



# 2008 BASEBALL RULES EXAMINATION – PART 2

**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.

## **A Batted Ball Will be Ruled Fair When:**

1. It contacts first, second or third base.
2. As a line drive, it passes inside first or third base in flight before it curves to foul ground beyond the base.
3. It strikes the pitcher's plate and rebounds into foul ground between third base and home, where it comes to rest.
4. It contacts the batter's foot that, while in the batter's box, is over fair ground.

## **Pitcher Substitution**

5. If the starting pitcher does not face one batter, he may not participate anymore in the game at any defensive position.
6. Once a player has been removed as a pitcher, he may not return to the game as a pitcher.
7. If a pitcher is guilty of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct, he may be removed as a pitcher even if he has not faced his first batter.
8. If the substitute pitcher picks off a runner at first base for the third out of the inning and did not face a batter, he must return the next half-inning to pitch.

## **Pitcher's Gloves**

9. A red-and-blue glove is legal for a pitcher to use provided it is not deemed to be distracting to the batter.
10. The glove worn by the pitcher that includes the colors white and/or gray shall be removed from the game upon discovery by either team and/or umpire.
11. The colors of the manufacturer's logo is to be ignored for purposes of determining if the pitcher's glove has any white or gray on it.
12. The glove worn by the pitcher may be of any size.

## **Lineup Cards**

13. The umpire-in-chief is responsible for keeping a lineup card and recording all substitutions, courtesy-runner participation and team warning.
14. The lineup card shall include the name and shirt number of each eligible substitute.
15. Lineups become official when they are presented to the umpire-in-chief.
16. The lineup card shall include the name, shirt number, position and batting order of each starting player.

## **Jewelry**

17. A player sitting on the bench in the dugout cannot wear jewelry.
18. A religious medal may be worn, if it is taped and worn under the uniform.
19. The umpire-in-chief may warn the team's coach about players wearing jewelry at the pregame conference, resulting in the ejection of the first player from that team discovered to be playing while wearing jewelry.
20. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

## **A Hit Batter**

21. With a count of 3-2, a batter hit by a pitch that is a strike by location will be declared out and the ball will be dead.
22. If a batter's loose garment, such as a shirt that is not worn properly, is touched by a pitched ball, the batter is not entitled to first base.
23. Since the "hands are part of the bat," a pitch that hits a batter on his hands remains live and in play.
24. If the pitcher balks while delivering a pitch that hits the batter, runners would be awarded one base and the batter would be awarded first.

### **Batting Helmets**

25. A player coaching first base may wear a batting helmet with only one ear flap provided the ear flap is facing home plate.
26. A batting helmet must display both the NOCSAE stamp and an exterior warning statement.
27. A face mask/guard may be attached to batting helmets at the time of manufacture.
28. After a team warning for removing a helmet while in live-ball territory and with the ball live, the next offender shall be declared out.

### **One Base is Awarded:**

29. To each runner when a pitch strikes a runner.
30. To the batter when a pitch is thrown out of play on ball four.
31. To each runner when a live thrown pitch is touched by an illegal glove or mitt.
32. To the batter when he is hit by a pitch that he attempted to avoid.

### **A Coach**

33. The head coach must attend the pregame conference, if available.
34. May be warned or ejected if he allows his team to line up near the foul line by home plate to observe the opposing team's infield practice prior to the start of the game.
35. May use smokeless tobacco while in his team's dugout.
36. May wear prostheses and use mobility devices.

### **Warm-up Pitches**

37. The umpire-in-chief may authorize more throws for a relief pitcher because of an injury or inclement weather.
38. The starting pitchers may warm up by using not more than eight throws completed in one minute, timed from the first throw.
39. At the beginning of the second inning, the starting pitcher may warm up by using not more than five throws completed in one minute, timed from the third out of the previous half-inning.
40. A relief pitcher may not use more than five throws to warm up if he was replaced and is now returning to pitch in the same half-inning.

### **Obstruction**

41. Only acts that are physical in nature may be judged to be obstruction.
42. It would be obstruction if a fielder, without possession of the ball, denies access to the base the runner is attempting to achieve.
43. When an obstructed runner is awarded base(s), all preceding runner(s) forced to advance shall be awarded appropriate base(s).
44. A runner, obstructed as he returned to first base on a pick-off play, would be awarded only first base as that was the base he was attempting to achieve.

### **With a Runner On Base, a Balk is Declared When:**

45. While legally engaged on the pitcher's plate, a pitcher goes to his mouth and subsequently wipes his hand off.
46. A pitch dropped during delivery crosses a foul line.
47. From the set position, a pitcher lifts his leg in a pitching motion to deliver a pitch before he has come to a complete and discernible stop.
48. A pitcher stops in his delivery because the batter steps out of the box with one foot.

### **An Injured Player**

49. When a player is injured, time cannot be called until all playing action is completed.
50. Verbal authorization obtained from a physician on a cell phone is sufficient to allow a player rendered unconscious to resume participation.
51. The length of time that is considered reasonable for treatment of an injured player prior to his having to leave the game is umpire judgment.
52. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it shall be changed before that individual participates again.

### **Touching a Base**

53. If a runner is declared out upon proper appeal for missing a base and that out is the third out of the half-inning, any runs scored by following runners would not count.
54. When a fly ball is hit to the outfield, a runner may not leave his base until the act of the catch is complete.
55. Any runner who misses a base while advancing may return to touch it after a following runner has scored.
56. A returning runner must retouch all bases in reverse order when the ball is dead because of an uncaught foul.

### **Umpire Equipment and Uniforms**

57. Umpires shall wear heather gray slacks, and navy pullover shirt or state association-adopted shirt.
58. Umpires may wear prostheses and use mobility devices.
59. Casts, splints and braces may not be worn, even if they are padded.
60. The umpire-in-chief, if working behind the plate, shall wear proper safety equipment including, but not limited to, chest protector, face mask, throat guard, plate shoes, shin guards and protective cup (if male).

### **Baserunning Appeals**

61. A defensive coach, once playing action is over and before the next pitch, may make a live-ball verbal appeal on a possible missed base.
62. Multiple appeals are permitted as long as they do not become a travesty of the game.
63. If the defense wishes to appeal on the last play of the game, the appeal must be made while an umpire is still on the field of play.
64. If the appeal on a runner properly tagging up on a caught fly ball is the third out, all runs scored by runners in advance of the appealed runner and scored ahead of the legal appeal would count.

### **The Ball Becomes Immediately Dead When:**

65. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
66. A coach physically assists a runner.
67. A batted ball is caught by an illegal glove.
68. A base runner deliberately removes his helmet while advancing to a base.

### **A Regulation Game**

69. A game is forfeited to the offended team when a team is unable to provide nine players to finish the game.
70. Two seven-inning games shall constitute a doubleheader.
71. If a state association has not adopted game-ending procedures, remaining play may be shortened or the game terminated by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief.
72. If an over-the-fence home run is hit, all runs score before the game is terminated.

### **Strikes and the Strike Zone**

73. If a batter were to crouch to make his strike zone smaller, the umpire will determine the zone by what would be the batter's normal batting stance.
74. A strike will be charged to the batter when a pitch is struck at and missed, even if the pitch touches the batter.
75. A strike will be charged to the batter if, during an illegal pitch, he fouls the pitch off.
76. The strike zone is the space over home plate, the top of which is halfway between the batter's shoulders and the waistline, and the bottom being the knees, when the batter assumes his natural batting stance.

### **Substitution**

77. Even if an injured player has re-entry eligibility, he may not re-enter if his injury caused the team to play with eight players.
78. A substitute must be listed on the lineup card if he is to participate in the game.
79. If the starting designated hitter is substituted for by a pinch-runner, he may not re-enter the game under the re-entry rule.
80. An unreported substitute is declared out if discovered while on offense.

### **A Play or Force Play**

81. A force play is a play in which a runner loses his right to the base he occupies and is forced to advance because the batter becomes a batter-runner.
82. A force situation is reinstated when a runner retreats past the base to which he was forced to advance.
83. For a given runner, a force play ends as soon as he touches the next base.
84. A defensive appeal of a runner failing to touch a base is considered to be a play.

### **A Batter is Out When:**

85. The catch of a foul ball is prevented by a spectator reaching into the playing action.
86. Any member of the offensive team interferes with a fielder attempting to field a foul fly ball.
87. He accidentally deflects a foul ball which has a chance of becoming fair.
88. In extra innings, any attempt to bunt is foul.

### **Uniforms**

89. Caps and shoes are required equipment.
90. By state association adoption, memorial patches not exceeding four square inches may be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner.
91. Each player's uniform shall be numbered on the front and back of his shirt.
92. If the pitcher's undershirt sleeves are exposed, they shall not be white or gray.

### **Conduct**

93. If the bullpen area is within the confines of the field and not protected by a fence or structure, it is mandatory for a player to position himself with a glove to protect team members loosening up.
94. If a defensive player initiates malicious contact, the ball is dead immediately and the player is ejected.
95. While the opposing pitcher is warming up, players may loosen up to bat in the opposing team's on-deck circle.
96. A player leaving his position for the purpose of fighting shall be warned and a second occurrence shall result in ejection.

**Definitions**

97. If an outfielder attempts to catch a fair fly ball, it cannot be ruled to be an infield fly.
98. An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base.
99. A balk is an illegal act committed by the pitcher with a runner(s) on base that entitles each runner to advance one base.
100. The lines defining the batter's box are not considered to be part of the box.