

**NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL  
RULES EXAMINATION – 2022  
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. If a courtesy runner is used for the pitcher in the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, that pitcher is required to pitch to one batter in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning.
2. The pitcher may only step back during her delivery if she initially started with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.
3. Bats that contain the proper ASA/USA Certification Mark but also the USSSA Certification Mark are *illegal*.
4. The plate umpire should instruct players to raise their hands if the player believes the ball has gone out of play.

**MORE ABOUT FREQUENTLY MISSED QUESTIONS:**

5. B1 hits an over-the-fence home run. As she rounds 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
6. An offensive coach is yelling out the 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.
7. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a ball on the batter and all runners, both forced and unforced, move up one base.
8. With R3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base, B1 receives a base-on-balls. B1 *rounds* 1<sup>st</sup> base and continues non-stop toward 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The look-back rule is in effect. One step prior to reaching 2<sup>nd</sup> base, B1 reverses direction and continues non-stop back to 1<sup>st</sup> base. B1 has violated the look-back rule.

**ABOUT NEW RULES – EP & DP/FLEX:**

9. A team may use the DP/Flex.
10. A team may use an EP.
11. A team may use both an EP and the DP/Flex.
12. A team may use an EP or the DP/Flex, but not both.

**ABOUT NEW RULES – EP & DP/FLEX**

13. The EP may play defense.
14. If the EP enters the game on defense for the Flex, the Flex is considered to have left the game.
15. A team may use 2 EPs.
16. If the EP leaves the game due to injury and there are no eligible substitutes, the Flex may enter the game for the EP.

**ABOUT NEW RULES – BATS**

17. Any attachments on the bat handle must be attached with grip tape.
18. Attachments, such as flare cone or choke up device, on the bat handle render the bat an "altered bat."
19. The requirement to use grip tape on attachments has been removed.
20. In high school play, the tape on the handle of the bat may be any length from 6"-15".

**ABOUT NEW RULES – PITCHING**

21. The pitcher's pivot foot must remain in contact with the ground during her delivery.
22. The pitcher's pivot foot may be airborne during her delivery. In other words, leaping is legal.
23. The pitcher may replant her pivot foot and push off from a secondary location.
24. "Crow hopping" into a leap is legal.

**ABOUT NEW RULES ???**

25. The pitcher has 5 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball or after the umpire indicates "play ball."
26. The batter shall assume a one ball, one strike count upon entering the batter's box.
27. The rule change regarding common specifications for game balls takes effect in 2022.
28. All games shall have a one hour and forty-minute time limit.

**ABOUT RECENT RULE CHANGES**

29. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a ball on the batter.
30. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a ball on the batter and all runners who are forced to advance move up one base.
31. B1 is struck by an illegal pitch. The offense has the *option* to take the penalty for the illegal pitch *or* the penalty for the hit-by-pitch.
32. B1 is struck by an illegal pitch. B1 is required to remain at bat with a ball added to her count.

**MORE ABOUT RECENT RULE CHANGES**

33. Teams are not required to report *any* defensive changes.
34. Metal cleats are permitted in Modified play.
35. Metal cleats are permitted in JV play.
36. Metal cleats are permitted in Varsity play.

**EVEN MORE ABOUT RECENT RULE CHANGES**

37. The pitcher may step back during her delivery even if she initially started with one foot behind the pitcher's plate.
38. Helmets shall have a non-glare (not mirror-like) finish.
39. The official bat may bear the new USA Softball Certification Mark.
40. Bats with the 2013 ASA certification mark are legal.

### YET EVEN MORE ABOUT RECENT RULE CHANGES

41. Prior to the pitch, both feet must be on the ground *within* the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
42. Prior to the pitch, the pitcher may take a position with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.
43. Prior to the pitch, 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.
44. A backwards step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together.

### NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART I

45. An obstructed runner who chooses to go back rather than advance forward may *never* be awarded an additional base(s).
46. B1 hits cleanly to center field. B1 rounds 1<sup>st</sup> base, stops and heads back to 1<sup>st</sup> base. F3 obstructs BR *returning* to 1<sup>st</sup> base. F8 throws to F6 covering 2<sup>nd</sup> base. BR never would have reached 2<sup>nd</sup> base safely. When BR is obstructed returning to 1<sup>st</sup> base, her base coach yells "go to 2<sup>nd</sup> base." B1 is thrown out at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. B1 is declared out. This is the proper procedure.
47. 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).
48. 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).

### NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART II

49. Right-handed B1 bats the ball, which lands just outside the batter's box in fair territory. B1 takes her first step toward 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
50. The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
51. 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.
52. With R3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### NYSSO PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS – PART III

53. With R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, B3 hits a fly ball to center field. The base umpire is responsible for the play on R2 going into 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
54. 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.
55. R2 from 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

56. 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.

### FLY BALL COVERAGE

57. With no runners on base, the plate umpire is responsible for catch/no catch on all fly balls *unless* the base umpire goes out (chases).
58. With a runner(s) on base, the plate umpire is responsible for catch/no catch on all fly balls *unless* the base umpire goes out (chases).
59. With no runners on base, the base umpire is responsible for catch/no catch on fly balls hit from the center fielder to the right field fence, *regardless* of whether he/she goes out..
60. With a runner(s) on base, the base umpire is responsible for catch/no catch on fly balls hit from the left fielder to the right fielder, *regardless* of whether he/she goes out.

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

The following questions all assume that the look-back rule is in effect (*i.e.*, the pitcher has control of the ball in the circle after the batter-runner has reached 1<sup>st</sup> base).

61. BR receives a base-on-balls and stops on 1<sup>st</sup> base. BR steps off of 1<sup>st</sup> base. BR 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.
62. A pitcher making a play on one runner is considered to be making a play on all runners.
63. When the batter becomes a batter-runner, the look-back rule does not go into effect until the BR reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base.
64. If BR overruns 1<sup>st</sup> base and starts back to the base, BR still may attempt to advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

### ABOUT THE DOUBLE 1<sup>ST</sup> BASE

65. 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.
66. Once the batter-runner reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base, they may start on and return to either the white or contrasting color portion of the base.
67. 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.
68. 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.

**SELECT THE BEST ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION**

**D – DEAD BALL IMMEDIATELY**

**DD – DELAYED DEAD BALL**

**L – BALL ALIVE AND IN PLAY**

69. A runner contacts a fielder who does not have a legitimate chance to make a play on a batted ball.
70. An obstructed runner is tagged out between the two bases where the obstruction occurred.
71. At the time plate umpire interference occurs.
72. A runner accidentally contacts a fielder who is in the act of fielding a batted ball.
73. R1 leaves 1<sup>st</sup> base prior to the release of the pitch.
74. R1 is attempting to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> base. B2 interferes with F2's throw to F6. At the time of the interference, the ball is \_\_\_\_.
75. When a trail/succeeding runner passes a lead/preceding runner.
76. A batted ball is touched by a thrown glove.

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

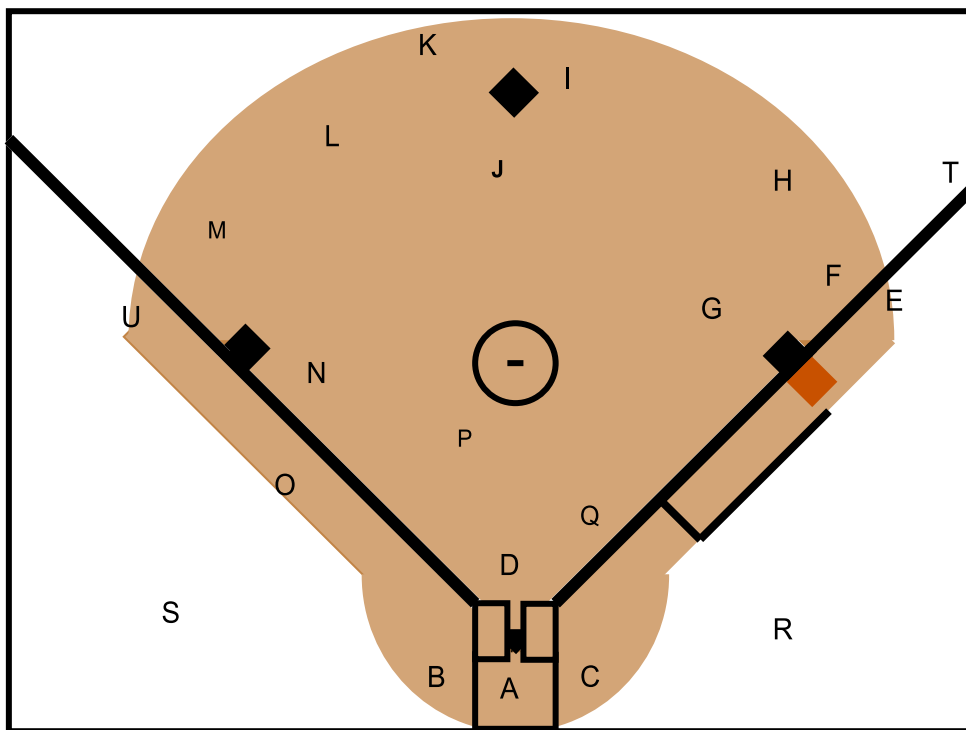
77. When a runner abandons a base and enters the team area or leaves live ball territory:
- The ball is dead;
  - The runner is out;
  - Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the infraction;
  - All of the above.
78. When a runner's interference prevents a fielder from catching 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. Obstruction will be called:
- With R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base, F3 stands directly in the baseline between 1<sup>st</sup> base and 2<sup>nd</sup> base at the time of the pitch.
  - Whenever F2 and B1 collide after a batted ball.
  - When, on a safe hit to the outfield, F6 impedes the progress of R1 about ten feet behind the baseline;
  - All of the above.
80. When the tie-breaker rule is instituted:
- It is the responsibility of the umpires & scorer to notify the teams involved which player will be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base;
  - There is no penalty if an incorrect tie-breaker runner is discovered; the correct runner will be placed on base;
  - The proper tie-breaker runner is the player scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning;
  - All of the above are true.
81. At the coaches' pre-game conference, the umpire crew shall:
- Confirm legality of equipment;
  - Address sportsmanship;
  - Identify the head coach
  - All of the above.
82. About coach's boxes:
- The base coach must remain within the lines of the coach's box throughout the game;
  - The base coach may never be charged with interference while within the confines of the coach's box;
  - A runner is always out if a coach is struck by a thrown ball while out of the coach's box;
  - None of the above is true.
83. If the pitching distance is found to be incorrect during a game:
- The plate umpire will dutifully step off the distance by cautiously placing one front in front of the other being careful to maintain his or her balance;
  - The distance will be corrected immediately without penalty;
  - The distance will be corrected at the top of the next full inning;
  - The game will be started over as a new game.
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. R1 is on 1<sup>st</sup> base with one out when B2 lines out to F6. However, F6's throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base goes into the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout but rebounds back on the field.
- B2 is out and the ball is live and in play
  - B2 is awarded two bases from her position at the time of the throw
  - R1 is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base and B21 is out
  - R1 is awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> base and B2 is out.
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. With R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, B3 is struck by an illegal pitch. R2 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
88. 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 \_\_\_\_.
89. 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 \_\_\_\_.
90. 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 \_\_\_\_.
91. F2 throws to F3 attempting to pickoff R1 at 1<sup>st</sup> base. Sliding back into 1<sup>st</sup> base, R1's foot knocks the ball out of F3's glove and the ball enters dead ball territory. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
92. With R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, B3 hits a deep fly ball to center field. F8 leaps for the ball, catches it while in play, then falls over the temporary fence. R2 is between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base at the time of the dead ball. R2 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
93. B1 hits a fair ball deep down the right field line. F9 intentionally kicks the ball out of play when B1 is between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base. B1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.
94. With R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base, B3 hits an infield fly. The umpires rule B3 out. The ball then strikes F5 in fair territory and ricochets out of play. R2 is awarded \_\_\_\_.



Using the letters on the diagram above, select the BEST position for the umpire to judge the play. A letter may be used more than once.

**PLATE UMPIRE ONLY**

95. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base advances to and stops on 2<sup>nd</sup> base on B2's hit to the outfield. When R1 stops at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, PU should be \_\_\_\_.
96. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base. B2 hits to F6. F6 throws to F3 to retire B2. PU's initial aiming point is \_\_\_\_.
97. R3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Potential play at the plate. Plate umpire initial position is \_\_\_\_.

**BASE UMPIRE ONLY**

98. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base. B2 singles to F7. R1 stops on 2<sup>nd</sup> base without a play. Base umpire's aiming point is \_\_\_\_.
99. R3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base. \_\_\_\_.
100. No runners are on base. The batter hits a sinking drive between the right fielder and the right field line.