



# 2005 BASEBALL RULES EXAMINATION - PART 1

**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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## **The On-deck Circle:**

1. The on-deck circle should be to the side and away from home plate, 37 feet if space allows.
2. Either team's players may warm up in the other team's on-deck circle.
3. The on-deck circle must be occupied when a team is at bat.
4. If the umpire-in-chief judges that the on-deck circle is not located safely away from the plate, it shall not be used by a player to warm up.

## **Keeping Written Records:**

5. It is the responsibility of the field umpire to keep a written record of substitution.
6. Only a team's defensive charged conferences need to be recorded.
7. All team warnings shall be recorded by the umpire-in-chief.
8. All substitutions and courtesy-runner participation shall be recorded in writing by the umpire-in-chief.

## **Bats:**

9. The diameter of both the wood bat and the non-wood bat shall be  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches or less at the thickest part.
10. Both the wood and non-wood bat shall be 36 inches or less in length.
11. A 34-inch bat shall not weigh more than 31 ounces.
12. The BESR performance standard applies to all bats – wood and non-wood.

## **Umpiring:**

13. Umpire jurisdiction ends when the last out of the game is declared.
14. A coach, believing that an umpire's call is in error, may insist that the umpire making the call get help from a partner.
15. To assist in getting the call right, officials may review videotape to make a call.
16. Umpires may officiate a game with an arm in a cast, provided that the cast is padded.

## **Batting Helmets:**

17. Batting helmets shall have extended ear flaps that cover both ears and temples and also display the NOCSAE stamp and exterior warning statement.
18. It is not mandatory for players occupying a coach's box to wear a batting helmet.
19. Non-adult ball/bat shaggers must wear a batting helmet while in live-ball area, even if the ball is dead.
20. All face mask/guards attached to batting helmets must meet the NOCSAE standard.

## **Scoring:**

21. Since the ball is dead during a home run, it is not necessary for a batter to touch all bases for a run to count; he need just to advance and touch first base.
22. The run would score if, before the forced third out is declared, the runner legally touches home plate during the play.
23. A run would not count if the third out was declared on a preceding runner upon appeal because he left a base too soon on a caught fly ball.
24. A scorekeeping error may be corrected only if it is brought to the umpire-in-chief's attention before the half-inning in which the error occurred is over.

## **Base on Balls:**

25. After receiving ball four, the batter must go immediately to first base before time-out is called.
26. An intentional base on balls may be given before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count.
27. The ball remains live and in play when an intentional base on balls is granted.
28. An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its pitcher request the umpire to award the batter first base.

**Baserunning:**

29. Any runner who misses a base while advancing may not return to touch it after a following runner has scored.
30. If the ball is dead because of an uncaught foul, it is still necessary for a returning runner to retouch intervening bases.
31. Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground.
32. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal.

**A Pitch:**

33. When a pitcher commits a balk but completes his delivery to the batter, it is still considered to be a pitch.
34. The time of the pitch from the windup position may occur when the pitcher, with both hands at his side, first starts any movement with both arms or leg(s) prior to the pitch.
35. The time of the pitch from the set position occurs the instant the pitcher comes to a complete and discernible stop.
36. A pitch dropped during delivery that crosses a foul line shall be called a ball regardless of whether or not runner(s) are on base.

**Hit Batter:**

37. Since the "hands are part of the bat," a pitch that hits a batter on his hands remains live and in play.
38. If a batter's loose garment, such as a shirt worn improperly, is touched by a pitched ball, the batter is not entitled to first base.
39. A batter who makes no effort to avoid being hit shall remain at bat, with the pitch being declared a strike or a ball, depending on the location of the pitch.
40. 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.

**Illegal Substitution:**

41. Either team or an umpire may discover an illegal player.
42. Upon discovery, an illegal player on offense or defense shall be restricted to the bench for the duration of the game, provided the infraction is not judged to be intentional.
43. If an illegal player on defense is involved in the play and is discovered prior to the first pitch to the next batter of either team, he shall be removed from the game and the team on offense has the option to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again.
44. A player for whom an illegal substitution was made may return as if the substitution did not occur.

**Base Awards:**

45. An award for a balk is from the base occupied at the time of the balk.
46. With a count of 3-1, the pitcher hits the runner stealing home from third on a pitch outside the strike zone. The batter-runner is awarded first on the base on balls and second base because the pitch hit the runner.
47. A runner obstructed as he returns to first base will be awarded only first base.
48. Each runner is awarded one base if a fielder catches a foul fly ball and then leaves the field of play with both feet.

**The Designated Hitter (DH):**

49. It is permissible for the starting pitcher to also be listed as the DH for himself.
50. The DH has the same re-entry ability as any of the other starting players.
51. The role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when any previous DH re-enters and assumes a defensive position.
52. A coach may utilize a "double switch" resulting in the DH moving from one spot in the batting order to another spot.

**Appeals:**

53. If any situation arises which could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play of the game, the appeal must be made while an umpire is still on the field of play.
54. The defense can only make one appeal per play situation.
55. If a ball goes out of play, the defense may appeal immediately, even if runners are between bases.
56. A dead-ball appeal may be made by a coach or any defensive player (with or without the ball) by verbally stating that the runner missed a base or left a base too early.

**Coaching:**

57. A coach who is not in the uniform of his team shall be restricted to the bench/dugout.
58. The ball is immediately dead when a coach physically assists a runner during playing action.
59. A player who has been restricted to the bench as an illegal substitute may occupy a coach's box.
60. If a coach is accidentally touched by a thrown ball while being in foul territory, the ball is live and in play.

**Batting:**

61. If a batter interferes with a catcher's attempt to put out a runner on base on a third strike call, the batter is out and the runner is also automatically out.
62. The batter is out for hitting the ball with a foot on the ground outside the lines of the batter's box only if the ball was batted fair.
63. On a third strike, the batter with first base occupied and one out, is out regardless of whether the pitch was caught or not.
64. A batter is out when he accidentally deflects a foul ball that has a chance of becoming fair.

**An Umpire Shall Issue a Team Warning to the Coach of the Team and Eject the Next Offender on That Team When:**

65. A player loosens up to bat in the other team's on-deck circle.
66. A player uses tobacco within the confines of the field.
67. A player fakes a tag without the ball.
68. A player initiates malicious contact.

**Starting and Ending a Game:**

69. The game begins when the umpire calls "play" after all infielders, pitcher, catcher and batter are in position to start the game.
70. After the game starts, the umpires are sole judges as to whether conditions are fit for play.
71. The game may begin if the visiting team's coach promises the umpire that his ninth player will be at the field before his team goes on defense.
72. Unless prohibited by state association procedures, any remaining play may be shortened or the game terminated by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief.

**Charged Conferences:**

73. When one team has a charged conference, the opposing team may not conduct a conference unless it is also charged for its conference.
74. A charged conference will last one minute, beginning from the time the umpire-in-chief grants the conference.
75. The umpire shall deny the second or any subsequent request for an offensive conference in a given inning.
76. An offensive conference is concluded when the batter moves to return to the batter's box.

**A Catch Will Be Declared When:**

77. A fielder catches a high pop fly with his hat.
78. A line drive ricochets off the pitcher's glove and is caught in flight by the shortstop.
79. The second baseman catches a line drive in flight that first tipped off the glove of the pitcher and was then accidentally deflected off a base runner.
80. The center fielder, in a dead run, catches a fly ball, but after several steps collides with the outfield fence and, because of the collision, drops the ball.

**The Ball Is Immediately Dead When:**

81. An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball that he had "camped" underneath waiting on, with the bases loaded and one out.
82. A runner on base is hit by an infield fly.
83. The umpire verbally announces "Foul Ball."
84. A fielder obstructs the ball through use of detached player equipment.

**A Balk Will Be Declared When:**

85. With runners on base, the pitcher delivers a pitch while wearing a white armband on the forearm of his pitching hand.
86. With runners on base, the pitcher hesitates in his delivery because the batter held his hand up to request "Time."
87. A pitcher, while feinting to occupied third base, fails to step directly toward third base.
88. The pitcher in the set position, with his hands at his side, turns his shoulders in a quick move to look at the runner on first base.

**Player Equipment:**

89. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire-in-chief.
90. No protective equipment shall have exposed metal or any other hard material.
91. Any player equipment judged by the umpire to be unreasonably dangerous is illegal.
92. Defective equipment must be replaced no later than the end of the half-inning.

**The Set Position:**

93. Prior to coming set, the pitcher shall have his pitching hand down at his side or behind his back.
94. The pitcher shall come to a complete and discernible stop with the ball in both hands in front of his body and his glove at or below his chin.
95. It would be a balk if the pitcher turns his shoulders after bringing his hands together during the stretch.
96. As he is in the process of becoming "set," it is permissible for the pitcher to legally turn on his pivot foot to step with his non-pivot foot to throw to occupied first base.

**A Runner Is Out When:**

97. He attempts to advance to home plate when the batter interferes with a play at home with two outs.
98. He runs more than three feet behind a fielder attempting to field a batted ball in his proper running path.
99. He dives over a fielder.
100. He passes an obstructed preceding runner.