



2008 BASEBALL RULES EXAMINATION – PART I

Instructions: Only the **answer sheet** of this examination will be sent to the grader. **You retain the questions for further study.** Since correction is by machine scanning or perforated key, you must use care in clearly marking correct spaces on the answer sheet according to directions. **Every part** of each question is to be answered. Indicate whether you believe a part is true or false by marking the appropriate blank on the answer sheet.

NOTE: Send answer sheet to your state association office unless otherwise instructed.

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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.

Lineup Cards

1. The lineup card shall include the name, shirt number, position and batting order of each starting player.
2. The lineup card shall include the name and shirt number of each eligible substitute.
3. Lineups become official when they are presented to the umpire-in-chief.
4. The umpire-in-chief is responsible for keeping a lineup card and recording all substitutes, courtesy-runner participation, and team warnings.

Gloves/mitts

5. The glove/mitt worn by the catcher may be any size.
6. If a pitcher is discovered by either team and/or an umpire to be wearing a glove that includes the colors white and/or gray, the penalty is to remove the glove from the game.
7. While a multi-colored glove is legal for a pitcher to use, it may be deemed to be distracting to the batter by the umpire-in-chief and subsequently must be removed.
8. Three bases would be awarded to the batter if his foul fly was caught with an illegal glove/mitt.

Player Equipment

9. Failure to wear proper equipment after being so ordered by the umpire shall result in ejection.
10. Any player equipment judged by the umpire to be unreasonably dangerous is illegal.
11. Defensive players are permitted to wear face/head protection in the field.
12. A throat protector worn by the catcher is optional, but, if worn, it must be part of the catcher's mask.

Base on Balls

13. When a batter receives a base on balls, he may call time before advancing to first base in order to remove protective equipment from the ankle or elbow.
14. Only the head coach may request that an intentional base on balls be given to a batter.
15. An intentional base on balls may be given before pitching to the batter or on any ball-and-strike count.
16. The ball becomes dead before the intentional base on balls is awarded.

Pregame Conference

17. Both teams shall remain in their dugouts, on their benches or in their bullpen areas until the meeting is finished.
18. If the head coach refuses to attend the pregame conference, he will be ejected from the game.
19. The head coach, if available, must attend the pregame conference.
20. At the pregame conference, both coaches shall verify that all participants are properly equipped, and the umpire-in-chief shall emphasize the expectation of good sporting behavior throughout the game.

Interference

21. The ball is immediately dead when a spectator commits interference by impeding the progress of the game.
22. Offensive interference is limited to only a physical act that interferes with, hinders or impedes any fielder attempting to make a play.
23. It is umpire interference when the base umpire is hit and deflects a throw by a fielder.
24. When a coach commits interference by physically assisting a runner during playing action, the ball is declared dead immediately.

Obstruction

25. Obstruction is an act by a member of the defensive team that hinders a runner or changes the pattern of play.
26. Only an act that is intentional and physical would be obstruction.
27. A fake tag is considered to be obstruction.
28. It would be obstruction if a fielder, attempting to make a play on a runner but without possession of the ball, denied access to the base the runner was attempting to achieve.

A Pitch

29. With no runner on base, an illegal pitch is an act committed by the pitcher that results in a ball being awarded to the batter.
30. When a pitcher commits a balk, it is still considered a pitch.
31. With a runner from third attempting to steal home, it would still be considered a pitch if the pitcher legally stepped off the pitcher's plate and threw to home plate.
32. With no runners on base, a pitch dropped during delivery that comes to rest in front of the pitching mound will be declared a "no pitch."

Substitution

33. An unreported substitute on defense, when detected, would be restricted to the bench for the balance of the game.
34. If an illegal substitute on offense is discovered prior to the first pitch to the next batter of either team, any out(s) made on the play will stand and all other runners will return to the base(s) occupied at the time of the pitch. The illegal substitute is declared out and restricted to the bench for the balance of the game.
35. It is legal for the head coach to make a projected substitution.
36. A starting player who is withdrawn from the game may not re-enter.

Designated Hitter (DH)

37. If a pinch-hitter is used for the DH, that player becomes the new DH.
38. If the starting DH is withdrawn from the game, he may not re-enter under the substitution rule.
39. If the DH is hitting for the pitcher, the role of the DH is terminated if the pitcher moves to another defensive position.
40. A starting defensive player can be listed as the DH for himself in the starting lineup.

Coaching

41. A coach who is not in the uniform of the team shall be restricted to the bench/dugout.
42. If a coach unintentionally interferes with a thrown ball while in foul territory, the ball is live and in play.
43. If the head coach refuses to attend the pregame conference, he will be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game, except to attend to a sick or injured player.
44. A coach may not use replay equipment for coaching purposes during the course of the game.

Conduct

45. If a defensive player initiates malicious contact, the ball is dead immediately and the player is ejected.
46. While the opposing pitcher is warming up, players may loosen up to bat in the opposing team's on-deck circle.
47. If the bullpen area is within the confines of the field and not protected by a fence or structure, it is not mandatory for a player to position himself with a glove to protect team members loosening up, provided the area is considered to be in dead-ball territory.
48. A player or coach who is chewing tobacco in the dugout will be ejected from the game upon discovery.

Charged Conferences

49. A request for time to hold a charged conference can only be made by the head coach.
50. A team may be granted not more than one defensive charged conference per inning.
51. Unless the head coach informs the umpire-in-chief prior to the conference that he is removing the pitcher, a defensive conference shall be charged.
52. For an injured defensive player to be able to stay in the game, the team would have to use one of its defensive charged conferences.

Starting and Ending a Game

53. A game may begin as long as a team has a minimum of eight players listed on the lineup.
54. If, during the course of the game, a team drops to eight players, it may continue without forfeit, but may not return to nine players at any point during the game.
55. If the two teams cannot agree on the proposed ground rules by the home team's coach, the umpires shall formulate the ground rules.
56. The game begins when the umpire calls "Play" after all infielders, pitcher, catcher and batter are in position to start the game.

The Ball is Immediately Dead When

57. With the infield-fly rule in effect, an infielder intentionally drops a fair bunt in flight.
58. A ball is caught by an illegal glove.
59. A fielder obstructs a runner as a play is being made on him.
60. The umpire handles a live ball.

Pitching

61. Turning the shoulders after bringing the hands together during or after the stretch is a balk.
62. In the set position, prior to becoming set, the pitcher shall have his pitching hand down at his side or behind his back.
63. With his feet in the wind-up position, the pitcher may only deliver a pitch or step backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot first.
64. Before starting his delivery from the set position, the pitcher shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of the pitcher's plate.

With Runners on Base, It Is a Balk When:

65. The pitcher, while legally on the pitcher's plate, brings his pitching hand to his mouth and wipes it off.
66. The pitcher hesitates in his delivery because the batter holds up his hand to request "Time."
67. The pitcher feints a legal pick-off move to second base, which is occupied.
68. While off the pitcher's plate, the pitcher brings his pitching hand to his mouth and, without wiping it off before touching the ball, subsequently engages the pitching plate.

Batting Out of Order

69. If a legal substitute takes his place in the batter's box without an announcement of substitution, he is considered to be batting out of order.
70. While the improper batter is still at bat, only the defensive team may detect the infraction.
71. A batter is in proper order if he follows the player whose name precedes his in the lineup, even though such preceding batter batted out of order.
72. An improper batter is considered to be at bat as soon as he is in the batter's box and the ball is live.

Batter's Interference Occurs:

73. If there were two outs to begin the play, the batter is out.
74. If the runner was advancing to home plate with one out and is safe on the play, the batter is out and the runner returns to third.
75. If the ball is always immediately dead.
76. If the attempt to put out a runner stealing third is unsuccessful, the runner is out and any other runners must return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

Appeal for a Missed Base

77. An appeal can only be made while the ball is live.
78. Once all runners have completed their advancement, a coach may request time and once granted, make a dead-ball verbal appeal.
79. If the offensive team initiates a play before the next pitch, the defensive team does not lose the right to appeal.
80. On the last play of the game, an appeal can be made until the umpires leave the field of play.

Baserunning

81. Any runner who misses a base while advancing may return to touch it after a following runner has scored.
82. If the ball is dead because of an uncaught foul, it is not necessary for a returning runner to retouch intervening bases.
83. If a fair batted ball is caught, a runner shall touch his base after the batted ball has been caught by a fielder.
84. In a non-force situation, if two runners are on the same base, at the same time and both are tagged, the following runner is declared out.

Base Awards

85. If the award is the penalty for a balk or use of an illegal glove/mitt, the award is from the base occupied at the time of the infraction.
86. If a thrown ball becomes lodged in the batter-runner's uniform as he was attempting to reach first base, he will be awarded second base.
87. Each runner is awarded four bases (home) if a fair ball is prevented from going over a fence by being touched by a spectator.
88. When two runners are between the same bases on an overthrow into dead-ball territory, the lead runner would be awarded three bases so that the following runner would be awarded two bases.

Team Scoring

89. When the home team scores the winning run as the result of a bases loaded walk, the umpire shall not declare the game over until all runners have advanced to the next base.
90. The scorebook of the home team shall be the official scorebook, unless the umpire-in-chief rules otherwise.
91. The score of the two teams may only be corrected in the inning in which the scorekeeping error occurred.
92. With one out, a run would be scored if the base runner touched home plate prior to a following runner being declared out returning to a base he left too soon on a caught fly ball.

Umpires

93. Umpires shall wear heather gray slacks and navy pullover shirt or state association-adopted shirt.
94. Umpire jurisdiction ends when the last out of the game or the winning run is declared.
95. Umpires may not officiate if they are wearing a padded cast or splint.
96. Umpires may not use tobacco on or in the vicinity of the playing field.

Umpire-in-chief

97. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire-in-chief.
98. The umpire-in-chief has sole authority to eject a coach or player from the game.
99. The umpire-in-chief shall wear, when behind the plate, proper safety equipment including, but not limited to, chest protector, face mask, throat guard, plate shoes, shin guards, and protective cup (if male).
100. If a situation arises in the game that is not covered by the rules, the umpire-in-chief's duties include making the final decision.