



2009 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.

Bats

1. A BESR sticker or decal is acceptable for performance certification of a non-wood bat.
2. No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the bat beyond 18 inches from the end of the handle.
3. A bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than five ounces less than the length of the bat.
4. A bat that continually discolors the ball may be removed from the game with no penalty at the discretion of the umpire.

A Catch

5. A catch is completed if the fielder traps the ball against his chest with his elbow.
6. A catch is completed if a fielder catches a fly ball and falls over the outfield fence.
7. A catch is completed if the thrown ball is in the fielder's glove and the glove is in contact with the ground.
8. A catch is completed if the pitcher's glove touches the batted ball in flight and then the shortstop catches the ball before it touches the ground.

A Batted Ball

9. A batted ball is fair when it contacts first base and ricochets into foul ground.
10. A batted ball is fair when it hits the foul pole in flight.
11. A batted ball is fair when it first falls on fair ground beyond third base.
12. A batted ball is fair when it bounds from fair ground directly over the third-base bag and lands in foul ground.

The Field

13. All lines on the playing field shall be marked with a material that is not injurious to the eyes or skin.
14. All non-permanent lines may be any color.
15. The recommended width of a foul line is 2½ inches.
16. The on-deck circle should be to the side and away from home plate, 37 feet if space allows.

Malicious Contact

17. The runner who initiated malicious contact is out and ejected, if the malicious contact occurred before he scored.
18. By rule, only the offensive team can initiate malicious contact.
19. There is no penalty if a runner scores and then makes malicious contact with a fielder.
20. There is no penalty if a runner makes malicious contact with a fielder who obstructs him.

A Runner

21. A runner must slide when he is played upon.
22. The runner is out if he intentionally removes his batting helmet while advancing on the bases.
23. A runner may run more than 3 feet away from a direct line between bases except to avoid being tagged or to hinder a fielder.
24. A runner is not out if he is hit by an infield fly while he is touching his base.

A Batter

25. With a 3-2 count, the batter will be awarded first base if he allows a pitch that is a ball to touch him.
26. A batter is out if his attempt to bunt a third strike is foul.
27. A batter is not out if he hits a pitch while his foot is touching the inside line of the batter's box and home plate.
28. A batter must make a reasonable effort to vacate home plate area when a runner is attempting to score on a passed ball and he has time to move away.

An Umpire's Uniform and Equipment

29. The pants worn by umpires shall be heather gray.
30. Umpires shall wear the navy pullover shirt or state association-adopted shirt.
31. Umpires may wear prostheses and use mobility devices.
32. The umpire-in-chief, when 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).

A Force Play

33. Runners advancing on a dropped infield fly may be forced out.
34. A force play remains when a runner advances beyond a base to which he is forced without touching it.
35. On a dropped third strike, with the bases loaded and two outs, the catcher may tag home plate for a force out.
36. A run does not score if the third out is made by another runner being forced out.

Tobacco and Tobacco-like Products

37. There is no penalty for a player using tobacco in the dugout.
38. A team warning shall be issued with the next offender ejected when a respective team player is detected using tobacco.
39. Umpires shall not use tobacco or tobacco-like products on or in the vicinity of the playing field.
40. A coach may use smokeless tobacco provided the tobacco can is not visible in the pocket of his pants.

Live Ball

41. The ball remains live when a pitch hits the dirt and then strikes the batter's leg.
42. The ball remains live when the batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
43. The ball remains live when an intentional base on balls is awarded.
44. The ball remains live when a foul tip is caught by the catcher.

Substitution

45. A starting player who hits in the leadoff position, and later re-enters the game in the No. 4 spot in the lineup, is considered to be batting out-of-order.
46. A player will be declared out upon discovery of being an unreported substitute.
47. Any of the starting players, including the designated hitter, may be withdrawn and re-entered once.
48. The penalty for illegal substitution shall supersede the penalty for batting out of order.

Appeal of a Missed Base

49. A coach is not allowed to make a verbal appeal on a missed base when the ball is dead.
50. For an appeal of a missed base to be made, the ball must first be made live.
51. If the ball is dead, runners must be given the opportunity to complete their base-running responsibilities before the dead-ball appeal can be made.
52. Once an intentional base on balls has been granted, the defense may no longer appeal a missed base.

Catcher's Obstruction

53. Obstruction is ignored if the batter-runner reaches first base and all other runners advance at least one base.
54. The ball becomes immediately dead when catcher's obstruction occurs.
55. Any runner attempting to advance on a catcher's obstruction of the batter shall be returned to his base unless the award to the batter advances him.
56. The coach of the team at bat, if the obstruction is to be enforced, may elect to take the obstruction penalty or take the result of the play.

Designated Hitter (DH)

57. The starting pitcher may be listed as his own DH.
58. If the opposing team approves, a team may add a DH to the lineup after the game has started.
59. When a pinch-hitter for the DH is used, that player becomes the DH.
60. The role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when the DH assumes a defensive position.

A Fake Tag Without the Ball

61. The ball is immediately dead when the defense fakes a tag.
62. A fake tag is a legal defensive play.
63. When a fake tag occurs, the umpire will warn the coach of the team who committed the fake tag and eject the next offender on that team.
64. The umpire will always award the runner only the base he was attempting to acquire when the fake tag was made on him.

Gloves and Mitts

65. The glove worn by the catcher may be of any size.
66. A foul fly caught by an illegal glove/mitt shall be nullified and treated as a foul ball, unless the offense elects to take the result of the play.
67. If a pitcher, using a glove with white or gray on it, uses the glove to field a batted ball, the batter shall be awarded three bases.
68. Provided it is not distracting, a pitcher may use a glove containing any color, other than white or gray.

Awarding of Bases

69. Four bases are awarded when an outfielder catches a fair fly ball with his hat.
70. Four bases are awarded when a fair fly ball bounces off the left fielder and clears the fence while over foul territory.
71. Four bases are awarded when the batted ball hits the foul pole in flight above the fence.
72. Four bases are awarded when a spectator touches the fair ball and prevents it from going over the fence.

Baserunning

73. On a force play, if a runner does not advance and remains on his base, he will be declared out when the defense tags both runners standing on the base.
74. A runner must touch all awarded bases in their proper order.
75. A runner must vacate his base to permit a fielder to catch a fly ball in the infield.
76. If the ball is dead because of an uncaught foul, a returning runner must retouch all intervening bases.

Awards at Time of Throw

77. Awards will be made from the time of the throw when an outfielder throws the ball into a dead-ball area.
78. Awards will be made from the time of the throw when an infielder, on the first play, throws the ball into the dugout before all runners have advanced a base.
79. Awards will be made from the time of the throw when a runner, who is returning to touch his base following a caught fly ball, is prevented from doing so because the thrown live ball becomes dead.
80. Awards will be made from the time of the throw when an infielder, on the second play in the infield, throws the ball into the dugout.

Charged Conference

81. Each team, when on offense, may be granted no more than three charged conferences in a game.
82. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference.
83. The umpire-in-chief shall keep a written record of all defensive and offensive team charged conferences.
84. When a defensive charged conference is held in foul territory, the conference concludes when the coach initially starts to return to the dugout.

Dropped Third Strike

85. With less than two outs and first base occupied, the batter is out on an uncaught third strike.
86. With one out and the runner on first attempting to steal second base, the batter is not out on a dropped third strike because the runner vacated first.
87. The third strike is considered to have been caught when the batter swings at a pitch that bounces and is secured in the catcher's mitt.
88. The batter-runner is out when he intentionally interferes with the catcher's attempt to field the ball after a dropped third strike.

Pitching

89. A pitcher who intentionally pitches close to a batter shall be charged with an illegal pitch.
90. An illegal pitch will be declared when the pitcher delivers a pitch while wearing tape on the fingers of his pitching hand.
91. The ball is immediately dead when an illegal pitch occurs.
92. The pitcher may face a batter as either a left-handed or right-handed pitcher, but not both.

Scoring

93. After an appeal, when there is more than one out declared by an umpire that ends the half-inning, the defensive team may select the out which is to its advantage.
94. When a third out is declared during a play in which a base-running infraction occurs, and is properly appealed and upheld, that results in a force-out, that out takes precedence if enforcement would negate a score.
95. A run does not score if the preceding runner is declared out on appeal for the third out due to leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball.
96. No runs will score on a play if the third out is declared by a runner being forced out.

Coaches

97. The assistant coach, even if the head coach is present, may represent the team in communications with the umpires.
98. The head coach must attend the pregame conference, if available.
99. A coach who is not in the uniform of the team shall be restricted to the bench.
100. The coach will be ejected if, after a previous warning, someone on his team uses replay equipment for coaching purposes during the course of the game.