



2010 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.

Copyrighted and Published in 2009 by the
National Federation of State High School Associations

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.

The Field

1. The recommended width of a foul line is 2½ inches.
2. When measuring the distance to first base and third base, measure from the apex of home plate to the back edge of the base.
3. Non-permanent lines on the playing field may be any color chosen by the home team.
4. When the dugout area is temporarily extended, it shall be extended in any direction on a line parallel to the foul line.
5. A team is not required to equally extend the visitor's dugout when it extends its dugout.

Bats

6. All non-wood bats used in the 2010 and 2011 seasons shall meet the BESR performance standard.
7. A BESR sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat.
8. The safety grip for a non-wood bat must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches.
9. A wood bat shall be 2¾ inches or less in diameter at its thickest part.
10. A 33-inch, non-wood bat shall weigh no less than 28 ounces.

Uniforms and Player Equipment

11. A pitcher may wear a white or gray compression sleeve on an arm provided it does not extend below his elbow.
12. The shirt worn underneath a vest-type top is considered to be an undershirt.
13. 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.
14. A player with defective equipment will be allowed to finish the half-inning, but must replace the equipment once the half-inning is completed.
15. Prior to the start of the game, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying to the umpire-in-chief that all his players are equipped in compliance with the rules.

Force Play

16. Runners advancing on a declared, dropped infield fly may be forced out.
17. For a given runner, a force play ends as soon as he touches the next base.
18. A force situation is reinstated when a runner retreats past the base to which he was forced to advance.
19. With the bases loaded and two outs, a run would score if the runner from third touched home before the runner from second was thrown out at third base.
20. When a runner, who left a base too soon on a caught fly ball, is attempting to return, it is considered to be a force play.

Base on Balls, Base Hits and Batted Balls:

21. When a batter receives four pitches that are balls, he must go immediately to first base before time-out is called.
22. A batter may refuse an intentional base on balls.
23. The ball shall be declared dead before an intentional base on balls is awarded.
24. A batted ball is declared fair when it touches first base.
25. A batted ball is considered to be in flight until it touches the ground or a fielder.

Substitution and Use of the Designated Hitter (DH)

26. Once a defensive player is established in an inning, he may not switch to another defensive position in that inning.
27. The starting DH may not be withdrawn and later re-entered in a game.
28. Once the starting pitcher is replaced, he may later re-enter the game on defense but never as a pitcher.
29. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup.
30. The DH and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order.

Bench and Field Conduct

31. When a fielder initiates malicious contact with a runner, the ball is dead immediately and the fielder is ejected.
32. If the assistant coach leaves the vicinity of the first-base coaching box to argue a close call at first, both he and the head coach are restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game, provided the assistant coach's behavior was not severe.
33. When an assistant coach comes out of the dugout to excessively argue and ridicule a call, both he and the head coach shall be ejected.
34. A coach who is ejected shall leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from any direct or indirect contact with the team, unless he is requested to return to attend to an ill or injured player.
35. A coach may use video or replay equipment for coaching purposes during the course of the game.

Charged Conferences

36. Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than five charged conferences without penalty during a seven-inning game.
37. If the catcher goes out to confer with the pitcher, a defensive charged conference should be charged.
38. Each team may be granted one charged conference per inning while on offense.
39. During a conference charged to the defense, the offense may not meet.
40. Between innings, the head coach leaves the third-base coaching box and chats briefly with the pitcher on the pitcher's mound. This is a charged conference.

Starting and Ending a Game

41. The two head coaches shall decide whether or not conditions are suitable for starting the second game of a scheduled doubleheader.
42. The game begins when the pitcher delivers the first pitch in the top of the first inning.
43. The game ends when the team behind in score has completed its turn at bat in the seventh inning, or any inning thereafter if extra innings are necessary.
44. If an over-the-fence home run is hit, all runs score before the game is terminated.
45. Two five-inning games shall constitute a doubleheader.

Delayed Dead Ball

46. It is a delayed dead ball when a thrown ball is touched by a spectator.
47. It is a delayed dead ball when a coach physically assists a runner.
48. It is a delayed dead ball when an offensive team player calls "Time" for the purpose of trying to cause the opposing pitcher to balk.
49. It is a delayed dead ball when the ball is illegally batted.
50. It is a delayed dead ball when a ball touches an illegal glove or mitt.

A Pitcher and a Pitch

51. When a pitcher commits a balk and completes his delivery to the batter, it is considered to be a pitch.
52. A pitch ends when the pitched ball comes to rest.
53. In the set position, the time of the pitch occurs when the pitcher comes to a complete and discernible stop.
54. The pitcher's pivot foot is that foot with which the pitcher contacts the pitcher's plate when he delivers the ball.
55. A pitch dropped during delivery with the bases empty that does not cross a foul line shall be called a "no pitch."

Pitching

56. From the wind-up position, the pitcher is not restricted as to how he shall hold the ball.
57. Turning the shoulders after bringing the hands together during or after the stretch is a balk.
58. The catcher is not required to have both feet in the catcher's box at the time of the pitch.
59. If a pitcher is ambidextrous, he may pitch both as a left-handed pitcher and as a right-handed pitcher to an individual batter.
60. The pitching regulations begin whenever the pitcher contacts the pitcher's plate.

Balks and Pitcher Infractions

61. A balk will be declared when a pitcher delivers a pitch while wearing tape on the fingertips of his pitching hand.
62. If a pitcher uses a rosin bag to dry his hands, he may not rub the ball with his bare hands to remove any extraneous coating.
63. If a pitcher intentionally pitches close to a batter, he may be ejected without having a prior warning.
64. It is a balk, with runners on base, when the pitcher places his feet on or astride the pitcher's plate without having the ball.
65. It is not necessary for the pitcher, when feinting to occupied third base, to step with the non-pivot foot directly toward third base.

Batting Out of Order

66. A batter is in proper order if he followed the player whose name precedes his in the lineup, even though the preceding batter batted out of order.
67. Only the defensive team may appeal batting out of order after the batter has completed his time at bat.
68. Upon a proper appeal, the batter who batted out of order will be declared out.
69. When an improper batter becomes a proper batter because there is no appeal, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the legalized improper batter.
70. When an improper batter has become a runner and is on base, he becomes a proper batter when a balk is declared while the succeeding batter is at bat.

Batter

71. A batter is out when he bunts foul while his knee is touching home plate.
72. A batter is out when with a count of 2-2, he permits a pitch to hit him that is in the strike zone.
73. A batter is out when he enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
74. A batter is out when the runner on third base interferes with the third baseman's attempt to catch a foul fly ball.
75. A batter is out when his attempt to bunt on third strike is foul.

Appeals

76. Only one appeal may be made on any given runner.
77. A runner may not return to touch a missed base if a following runner has scored.
78. During a dead ball, only a coach may make a verbal appeal on a runner leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball.
79. An appeal must be honored even if the base missed was before or after an award.
80. If the defense appeals on a situation that occurred during the last play of the game, the appeal must be made while at least one umpire is still on the field of play.

Base Awards

81. Each runner is awarded three bases when a thrown ball is touched by detached illegal equipment.
82. A runner, attempting to advance at the time the ball becomes lodged in an offensive player's uniform, is awarded two bases beyond the last legally acquired base.
83. If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced one base at the time of the first play in the infield, the two-base award for a throw that becomes dead is from the time of the throw.
84. Awards for a throw from the outfielder are made from the time the ball became dead.
85. A runner who reaches the base he would have been awarded because of detached player equipment and attempts to advance beyond that base, may return with his out canceled if he is subsequently tagged.

Baserunning

86. A runner may leap or hurdle a defensive player who is lying on the ground.
87. It is not obstruction if an errant throw pulls the first baseman, without the ball, into the path of the batter-runner and denies him access to the base.
88. A batter-runner has one foot completely outside the running lane when the catcher attempts to throw to first base from behind the runner. The runner is out only if he is contacted by the throw.
89. The runner is declared out when he runs behind a fielder attempting to field a batted ball in his proper path and he goes more than three feet from a direct line between bases.
90. A batter-runner who reaches first base safely on a base hit and then overruns the base and simply feints an attempt to second base, may attempt to return to first without liability of being put out.

Scoring

91. If a runner leaves a base too soon on a caught fly ball and is properly appealed by the defense for the third out, all runs scored by runners in advance of the appealed runner and scored ahead of the legal appeal would count.
92. If a non-force baserunning infraction is properly appealed for the third out, runs scored by the following runners would not count.
93. When a fourth out is properly appealed, the defensive team may select the out which is to its advantage.
94. A run will count when, with two outs, the runner on third steals home before the batter-runner is thrown out at first base on a dropped third strike.
95. With one out and runners on second and third, the batter-runner hits a single to left field. The runner on third touches home while the runner on second misses third and scores and the batter-runner missed first base and safely goes to second. The defense properly appeals the runner missing third base and then appeals the batter-runner missing first. One run will be scored.

Umpires

96. Coaches may argue a strike call with the plate umpire, provided it is done in an appropriate manner.
97. The umpire-in-chief has the authority to order the lights turned on and should do so, when possible, at the beginning of an inning.
98. Once the third out is declared to end the game, a scorekeeping error cannot be corrected.
99. Umpires may not use videotape or replay equipment to determine if a home run was fair or foul.
100. Umpires may wear a black pullover shirt if the state association has adopted it and approved it for use.