

**NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL**  
**RULES EXAMINATION – 2023**  
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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**FREQUENTLY MISSED – BATS**

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

**FREQUENTLY MISSED – RECENT CHANGES**

5. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a ball on the batter and all runners who are forced to advance move up one base.
6. 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.
7. Bats with the 2013 ASA certification mark are legal.
8. Teams are not required to report *any* defensive changes.

**FREQUENTLY MISSED – MISCELLANEOUS – PART I**

9. If the EP enters the game on defense for the Flex, the Flex is considered to have left the game.
10. If the EP leaves the game due to injury and there are no eligible substitutes, the Flex may enter the game for the EP.
11. The pitcher has 5 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball or after the umpire indicates “play ball.”
12. The pitcher’s pivot foot must remain in contact with the ground during her delivery.

**FREQUENTLY MISSED – MISCELLANEOUS – PART II**

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Prior to the pitch, both feet must be on the ground *within* the 24-inch length of the pitcher’s plate.

**FREQUENTLY MISSED – PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS - PART I**

17. 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).
18. 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>.” B1 is thrown out at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. B1 is declared out. This is the proper procedure.

19. 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.

20. 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.

**FREQUENTLY MISSED - PLAYS & CLARIFICATIONS - PART II**

21. 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.
22. 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).
23. An obstructed runner who chooses to go back rather than advance forward may *never* be awarded an additional base(s).
24. 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.

**FREQUENTLY MISSED - FLY BALL COVERAGE**

25. 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).
26. 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).
27. 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..
28. 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.

**NEW RULES???**

29. The “pitching lane” is now a required marking on all fields.
30. A Any bats bearing the USA Softball, USSSA, or WBSC Certification mark and passes USA Softball Fast Pitch Compression test thresholds will be allowed.
31. A courtesy runner may be used only once per inning for any player other than the pitcher or catcher.
32. A batter who hits an over-the-fence home run is no longer required to properly run the bases.

**“TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT & DISABLED PLAYER” RULE:**

33. The TDP's exit from the game is **not** considered a substitution for re-entry purposes for her.
34. The Temporary Replacement Player's (TRP) entry into the game is **not** considered a substitution for re-entry purposes for her.
35. The TRP must have re-entry eligibility to come in as a TRP. In other words, a player who has come out of the game twice may not enter as a TRP.
36. The TRP's eligibility for purposes of **running** is not limited based on her spot in the batting order. For example, a TRP who was originally in the 6 spot in the line-up and who has been substituted for, may come off the bench and enter the game as a runner in the 8 spot as a TRP.

**ABOUT THE JEWELRY AND HAIR ADORNMENT RULES:**

37. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.
38. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.
39. Hair adornments, including beads, may be worn provided they are secured and do not present a safety hazard to the player, teammates or opponent.”
40. If an official has a concern with hair adornments, they should express those concerns to the student's coach and report the concern to the Section; the game/ contest should be played.

**ABOUT 3-FOOT LANE INTERFERENCE:**

41. It is *not* interference if F2 withdraws her throw because of B1's position outside the 3-foot running lane.
42. 3-foot lane interference *cannot* occur on a throw to the plate.
43. 3-foot lane interference *cannot* occur on a throw from foul territory.
44. The ball is delayed-dead when 3-foot lane interference occurs.

**ABOUT LIABILITY:**

45. It is proper for an umpire to instruct a runner either to slide or not slide.
46. An umpire may give a player advice as to how she should treat an injury.
47. If it is discovered that the pitching distance is improper, the umpires shall have the pitching plate corrected immediately, regardless of the playing situation.
48. It is acceptable for the plate umpire to place his hand on the catcher to measure the distance between the umpire and the catcher.

**ABOUT FORCE OUTS:**

49. A tag play can never result in a force out.
50. There cannot be a force out on a play when a fly ball is caught.
51. An appeal play can never result in a force out.
52. If the third out of an inning is a force out, no runs will score.

**ABOUT WARMING UP A PITCHER:**

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

**ABOUT OBSTRUCTION:**

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

**ABOUT INTERFERENCE:**

61. A distracting act by a runner with a fielder playing a batted ball may be ruled interference.
62. Verbal distraction by a runner with a fielder playing a batted ball may be ruled interference.
63. Interference occurs when a runner contacts a fielder who is playing a batted ball.
64. When a retired runner interferes, the runner closest to home, who has not yet scored, is declared out.

**ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL RULES**

65. Metal cleats are permitted in all levels of play except modified.
66. The international-tie breaker (ITB) begins in the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning.
67. There is no player penalty for an unreported substitute.
68. All jewelry is prohibited.

**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. A batted ball is touched by a thrown glove.
72. 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 \_\_\_\_.
73. When a trail/succeeding runner passes a lead/preceding runner.
74. During the execution of a live ball appeal, the ball is \_\_\_\_.

75. When the plate umpire requests help on a checked swing from the base umpire.

76. R2 leaves 2<sup>nd</sup> base prior to the release of the pitch.

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

77. Obstruction will be called:

- a. 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;
- 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.

78. When the tie-breaker rule is instituted:

- a. It is the responsibility of the umpires & scorer to notify the teams involved which player will be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base;
- b. There is no penalty if an incorrect tie-breaker runner is discovered; the correct runner will be placed on base;
- c. The proper tie-breaker runner is the player scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning;
- d. All of the above are true.

79. 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.

- a. B2 is out and the ball is live and in play;
- b. B2 is awarded two bases from her position at the time of the throw;
- c. R1 is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base and B2 is out;
- d. R1 is awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> base and B2 is out.

80. 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:

- a. Cindy is declared out;
- b. Cindy is skipped over but remains on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and Dana becomes the proper batter;
- c. Cindy is removed from 2<sup>nd</sup> base and takes her place in the batter's box;
- d. Cindy is removed from 2<sup>nd</sup> base and Dana comes to bat.

81. When a retired runner interferes and prevents a fielder from making a play on another runner:

- a. A second out is called on the runner closets to home;
- b. A second out is only called on the runner being placed on
- c. A second out is not called unless the interference was intentional
- d. The ball is delayed-dead.

82. R1 is attempting to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> base when the batter interferes with the catcher. The following rule is correct:

- a. If R1 is put out, the ball remains live and in play;
- b. R1 is out for 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.

83. A "time play" or "timing play" occurs:

- a. When a game is being played with a time limit;
- b. On all plays when a runner is attempting to score and a succeeding/trail runner is tagged out;
- c. When a runner is attempting to score and a following/succeeding runner is tagged out for the 3<sup>rd</sup> out on a non-force play;
- d. When a runner stays in a rundown long enough for another runner to advance

84. About infield flies:

- a. It may be called if the ball is bunted high in the air.
- b. The ball is dead if an infielder intentionally drops it.
- c. An infield fly may not be called if only the catcher or pitcher is able to catch the fly ball with ordinary effort.
- d. 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.

85. 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

86. The batter-runner is out when:

- a. She steps back toward home to avoid or delay a tag by a fielder
- b. She runs for the white portion of the double first base and interferes with a fielder taking a throw on the white portion of the base
- c. She runs outside the three-foot lane and interferes with a fielder taking a throw at first base;
- d. All of the above

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

**FIRST BASE = 1                      SECOND BASE = 2**  
**THIRD BASE = 3                     HOME = H**

87. 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 \_\_\_\_.

88. 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 \_\_\_\_.

89. 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 \_\_\_\_.

90. With R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base and fewer than 2 outs, 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 \_\_\_\_.

91. R1 is attempting to advance to 3<sup>rd</sup> base on an outfield hit. R8's throw to F4 strikes the base umpire in the head and caroms out of play. R1 was between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base at the time of the throw. R1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

92. R3 is on 3<sup>rd</sup> base when B4 is struck by an illegal pitch. R3 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

93. 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 \_\_\_\_.

94. B1 takes a wide turn at 1<sup>st</sup> base and is retreating to 1<sup>st</sup> base when F9 throws behind her. The throw is errant and goes out of play. B1 is awarded \_\_\_\_.

