Behind the Mask – Question 1

R1 is on first base with no outs and a 1-1 count on B2. R1 legally leaves first base in an attempt to steal second base as the plate umpire calls an illegal pitch on F1. B2 swings and misses the ball, which gets past the catcher as (a) R1 advances safely to third base, (b) R1 is thrown out at third base, or (c) R1 is safe at third base, but the throw from F2 sails over F5 into left field and R1 subsequently scores.

Behind the Mask – Question 2

With R1 on third base, F2 returns the ball to F1 following a pitch. B2 steps out of the box to take a signal from the third-base coach, then returns to her position in the batter's box within 10 seconds of F1 receiving the ball. F1 fails to make the next pitch within 20 seconds of receiving the ball.

Behind the Mask – Question 3

R1, who is on second base, advances to home plate when B2 hits safely to right field. However, R1 misses third base while advancing to home plate. After all playing action, the umpire calls "time" to sweep off home plate. R1, realizing she missed third (a) attempts to return to third base or (b) F2 tags R1 with the ball.

Behind the Mask – Table 4

Starting the bottom of the first inning, both game balls have been in play. The visiting pitcher (a) picks up the ball in the circle and pitches to the first batter; (b) asks to inspect both balls at the same time while in the circle; or (c) before throwing a warm-up pitch, tosses the ball from the circle to the umpire and requests the other ball.

Behind the Mask – Question 5

While F1 is taking her warm-up pitches, B1 moves near the batter's box and takes practice swings to prepare for her upcoming time at bat.

The home coach while his/her team is on defense turns a bucket upside down and sits on it just outside the dugout to get a better view of playing action.

Behind the Mask – Question 6

The team at bat has already received a first warning for an unreported substitute. S1 is batting for B1 and (a) has a 3-2 count or (b) has reached first base when the defensive coach brings to the attention of the home plate umpire that she is an unreported substitute.

Answers

**Question 1 – 6.2.2 Situation D**

**RULING:** The coach is given the option to take the result of the play or the penalty for the illegal pitch. In (a), the result of the play is R1 is on third base and the batter has 1 ball, 2 strike count; but if the coach chooses the penalty then R1 is placed on second base and the batter has a 2 ball, 1 strike count. In (b), the result of the play is R1 is out and batter has 1 ball, 2 strike count; but if the coach chooses the penalty then R1 is placed on second base and the batter has a 2 ball, 1 strike count. In (c), the result of the play is R1 scores and batter has 1 ball, 2 strike count; but if the coach takes the penalty R1 is placed on second base and the batter has a 2 ball, 1 strike count. (6-1-1 Exception 3)

**Question 2 – 6.2.3**

**RULING:** A ball shall be called on B2 and R1 remains at third base.

**COMMENT:** The 20-second count for the pitcher begins when she receives the ball from the catcher to prepare for the next pitch, not when the batter steps into the box. (7-3-1)

**Question 3 – 5.2.2 Situation B**

**RULING:** In (a) and (b) R1 can be called out if the defense makes a proper appeal. When the ball became dead, R1 could no longer return to touch missed third base after already having touched a succeeding base (home). (2-1; 8-6-7)

**Question 4 – 2.36 Situation B**

**RULING:** Legal in (a) and (c). Illegal in (b).

**COMMENT:** After both balls have been used in the top of the first inning, either pitcher may exchange a ball from the circle at the beginning of each inning, but never have both balls at the same time. (6-5-2)

**Question 5 – 6.5.1 Situation**

**RULING:** B1 is prohibited from being any closer to home plate than her team's on-deck circle. Therefore, the umpire shall instruct her to return to the on-deck circle. (2-5-3)

**RULING:** Illegal. Coaches must remain inside the designated dugout area. The coach shall receive a team warning. Any subsequent offender shall be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.

**Question 6 – 3.6.7 Situation B**

**RULING:** Because this is the second offense by the same team, S1 and the head coach are immediately restricted to the dugout/bench area. The player whom she replaced, B1, may re-enter provided she has an entry remaining or any other legal substitute may (a) complete the turn at bat, or (b) occupy first base. (2-57-2)