



2026 NFHS Softball Exam Part I

NOTE: In the exam situations, F refers to a fielder, B refers to a batter and R refers to a runner. All situations and acts are legal, and no errors or mistakes are involved unless otherwise noted.

1. Which of the following is true when a non-adult is warming up a pitcher?
 - A. The non-adult catcher shall wear all of the catcher's gear, including shin guards, chest protector and an approved catcher's helmet/mask combination with a throat protector.
 - B. The non-adult catcher will be a player who is a legal substitute and has not yet entered the game.
 - C. The non-adult catcher must wear an approved helmet/mask combination with a throat protector. A batting helmet does not qualify as an approved catcher's helmet/mask combination with a throat protector.
 - D. None of the above.

2. Where is it permissible to obtain transmitted or recorded information from electronic devices that is reviewed in the dugout for coaching purposes during the game?
 - A. In the dugout.
 - B. From a spectator in the stands.
 - C. Camera mounted on the catcher's helmet.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. A and B only.

3. R1 is standing on third base when the pitcher receives the ball in the circle with feet partially outside the line of the circle. R1 takes two steps toward home plate and stops. R1 is:
 - A. Safe.
 - B. Out.
 - C. Runner can stop and then continue home.
 - D. Runner can return to third.

4. Team A's school colors are purple and gold. What color ribbons may the players wear?
 - A. Players may wear gold ribbons.
 - B. Players may wear gold or purple ribbons.
 - C. Players may wear any color ribbons.
 - D. Players may wear ribbons only with state association approval.

5. Which of the following locations can a pitcher wear a wristband with a playbook/playcard?
 - A. Pitching arm.
 - B. Non-pitching arm.
 - C. Belt.
 - D. All of the above.

6. At the end of the sixth inning, the home team is leading 8-5. In the top of the seventh inning, the visiting team scores four runs. During the bottom half of the seventh inning, after two batters reach base but no runs have been scored, the game is halted because of rain.
- A. The visiting team wins by a score of 9-8.
 - B. The home team wins by a score of 8-5.
 - C. Since the seventh inning has not been completed, it is not a regulation game and will be called a "no game."
 - D. The game is suspended.
7. During the act of pitching, which movement is not legal?
- A. The pitcher drags the pivot foot away from the pitcher's plate maintaining contact with the ground.
 - B. The pitcher steps back off the pitcher's plate keeping both hands together and makes the first step back with either foot. Once completely off the pitcher's plate, the pitcher separates the hands.
 - C. The pitcher replants the pivot foot resulting in the non-pivot foot becoming closer to home plate before the act of delivering the pitch.
 - D. While the pitcher is pushing off from the pitching plate, both feet disengage from the ground.
8. A pitcher touches a towel containing an approved drying agent in a back pocket and then goes directly to the ball. What is the proper ruling?
- A. Illegal pitch, must wipe hand before going to the ball.
 - B. Ball should be removed from play and pitcher is warned.
 - C. Legal, approved drying agents do not have to be removed from hands.
 - D. Illegal, NFHS softball rules do not permit drying agents.
9. A strike is charged to the batter when:
- A. A penalty strike is called because a batter delays.
 - B. A batted ball contacts the batter in the batter's box (foul ball).
 - C. A pitched ball contacts the batter while swinging at the ball or the batter is hit by the pitch that is in the strike zone (dead-ball strike).
 - D. All of the above.
10. An on-deck batter may not warm up with more than:
- A. One bat.
 - B. Two bats.
 - C. Three bats.
 - D. NFHS softball rules do not address this issue.
11. R1 is on second base. The batter has a count of two balls and one strike. The pitcher pitches a ball not in the batter's box and the batter intentionally strikes the ball with their elbow. What is the call?
- A. Dead ball, award batter first base.
 - B. Dead ball, award batter first base and R1 third base.
 - C. Dead ball, batter remains in the batter's box and the count is three balls and one strike.
 - D. None of the above.

12. In the first inning, the umpire notices that the pitcher has a glove with an optic marking on the inside of the glove that gives the appearance of the ball.
- A. The pitcher shall be restricted to the bench for using illegal equipment.
 - B. The pitcher will be allowed to finish the inning before replacing the glove.
 - C. The pitcher can switch the glove with a teammate already playing defense.
 - D. The glove shall be replaced immediately, or it may be used if the optic marking is modified to no longer give the appearance of the ball.
13. In fast pitch softball, all bats shall meet the ASA/USA Softball Bat Performance Standard and have what certification marks?
- A. 2000, 2004 or the USA Softball All Games.
 - B. 2004.
 - C. 2000, 2004 or 2013.
 - D. None of the above.
14. With the bases loaded and less than two outs, F4 is using ordinary effort to catch a pop-up. The correct call is:
- A. "Infield fly if fair" is called by the umpire and if the ball remains fair the batter is out.
 - B. Runners may not advance at any time.
 - C. Only an infielder can catch an infield fly.
 - D. If the ball is ruled foul, it is still an infield fly.
15. Which statement about a catch is correct?
- A. The fielder must have control and release of the ball must be voluntary.
 - B. If a ball strikes anything or anyone other than a defensive player while it is in flight, it shall be ruled a ground ball and not a catch.
 - C. If a fielder catches a ball but drops it while transferring to the throwing hand or in making a throw, the umpire shall still rule it a catch.
 - D. All of the above.
16. With R1 on third base, R2 on second base and one out, B4 hits a deep fly ball to F9 that is caught. R1 leaves the base before F9 first touches the ball, but R2 legally tags. Both R1 and R2 score as F9's throw is off target. Before the next pitch, the opposing team appeals that R1 left early. What is the correct ruling?
- A. R1 is declared out for the third out and R1's run is negated, but R2's run counts since R2 scored prior to the appeal.
 - B. Since F9's throw was off target, both R1 and R2 would have scored easily so both runs count.
 - C. R1 is declared out for the third out and R1's run is negated. R2's run counts since the only appeal that would negate a run is missing a base.
 - D. R1 is declared out for the third out of the inning. Since the third out was an appeal of the lead runner, neither run scores.
17. A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should:
- A. Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases from the time of the pitch.
 - B. Call a dead ball and award the batter a home run.
 - C. Call a dead ball and award the base that the umpire judges the batter would have reached had the ball not become wedged in the fence.
 - D. Award the batter the base that the batter was closest to when the ball became wedged in the fence.

18. Which action is not legal for a courtesy runner?
- A. The courtesy runner has not participated in the game.
 - B. The courtesy runner runs for the pitcher only.
 - C. The courtesy runner runs for the catcher only.
 - D. The courtesy runner becomes a substitute in the same half-inning they were a courtesy runner.
19. B1 enters the batter's box on the right side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch. B1 disconcerts the pitcher by moving to the left-hand batter's box. The correct ruling is:
- A. Immediate dead ball is called. B1 is issued a strike and given a warning by the plate umpire.
 - B. Ball is live as long as the pitcher resets and delivers a pitch and no infraction is called on B1.
 - C. Immediate dead ball is called and B1 is out.
 - D. An illegal pitch is called on the pitcher and B1 is issued a warning.
20. R1 is on first base with one out. B3 hits a ground ball to F4 and the batted ball hits R1 prior to F4 fielding the ball. What is the correct ruling?
- A. R1 is called out, and B3 is awarded a base hit.
 - B. R1 is called out. B3 is entitled to first base without liability to be put out and credited with a fielder's choice.
 - C. R1 is entitled to second base without liability to be put out and B3 is entitled to first base without liability to be put out.
21. Once the third out is made by the defense, the teams are given one minute between innings to prepare for the new half-inning. Once the allowed one minute has expired, which of the following is true?
- A. The batter must place both feet inside the batter's box within 10 seconds or a strike is called on the batter.
 - B. The pitcher must release the first pitch of the half-inning within 20 seconds or a ball is awarded to the batter.
 - C. In between pitches, the pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch once the ball has been returned to the pitcher.
 - D. All of the above.
22. It is a legal pitch if:
- A. The pitcher, from behind the pitcher's plate, takes the sign from the catcher, then steps on the pitcher's plate and simulates taking a signal before starting the pitch.
 - B. The pitcher, after bringing the hands together, starts a step back before the hands are separated.
 - C. When pushing off from the pitching plate, the pitcher's pivot foot disengages from the ground.
 - D. All of the above.
23. Which of the following statements is legal in regard to the use of one-way communication?
- A. The pitcher checks their smartwatch or other device before every pitch.
 - B. The catcher checks their smartwatch or other device before every pitch.
 - C. The coach uses one-way communication while on the field of play.
 - D. All of these are legal.

- 24 . Team B has runners on second base and third base with one out and B4 coming to the plate. Team A's coach can:
- A. Tell the umpire Team A wants to walk B4 and have B4 proceed to first base.
 - B. Roll four pitches on the ground to B4.
 - C. Throw four legal pitches outside the strike zone to B4.
 - D. Both A and C are correct.
- 25 . Which statement is an incorrect ruling of interference?
- A. If a retired runner impedes a fielder making a play on another runner, the runner closest to home is always declared out.
 - B. If a runner has not yet been put out and interference occurs to break up a double play, the immediate succeeding runner is also called out.
 - C. Interference is only awarded in situations where the runner physically contacts a fielder.
 - D. B4 hits a fair ground ball but R1 from second base hinders F6 making an initial play. The batter-runner is never called out as a result of this interference. If there are less than two outs, the batter-runner is awarded first base.
- 26 . All of the following are true statements regarding the designated player (DP), EXCEPT:
- A. The DP is one of the nine hitters in the batting order.
 - B. The DP may be substituted for at any time by a legal substitute.
 - C. The DP may play defense only for the FLEX.
 - D. The DP has left the game if the FLEX bats.
 - E. The DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
- 27 . Which of the following would be an illegal pitch?
- A. A step backward is taken after the hands have come together but prior to the start of the pitch.
 - B. Once the pitch has started, the pitcher takes no more than one step forward.
 - C. The hands come together and apart, then together again while standing on the pitching plate.
 - D. When the hands are apart and come together off the pitching plate as long as the hands are separated prior to stepping onto the pitcher's plate.
- 28 . Umpire jurisdiction begins:
- A. Upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field.
 - B. Upon the arrival of two umpires within the confines of the field.
 - C. When the pregame conference begins.
 - D. Upon the conclusion of the pregame conference.
 - E. Upon the arrival of one umpire to the facility/park/school.
- 29 . In a contest within a state that requires the use of a double first base, a coach indicates he does not want to play the game with a double first base. Which statement is correct?
- A. If both coaches agree, the double first base may be removed.
 - B. The double first base rule must be used in all contests.
 - C. Any type of base is permissible in states that adopt the double first base.
 - D. The contrasting color portion of first base can be removed when the aforementioned coach's team is on defense.

- 30 . After an initial warning to the head coach, any subsequent change to the lineup card for an inaccuracy will result in:
- A. The head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.
 - B. The head coach being ejected.
 - C. The player/substitute who is being changed/added being restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.
 - D. A and C only.
 - E. B and C only.
- 31 . All the following are legal apparel except:
- A. All players are wearing a white arm sleeve.
 - B. All players are wearing a black knee sleeve.
 - C. Some players are wearing camouflage arm sleeves in the school colors.
 - D. Some players are wearing gray tights.
- 32 . When a coach makes a substitution during a game, the home plate umpire is required to report the substitution to:
- A. The opposing team's scorekeeper.
 - B. The opposing team's head coach.
 - C. The opposing team's captain.
 - D. The opposing team's base coaches.
- 33 . The umpire shall immediately remove a player from the game who exhibits the following signs or symptoms of a concussion:
- A. Dizziness.
 - B. Confusion.
 - C. Headache.
 - D. Loss of consciousness.
 - E. All of the above.
- 34 . The game begins when the:
- A. Pre-game conference ends.
 - B. Home team takes the field for warm-ups.
 - C. Umpire calls "Play Ball."
 - D. First pitch is thrown.
- 35 . The ball becomes dead in all of the following situations, EXCEPT:
- A. There is interference by a runner or retired runner.
 - B. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
 - C. An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.
 - D. An illegal pitch is delivered.
 - E. The batter-runner steps backward toward home plate to avoid being tagged out.

- 36 . Which of the following statements is correct?
- A. Pitching from a distance of 40 feet is allowed if both coaches agree at the pregame conference.
 - B. A pitcher is allowed to use rock rosin prior to the pitch.
 - C. In the bottom of the first inning, the pitcher must throw an unused ball if both balls to start the game have not been put into play.
 - D. A pitcher may request a change of balls as many times as the pitcher wants.
- 37 . Who can detect a batter who enters the batter's box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat?
- A. Only the offensive team can report it.
 - B. A fan.
 - C. Only the umpire or the defense can detect it.
 - D. Only the offensive coach can self-report.

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- 38 . Which is true about the following video?
- A. The runner should be called safe as a fielder must contact the base with their foot to execute this play.
 - B. The runner should be called out as a fielder can contact the base with any part of their body to execute this play.
 - C. The runner should be called safe as a fielder must contact the base with the mitt containing the ball to execute this play.
 - D. None of the above.

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- 39 . Which is true about the following video?
- A. The runner should be ruled out for interference as contacting the fielder impeded their ability to retrieve the missed throw.
 - B. This is not obstruction as the impedence occurred after the runner reached the base they were trying to achieve.
 - C. This is obstruction. F6 impeded the progress of the runner as they were attempting to advance to third base.
 - D. Although the runner was impeded, this not obstruction as the fielder was in position to field the thrown ball so they cannot be guilty of obstruction.

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- 40 . Which is true about the following video?
- A. This is interference as the catcher was impeded from catching the thrown ball.
 - B. This runner was impeded as the runner was forced to alter their path to avoid the catcher. However, this is not obstruction as the catcher was attempting to catch a thrown ball.
 - C. This is obstruction as the runner was impeded when the runner was forced to alter their path to avoid the catcher. However, it does not need to be called as the runner safely obtained home plate.
 - D. This is obstruction as the runner was impeded when the runner was forced to alter their path to avoid the catcher. It should be verbalized and a delayed dead ball signal given when it occurs.

- 41 . Which is true about the following video?
- A. This is a judgment call. At the time the runner runs in front of the fielder, the umpire must judge if the fielder was impeded, hindered or confused from making the initial play on the batted ball. If the umpire judges the fielder was impeded, interference is ruled which is an immediate dead ball and the runner is out.
 - B. This is interference. It is always interference if the runner runs between the ball and a fielder making the initial play on a batted ball.
 - C. This is obstruction as the runner was forced to avoid the batted ball while legally running the bases.
 - D. None of the above.
- 42 . During a game, where is the use of electronic devices for coaching purposes by team personnel not allowed?
- A. From a player recording video on the field of play.
 - B. From a spectator in the stands, showing video to the coach through the fence.
 - C. From the dugout, using a video feed from live ball territory.
 - D. All of the above.

- 43 . Which is true about the following video?
- A. If the ball is completely within the batter's box and it contacts the batter, it is a dead ball and the batter is awarded first base. No attempt to avoid being hit is required.
 - B. If the batter makes an obvious attempt to get hit by the pitch, the batter is not awarded first base.
 - C. If the ball is not entirely in the batter's box, the batter must make an attempt to avoid being hit to be awarded first base unless it is ball four.
 - D. All of the above are true.
- 44 . There are two outs and R1 is on second base. B4 strikes out but F2 drops the ball. B4 is able to reach first base while F2 chases down the ball. F2 then overthrows third base as R1 is advancing and the ball bounces over the fence in foul territory. What is the correct procedure for advancement of the runners?
- A. R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded second base.
 - B. R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded third base.
 - C. R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded first base.
 - D. R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded second base.
- 45 . When is a runner declared out for leaving the base once the pitcher is within or partially within the 16-foot circle?
- A. When the runner overruns first base and returns in foul territory.
 - B. When the runner leaves the running lane while running to first base.
 - C. When the runner comes off of second base advancing toward third and stops.
 - D. When the runner retreats back to third base after rounding it.
- 46 . Who can legally replace the FLEX?
- A. The DP.
 - B. Any legal substitute.
 - C. Anyone else in the batting order.
 - D. A and B only.

- 47 . Which of the following are infractions by a pitcher?
- A. Using optic yellow tape on the contact points of the pitching fingers.
 - B. Wiping their fingers before contacting the ball.
 - C. Using a drying agent listed on the USA Softball certified equipment webpage to dry the hand.
 - D. B and C.
- 48 . R1 is on second base and R2 is on first base. R1 gets caught in a rundown between second and third. As R1 retreats to second, F4 blocks the bag, prior to receiving the ball, obstructing R1 from sliding into the bag. F6 then tags R1. The correct call is:
- A. The umpire initially signals a delayed dead ball and when R1 is put out between the two bases where she was obstructed the ball becomes dead. R1 is awarded third and R2 will be awarded second as in the umpire's judgement each would have been reached safely had there been no obstruction by F4.
 - B. The umpire signals a dead ball and R1 and R2 return back to their initial bases prior to the play.
 - C. The ball is live. R1 will be awarded third due to obstruction by F4 and R2 remains on first because R2 was not involved in the rundown.
 - D. The umpire signals a delayed dead ball. R1 and R2 are not called out and both runners return to their initial bases while F4 is ejected.
- 49 . B1 has a full count. The pitcher pitches a ball not in the batter's box and the batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit. What is the call?
- A. Dead ball, batter is out as no attempt was made to avoid the pitch.
 - B. Dead ball, batter is out and issued a warning.
 - C. Dead ball, batter-runner is awarded first base since it is ball four.
 - D. None of the above.
- 50 . B1 hit a soft ground ball down third base line fielded by F5. B1 is hit with the throw. What is the call?
- A. Interference, umpire judged the batter-runner interfered with F3 fielding the throw by running outside the 3-foot lane.
 - B. Runner is safe for running completely inside the 3-foot lane even though F3 could not field the throw.
 - C. Dead ball and batter-runner is out because last foot that contacted the ground was inside the 3-foot lane.
 - D. None of the above.
- 51 . R1 is on first and B2 is up to bat with two outs. B2 hits a fly ball in foul territory. F3 attempts to catch the ball as B2 runs outside of the 3-foot lane to avoid interfering with F3. What is the call?
- A. B2 is out because of infield fly rule.
 - B. Interference, the batter-runner is guilty of interference by not running within the 3-foot lane.
 - C. Foul ball as F3 failed to catch the ball and B2 remains at bat.
 - D. None of the above.
- 52 . R1 is on second base and B2 hits a home run over the fence. R1 trips after touching third base and B2 comes and helps R1 up. R1 touches home plate and then B2 touches home plate to score two runs. What is the proper ruling?
- A. Dead ball. B2 is called out for assisting R1 and R1 must return to last base legally touched. No runs scored.
 - B. R1 is called out for being physically assisted by B2. B2 is awarded a home run. One run scored.
 - C. No violation as both R1 and B2 touched all bases legally and in order. Two runs scored.
 - D. None of the above.

- 53 . F1 is wearing an item on the pitching wrist that the umpire judges distracting. What is the proper penalty?
- A. An illegal pitch is ruled, a ball is awarded to the batter.
 - B. An illegal pitch is ruled, a ball is awarded to the batter and all runners are advanced one base.
 - C. The pitcher is required to remove the distracting item in order to continue to pitch.
 - D. The pitcher is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the contest.
- 54 . At the pregame conference, the home team coach informs the umpires that the fence in left field is only 180 feet and all balls hit over the fence will be a two-base award.
- A. This must be agreed to by the opposing coach.
 - B. This shall be a ground rule for the game since the home team coach provides the ground rules for the field.
 - C. The umpires will have no choice but to enforce the ground rule as the coach has instructed.
 - D. The umpires shall not permit a ground rule to supersede a rules book rule; any ball hit over the fence is a home run.
- 55 . B1 bats out of order and reaches first base. F1 then steps onto the pitcher's plate and commits an illegal pitch. The defense then appeals that B1 has batted out of order. What is the correct ruling?
- A. B1 is declared out and the next batter comes to the plate.
 - B. B1 is replaced by the legal batter at first base.
 - C. The defense can no longer appeal batting out of order since the infraction was not appealed prior to the next pitch.
 - D. The defense is allowed to appeal since the pitch was illegal and the player that B1 batted in place of is called out.