

**NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL  
RULES EXAMINATION – 2017**

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.

**ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

1. The Flex may never play offense only.
2. When the batter-runner is entitled to advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base, she is out and the ball is dead if she fails to advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base and enters dead ball territory.
3. The batter-runner is out when an infielder intentionally drops a ball bunted in the air with at least 1<sup>st</sup> base occupied and fewer than two outs.
4. A bat not marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL cannot be used.

**MORE ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

5. NOCSAE approved batting helmets must also be affixed with an exterior warning label.
6. Batting helmet facemasks are not mandated but are allowed.
7. It is not mandatory that the on-deck circle be occupied by the next batter.
8. If the pitcher is scheduled to bat next, another player may occupy the on-deck circle providing the pitcher is immediately prepared to come to the plate.

**EVEN MORE ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

9. It is not an appeal play when a runner is doubled off a base after a caught fly ball.
10. It is not an appeal play when the catcher after missing a tag dives and tags a runner after the runner misses home plate.
11. The batting order is Alice, Betty, Cindy, Dana, etc. It is Alice's turn to bat, but Betty erroneously bats and hits a double. A proper appeal is made immediately following Betty's time at bat. The umpire declares Alice out, Betty is removed from base and the next proper batter is Betty.
12. The player that batted out of turn is declared out if a proper appeal is made before the next pitch.

**YET EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

13. When a proper appeal is made, runners called out must return to the last bases occupied at the time of the pitch.
14. The plate umpire will rule on all fair/foul decisions unless the base umpire on the foul line goes to the outfield to rule on a possible catch.
15. B1 is out after hitting a batted ball if she again hits the ball in fair territory while holding her bat when she is in the batter's box.
16. BR walks and stops on 1<sup>st</sup> base as F1 receives the ball inside the pitcher's circle. If BR steps off 1<sup>st</sup> base she is not out if she immediately returns non-stop to 1<sup>st</sup> base or advances non-stop to 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

**ABOUT NEW RULES:**

17. The length of the catcher's box is now 7 feet.
18. A coach may carry a gun in the dugout provided it is legally registered in New York.

19. A participant who is hearing-impaired may use a sign language interpreter who is permitted on the field.

20. An 11" softball is now legal for modified play.

**ABOUT PITCHING RULE INTERPRETATIONS:**

21. A pitcher who uses an approved drying resin is required to wipe her hand off before contacting the ball.
22. A pitcher who picks up dirt and drops the dirt is required to wipe her hand off before contacting the ball.
23. The umpire crew shall ensure that any possible game ball is sufficiently rubbed up before putting the ball in play.
24. NYSSO umpires are not required to strictly follow "Ball Rotation Procedure" and rather should use common sense, good judgment and thoughtful reasoning when giving a pitcher a new ball when she requests one.

**ABOUT WARMING UP A PITCHER:**

25. A student athlete warming up a pitcher is permitted to wear a batter's helmet.
26. In high school play, a student athlete warming up a pitcher is required to wear a chest protector
27. Catcher's masks with built-in throat guards are all required to have an additional throat protection extension.
28. Adult, non-student athlete coaches are required to wear an approved mask/helmet when warming up a pitcher.

**ABOUT THE DOUBLE 1<sup>ST</sup> BASE:**

29. On any "force out" attempt from the foul side of 1<sup>st</sup> base, the defense and batter-runner may use either the white or contrasting color portion of the base.
30. Once the batter-runner reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base, she may start on and return to either the white or contrasting color portion of the base.
31. On balls hit to the outfield with no play on the batter-runner advancing to 1<sup>st</sup> base, the batter-runner may touch the white or contrasting color portion.
32. On plays at 1<sup>st</sup> base when the batter-runner touches only the white portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the white portion of the base, the ball is dead and the batter-runner is out.

**ABOUT OBSTRUCTION:**

33. A fake tag by a fielder that impedes a runner always results in obstruction.
34. A fielder must physically contact a runner for obstruction to occur.
35. A runner cannot be obstructed by a fielder's verbal call.
36. It is not obstruction if a fielder who attempts to avoid a runner's progress delays the runner.

**ABOUT COURTESY RUNNERS:**

37. If the DP bats for the pitcher or catcher and reaches base safely, a courtesy runner is not permitted to run for the DP, or their substitute, including the pitcher or catcher.
38. Players who are currently in the game, or have participated in the game in any playing capacity, are not eligible to serve as courtesy runners.
39. In the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning only, the pitcher and catcher are identified as those players listed on the line-up as the pitcher and catcher.
40. After the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, the pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position on defense.

**ABOUT INFIELD FLY SITUATIONS:**

41. It may be called if the ball is bunted high in the air.
42. The ball is alive if an infielder intentionally drops it.
43. An infield fly may be called if a catcher is able to catch the fly ball with ordinary effort.
44. An infield fly may be called if an outfielder settles under a fly ball in the infield that could have been caught by an infielder with ordinary effort.

**ABOUT 3<sup>rd</sup> STRIKE RULES:**

45. If the batter-runner runs in violation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule and draws a throw from the catcher the ball is always immediately dead.
46. The batter is automatically out after three strikes when 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied with fewer than two out.
47. The batter is automatically out after three strikes when she leaves the plate area on a dropped third strike.
48. Any time the batter swings and misses for strike three, the umpire should bellow, "Strike three, the batter is out!"

**ABOUT NYSPHSAA RULES:**

49. If a substitute enters the game without reporting, there is no penalty.
50. For any blood on uniforms less than "saturated," the uniform does not have to be changed. School personnel have the responsibility of treating the bloody area with the appropriate disinfecting solution before the athlete may participate.
51. The pitching rule governing "hands coming together" requires the ball to enter the glove.
52. The tie-breaker rule will begin in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning.

**ABOUT INTERFERENCE:**

53. A distracting act by a runner with a fielder playing a batted ball may be ruled interference.
54. Verbal distraction by a runner with a fielder playing a batted ball may be ruled interference.
55. Interference occurs when a runner contacts a fielder who is playing a batted ball.
56. No runs will ever be allowed to score after interference on a runner is declared.

**ABOUT MECHANICS:**

57. With R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, B3 hits a hard grounder to F5. The plate umpire shall trail the batter-runner.
58. On foul fly balls near home plate, the plate umpire's initial responsibility is to rip off his or her mask.
59. During the coaches' pre-game conference (ground rules), the plate umpire should instruct players to raise their hands if the ball goes out of play.
60. On a routine play at 1<sup>st</sup> base with no runners on base, the base umpire should obtain an angle approximately 90° from the throw.

**MORE ABOUT MECHANICS:**

61. To save time, one umpire should inspect one team's equipment while the other umpire check's the other team's equipment.
62. With no runners on base, the batter hits the ball sharply to right field and the right fielder may make a play on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> base. The base umpire should move 15 feet from 1<sup>st</sup> base on a direct line on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> base line.
63. When there is a runner on base, the base umpire should be angled toward the lead runner.
64. Once all play ends, the umpires should wait for the defense to return the ball to the pitcher, then the base umpire should go to his position, followed by the plate umpire returning to home plate.

**PLAYS AT THE PLATE:**

65. For force plays to home plate, the plate umpire should be approximately 15-18 feet from home plate on the 1<sup>st</sup> base line extended.
66. For on-line throws to home plate, the plate umpire should be approximately 6-8 feet from home plate on the 1<sup>st</sup> base line extended.
67. For off-line throws to home plate, the plate umpire should be approximately 6-8 feet from home plate on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line extended.
68. For on-line throws to home plate, the plate umpire should be approximately 6-8 feet up the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line toward 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

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**SELECT THE BEST ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION****D – DEAD BALL IMMEDIATELY****DD – DELAYED DEAD BALL****L – BALL ALIVE AND IN PLAY**

69. At the time a batted ball is touched by a thrown glove.
70. A runner contacts a fielder who does not have a legitimate chance to make a play on a batted ball.
71. A batted ball strikes a photographer who's assigned to the game.
72. A runner intentionally removes her helmet.
73. An obstructed runner is tagged out between the two bases where the obstruction occurred.
74. At the time plate umpire interference occurs.
75. A trailing runner physically assists a preceding runner.
76. While retreating, a leading runner passes a trailing runner.

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

77. R1 is attempting to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> base when the batter actively interferes with the catcher. The following ruling is correct:
- If R1 is put out, the ball remains alive and in play;
  - R1 is out for the batter's interference;
  - The Ball is dead and the batter is out;
  - The defense has the option to have either R1 or the batter called out.
78. When a runner's interference prevents a fielder from catching a routine fly ball with ordinary effort:
- Only the batter is out
  - Only the runner is out
  - Only a strike is charged to the batter if the ball is foul
  - Both the runner and batter are out
79. The "look back rule" is in effect for all runners when:
- The ball is live;
  - The batter-runner has reached 1<sup>st</sup> base or been declared out (in cases where the batter has become a batter-runner);
  - The pitcher has possession and control of the ball within the pitcher's circle;
  - All of the above.
80. When a runner abandons a base and enters the team area or leaves live ball territory:
- The ball is dead;
  - The runner is out;
  - Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the infraction;
  - All of the above.
81. R2 is on 2<sup>nd</sup> base when F2 obstructs B1's swing. However, when B1's batted ball is grounded to short, F6 retires R2 off 2<sup>nd</sup> base as B1 safely reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- The out on R2 stands.
  - R2 is automatically awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> base and B1 1<sup>st</sup> base.
  - The play stands because B1 swung at the pitch.
  - Because both R2 and B1 did not advance one base on the play, an option is available to the offensive team. The offensive team may take the award of B1 to 1<sup>st</sup> base with R2 returned to 2<sup>nd</sup> base or the result of the play.
82. With R3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base and R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base with no outs, B1 hits a ground ball to F6. R1 from 1<sup>st</sup> is retired at 2<sup>nd</sup> when F6 throws to F4, but R1 interferes with F4's throw to 1<sup>st</sup>. R3 did not reach home at the time of the interference:
- B1 is declared out only if the umpire judges B1 would have been out had the interference not occurred.
  - Both R1 and B1 are out on the play.
  - The out on R1 stands and R3 is allowed to score if she is more than half way home.
  - Both R3 and R1 are out.
83. R3 is on 3<sup>rd</sup> base and R1 is on 1<sup>st</sup> base with one out when B1 hits a fly ball to right field. When F9 catches the fly ball, R3 legally tags up and scores before R1 is retired returning to 1<sup>st</sup> base:
- No runs will score on that double play and the inning is over
  - The out on R1 at 1<sup>st</sup> base is a force out
  - The play stands and the inning is over but the run by R3 counts
  - R3's run is nullified because of the force out on R1 at 1<sup>st</sup> base

84. It is legal for:
- The next two batters to occupy the on-deck circle
  - The on-deck batter to loosen up with two legal bats and an approved warm-up bat
  - The on-deck batter to leave the on-deck circle and move near home plate to signal to a base runner attempting to score
  - The on-deck batter to select the music played over the public address system throughout her time at bat
85. About the batter-runner:
- The batter-runner will be called out when tagged after she overruns first base after a base on balls.
  - The batter-runner will be called out if she stops on her way to first to avoid a tag.
  - The batter-runner will be called out for running out of the base line whenever she leaves the three-foot-lane while running to first base.
  - The batter-runner will be called out if she is struck by her fair batted ball in fair territory.
86. The batting order is Alice, Betty, Cindy, Dana, etc. It is Alice's turn to bat, but Cindy erroneously bats and hits a double. Next, Alice strikes out. Then, Betty strikes out. It is now Cindy's turn to bat but Cindy is on 2<sup>nd</sup> base:
- Cindy is declared out;
  - Cindy is skipped over but remains on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and Dana becomes the proper batter;
  - Cindy is removed from 2<sup>nd</sup> base and takes her place in the batter's box;
  - Cindy is removed from 2<sup>nd</sup> base and Dana comes to bat.

**LIST THE PROPER BASE AWARDED AFTER EACH QUESTION:**

**FIRST BASE = 1  
THIRD BASE = 3**

**SECOND BASE = 2  
HOME = H**

87. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base is attempting to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> base. F2's careless throw strikes B3's bat and the ball goes out of play. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
88. Batter hits a long fly ball to center field. The center fielder throws her glove and prevents the ball from going over the fence. The batter is awarded \_\_\_\_.
89. B1 hits a shot down the right field line. The ball deflects off of the right fielder's glove. The BR has already passed 1<sup>st</sup> base when the ball goes out of play. BR is awarded \_\_\_\_.
90. R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. F2 commits catcher's obstruction against B3, who misses the pitch. The penalty for catcher's obstruction is enforced. R2 is awarded \_\_\_\_ base.
91. With R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, an illegal pitch on ball four goes out of play. R2 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
92. R2 and R1 are both between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base when the ball is thrown out of play. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
93. R1 and B2 are both between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base when the ball is thrown out of play. B2 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
94. The catcher carries the ball into the dugout to tag a runner who misses home plate. The runner standing on 1<sup>st</sup> base is awarded \_\_\_\_.

