possession of the ball in the circle.

**SELECT THE BEST ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION**

**D – DEAD BALL IMMEDIATELY DD – DELAYED DEAD BALL L – BALL ALIVE AND IN PLAY**

69. An obstructed runner is tagged out between the two bases where the obstruction occurred.
70. At the time plate umpire interference occurs.
71. While retreating, a leading runner passes a trailing runner.
72. At the time a batted ball is touched by a thrown glove.
73. A runner contacts a fielder who does not have a legitimate chance to make a play on a batted ball.
74. A runner leaves her base prior to the release of the pitch.
75. An infield fly is declared.
76. While stepping on the plate, the batter swings but misses the pitch.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE – SELECT THE BEST RESPONSE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:**

77. When a runner abandons a base and enters the team area or leaves live ball territory:
- a. The ball is dead;
  - b. The runner is out;
  - c. Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the infraction;
  - d. All of the above.
78. When obstruction occurs:
- a. It must be called regardless of how minor or severe;
  - b. The ball is delayed-dead;
  - c. The obstructed runner is awarded the base(s) she would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, had obstruction not occurred;
  - d. All of the above.
79. Regarding the Look-Back Rule (a.k.a. Circle Rule):
- a. When a violation occurs, the ball is dead;
  - b. Only one runner can be called out per play;
  - c. A runner who is in motion when the rule goes into effect is permitted to stop once, then either proceed forward nonstop or retreat back non-stop;
  - d. All of the above
80. When batting out of order is properly appealed (after the at bat is completed and prior to the next pitch):
- a. She who should have batted is out;
  - b. The incorrect batter's at bat is negated;
  - c. Any outs recorded, other than on the incorrect batter, stand;
  - d. All of the above
81. If a game is tied after 9 innings (excluding regionals & states):
- a. The tiebreaker rule takes effect in the 10th inning;
  - b. The batter scheduled to bat last in that half inning is placed on 2nd base
  - c. If the player being placed on 2nd base is the pitcher or catcher, an eligible courtesy runner may be used.
  - d. All of the above.

82. Regarding the DP/Flex:

- a. The DP and Flex may both be on defense at the same time;
- b. The Flex may never be on offense only
- c. The DP may never be on defense only
- d. All of the above

83. About the double first base:

- a. Use of the double first base is optional.
- b. A batted ball in flight that strikes the colored portion of the double first base is a fair ball.
- c. A batted ball that strikes the white portion of the double first base is a fair ball.
- d. On an extra base hit to the outfield, the runner must touch only the colored portion of the base.

84. When a runner's interference prevents a fielder from catching a routine fly ball with ordinary effort:

- a. Only the batter is out;
- b. Only the runner is out;
- c. Only a strike is charged to the batter if the ball is foul;
- d. Both the runner and batter are out.

85. Obstruction will be called:

- a. With R1 on 1st base, F3 stands directly in the baseline between 1st base and 2nd base.
- b. Whenever F2 and B1 collide after a batted ball.
- c. When, on a safe hit to the outfield, F6 impedes the progress of R1 about ten feet behind the baseline;
- d. All of the above.

86. R1 is attempting to steal second base when the batter interferes with the catcher. The following ruling is correct:

- a. If R1 is put out, the ball remains alive and in play;
- b. R1 is out for the batter's interference;
- c. The Ball is dead and the batter is out;
- d. The defense has the option to have either R1 or the batter called out.

**LIST THE PROPER BASE AWARDED AFTER EACH QUESTION: FIRST BASE = 1 SECOND BASE = 2 THIRD BASE = 3 HOME = H**

87. R1 on 1st base is attempting to steal 2nd base. F2's careless throw strikes B3's bat and the ball goes out of play. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

88. R1 from first base is attempting to steal second when B1 hits a ground ball to F6. F6 throws to first but the ball enters dead ball territory. At the time of the throw, R1 had already touched second base. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

89. R1 from first running on B1's long hit to the outfield is nearing third base and easily scored when the ball bounces over the outfield fence. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

90. F2 throws to F3 attempting to pickoff R1 at 1st base. Sliding back into 1st base, R1's foot knocks the ball out of F3's glove and the ball enters dead ball territory. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

91. A fair batted fly ball deflects off of the fence and strikes a fielder before going over the fence. The batter is awarded \_\_\_\_.

92. B1 hits a long fly ball to center field. F8 throws her glove and strikes the ball, preventing the ball from going over the fence. B1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

93. With R2 on 2nd base, B3 is struck by an illegal pitch. R2 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

94. Ball four goes out of play. BR is awarded \_\_\_\_.