



2007 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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Batting Helmets:

1. It is not mandatory for players/students occupying a coach's box to wear a batting helmet that meets the NOCSAE standard.
2. A base runner who deliberately removes his batting helmet while in live-ball territory with the ball live will be declared out.
3. All facemasks/faceguards attached to a batting helmet shall meet the NOCSAE standard.
4. The batting helmet shall have extended ear flaps that cover both ears and temples and also display the NOCSAE stamp and the exterior warning statement.

Uniforms:

5. While sleeves of each individual player shall be approximately the same length, uniform sleeve lengths may vary for individual players.
6. Each player shall be numbered on the back of his shirt with a plain number of solid color contrasting with the color of the shirt.
7. Two players may wear identical jersey numbers provided they are not in the game at the same time.
8. Memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn by state association adoption.

A Catch:

9. A catch will be declared when a fielder secures the batted ball in his cap.
10. It is a catch when a fielder touches a batted ball in flight, which then contacts a member of the offense and is then caught by a defensive player.
11. A fielder who catches a ball and then runs into a wall and drops the ball has not made a catch.
12. A catch will still be declared when a fielder catches a ball while running but accidentally drops the ball after his momentum carries him several more yards.

A Bunt:

13. If an attempt to bunt results in a foul ball, the ball is dead.
14. A batter is out when an attempt to bunt a third strike is foul.
15. An attempted bunt, with runners on first and second and one out, that is bunted high in the air and can be easily caught by the pitcher, is an infield fly.
16. The batter-runner is out when his fair bunt, with one out and first base occupied, is intentionally dropped by an infielder.

A Pitch:

17. A pitch is a live ball delivered to the batter.
18. It is a pitch when the pitcher commits a balk and still completes his delivery to the batter.
19. A pitch ends when the pitched ball comes to rest or goes out of play.
20. The time of the pitch is when the pitcher has committed himself to delivering the pitch to the batter.

Bleeding or Unconscious Player:

21. A player who is bleeding or has an open wound does not have to leave the game if treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time.
22. A player who has been rendered unconscious cannot return to play in that game without written permission from his parents or guardian.
23. A player who was rendered unconscious in game No. 1 of a doubleheader may play in game No. 2 once he has regained consciousness.
24. If a player has an excessive amount of blood on his jersey, he must change his jersey before he participates again.

Occupying a Coach's Box:

25. Both coaches' boxes must be occupied by a player or a coach when their respective team is on offense.
26. If the opposing coach requests, a player or coach occupying a coach's box shall remain in the box from the time a batter enters the box until the ball is released by the pitcher.
27. If a coach makes the request for the opposing team to remain in the coach's box per the rule, the requirement will also apply to his team for the remainder of the game.
28. Once the request has been made and the requirement to remain in the coach's box is in force, any subsequent violation will result in the ejection of the violator.

Malicious Contact:

29. When malicious contact occurs, the ball is immediately dead.
30. The umpire-in-chief shall issue a warning to the coach of the team whose player committed the malicious contact and the next offender shall be ejected.
31. When a defensive player commits malicious contact with an offensive player, the umpire shall rule safe or out on the play and award runner(s) the appropriate base(s) he believes would have been obtained had the malicious contact not occurred.
32. If an offensive player commits malicious contact with a defensive player, the offensive player is ejected and always declared out.

Players Loosening Up:

33. It is permissible for a player loosening up to bat to use either team's on-deck circle while the opposing pitcher is warming up.
34. If team members are loosening up in an area within the confines of the playing field not protected by a fence or other structure, another team member with a glove must be positioned to protect them from a batted or thrown ball.
35. The player who is positioned to protect teammates who are warming up must also wear a NOCASE-approved batting helmet.
36. A player warming up a pitcher, at any location, shall wear a head protector, mask with a throat protector and a protective cup (male only) if he assumes a crouch position.

Charged Conferences:

37. When one team has a charged conference, the other team may also have a conference, but only if it is also charged.
38. A team is limited to three offensive-charged conferences per game.
39. A team may take only one of its three defensive charged conferences per inning.
40. A defensive-charged conference that is held on the pitcher's mound will be considered to be concluded when the coach leaves the dirt area of the mound.

Starting a Game:

41. It is permissible for a team to begin the game with only eight players.
42. If the home coach proposes some special ground rules, and the visiting team agrees to them, they are in force, provided they do not supersede a rules book rule.
43. If the two teams cannot agree on ground rules, the umpires shall formulate them.
44. The game begins when the umpire calls "Play" after all infielders, pitcher, catcher and batter are in position to start the game.

Playing with Eight Players:

45. The game will be forfeited if a team is unable to provide at least nine players to finish the game.
46. If a player injures himself while sliding into a base and the team does not have a substitute available, the most recent batter not on base is allowed to run for that player.
47. Once a team is forced to play with eight players, it may return to nine if a substitute later becomes available.
48. When a substitute or the injured player is available for play, the coach must immediately put that individual in the game so that the team is playing with nine players.

A Ball is Immediately Dead When:

49. A ball touches an illegal glove.
50. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
51. An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly with the infield-fly rule in effect.
52. The umpire gives the "Do Not Pitch Signal."

It is a Delayed Ball When:

53. A coach physically assists a runner.
54. An offensive player commits an act for the purpose of trying to cause the opposing pitcher to balk.
55. The ball is illegally batted.
56. The umpire interferes with the catcher who is attempting to throw.

The Set Position:

57. When in the set position, the pitcher shall have his pitching hand down at his side or behind his back.
58. If the pitcher chooses to change to the wind-up position, he must first step clearly backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot first.
59. The time of the pitch, from the set position, occurs the instant the pitcher, after coming to a complete and discernible stop, starts any movement with arm(s) and/or leg(s) that commits him to pitch.
60. The pitcher must pitch to the batter when his entire non-pivot foot passes behind the perpendicular plane of the back edge of the pitcher's plate, except when he is legally feinting or throwing to second base.

A Balk will be Declared When:

61. The pitcher, while in the set position and prior to beginning his stretch move, turns his shoulder to check the runner at first base.
62. The pitcher delivers a pitch while wearing tape on the fingers of his pitching hand.
63. The pitcher stops in his delivery because the batter held up his hand to request "Time."
64. The pitcher, with runners on base, places his feet on or astride the pitcher's plate without having the ball.

A Batter's Time At Bat:

65. A batter-runner is a player who has finished a time at bat until he is put out or until playing action ends.
66. If the third out of the inning occurred with the pitcher picking off Jones from first base and Smith at bat with a 1-1 count, the first batter for that team in the next inning will be Smith since his time at bat was not completed in the previous inning.
67. A batter becomes a batter-runner, ending his time at bat, when he is charged with a third strike.
68. With two outs and a runner at third only, Jones receives ball four on a passed ball. The runner from third attempts to steal home and is thrown out. Jones will lead off the next inning for his team.

A Batter is Out When:

69. A whole bat is thrown and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.
70. A coach in the coach's box interferes with a fielder who is attempting to field a foul fly ball.
71. With runners on second and third, the third strike is not caught.
72. The batter interferes with the catcher attempting to make a play on a runner at first.

A Strike is Charged to the Batter When:

73. During a balk, the pitch is swung at and missed.
74. The pitcher legally delivers the ball, and the batter, with one foot out of the batter's box, is denied his request for "Time."
75. A pitch becomes a foul tip.
76. The batter swings and misses on a pitch that bounces and touches the batter.

Appeals:

77. Runners must be given the opportunity to complete their base-running responsibilities before a dead-ball appeal can be made.
78. If a situation arises on the last play of the game, the appeal must be made before the umpires leave the field of play.
79. On a given play, only one appeal by the defense is permitted.
80. If the third out has been declared, no appeal may be honored for an apparent fourth out.

Touching and Returning to a Base:

81. A base runner, on a foul tip, must return to touch his base before he can advance.
82. Any runner who misses a base while advancing may not return to touch it after a following runner has scored.
83. When the ball becomes dead, a returning runner must retouch the bases in reverse order.
84. Awarded bases do not need to be touched in order.

Each Runner is Awarded One Base When:

85. A pitch strikes a runner.
86. He was attempting to advance at the time the ball became lodged in an offensive player's uniform.
87. The catcher uses his detached mask to scoop up a pitch.
88. The batter hits a foul fly ball that is caught by a fielder, who then leaves the field of play by stepping into dead ball territory with both feet.

A Runner is Out When:

89. He slides illegally, even though he made no contact with a fielder nor illegally altered the actions of the fielder who was making the play.
90. He dives over a fielder.
91. With two outs, he attempts to advance to home plate when the batter interferes with a play at home.
92. He runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases behind a fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball.

A Run Does Not Score If:

93. The third out is made by the batter-runner before he touches first base.
94. The third out was made by the preceding runner upon appeal for missing a base.
95. The third out was made by a defensive appeal on a following runner for leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball.
96. The defense legally and successfully appeals a fourth out where that out occurs in a force situation.

The Duties of the Umpire-in-chief:

97. He has the sole authority to forfeit a game.
98. Questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire-in-chief.
99. The umpire-in-chief, when behind the plate, shall wear proper safety equipment including chest protector, face mask, throat guard, plate shoes, shin guards and protective cup (if male).
100. He has sole authority for ejecting any coach.