



# Senior Softball-USA Umpire Exam 2014



Please circle the correct answer. (Note: For simplification of wording, the pronouns in these questions refer to both male and female participants.)

## Rules of the game

### 1. Which of the following is not an appeal play?

- A. Missing a base.
- B. Batting out of order.
- C. Attempting to advance to second after making a turn at first.
- D. The batter-runner touching the white portion of first base when a play is being made on him.

### 2. Under what circumstance can a courtesy runner be replaced?

- A. When it is his turn to bat and he is on base.
- B. When he is injured severely enough that he cannot remain in the game.
- C. When the runner he replaced decides to come back in to run.
- D. After advancing one base.

### 3. When a batter steps into the batter's box with a cracked bat, the umpire should:

- A. Call him out, eject him and remove the bat from the game.
- B. Call him out and remove the bat from the game.
- C. Remove the bat from the game and let the batter hit with another bat.
- D. Allow the batter to hit with the cracked bat.

### 4. Once a runner crosses the commitment line, he:

- A. Cannot return to third base.
- B. Must continue home.
- C. No longer can be tagged out by the defense, and if tagged will be called safe and the ball remains live.
- D. All of the above.

### 5. A: Runners are on first and third bases with one out when the batter hits a deep fly ball that is caught. The runner at third tags but the runner at first does not. The defense returns the ball to the infield and tags first base on a live-ball appeal after the runner from third has scored. Which is correct:

- A. The runner who left first early is out, and the run does not score because this is a force out and the third out.
- B. The runner who left early is out, but the run scores because this is a timing play, not a force out.
- C. The runner who left first early is out, and no run scores because no run can ever score when an appeal play is the third out.
- D. None of the above.

### 6. With two runners on, the batter hits a slow roller that is cut off by a hard-charging first baseman 12 feet in front of the base. Trying to give his teammates time to advance, the batter-runner (a) stops and waits for the fielder to tag him or (b) backpeddles toward home to delay the tag.

A. The batter-runner has done nothing illegal in (a) but is out in (b) for retreating toward home. The other runners may continue to advance.

B. The batter-runner has done nothing illegal in (a) but is out in (b) for retreating toward home. The umpire should call a dead ball and return the runners to their original bases.

C. The batter-runner in out as soon as he stops or retreats, the ball is dead and the runners must return to their original bases.

D. The batter-runner is out as soon as he stops or retreats, but the play remains live for the other runners.

### 7. With two outs and a runner on first, the batter hits a deep fly ball that appears to be going out for a home run. The runner leaves first and walks toward the dugout as the ball falls short of the fence. In (a), his first-base coach grabs him and pushes him back into fair territory, and he heads for second. In (b), he turns on his own and runs toward second. In (c), he continues into the dugout.

A. In all three cases, the runner is out (out of the baseline).

B. In (a), the runner is out for being assisted by the coach, in (b) he can continue to second and in (c) he is out for leaving the field of play.

C. In (a) and (b) the runner can continue running the bases but he is out in (c) for leaving the field of play.

D. None of the above.

### 8. After a pitcher delivers a pitch with "excessive speed" (umpire's judgment), the umpire should:

A. Do nothing.

B. Call "illegal" and let play continue.

C. Call "illegal" and verbally warn the pitcher for excessive speed (and if he delivers another pitch with excessive speed, removed him from pitching for the rest of the game).

D. Call "illegal" and warn the pitcher only if the batter does not hit the ball.

### 9. Which is the only division that plays with a mercy rule?

A. AAA.

B. AA.

C. Major-Plus.

D. Major.

### 10. What is the mercy rule for that division (50+ to 70+)?

A. 15 runs after 5 innings.

B. 10 runs after 5 innings.

C. 20 runs after 3 innings and 15 runs after 5 innings.

D. 15 runs after 3 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings.

### 11. The defense challenges that a batter who just singled, driving in a runner from third with one out, is an illegal substitute. The lineup card confirms that the batter did not start the game in the batting line-up, and no one reported him to the umpire as a substitute. No pitch has been thrown to the next batter. The umpire should:

A. Call the batter out, eject him from the game and return the

runner to third.

B. Call the batter out but let him be entered as a legal substitute; return the runner to third.

C. Call the batter out, eject him and allow the run to score.

D. None of the above.

**12. A manager sends a substitute to play right field but does not report the substitute to the umpire. After the player catches a fly ball, and before a pitch is thrown to the next batter, the offense appeals that he is an illegal substitute. As a result:**

A. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count he had prior to the discovery of the illegal player; any runners return to the base they occupied prior to the play. The illegal player is ejected.

B. All play stands, as managers do not need to report substitutes until they come to bat.

C. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the batter return and assume the ball and strike count he had prior to the play. Runners return to their previous bases. The illegal player is now considered in the game.

D. The batter is awarded first base, other runner advance only if forced, and the illegal substitute is ejected.

**13. With a runner on third, the batter hits a grounder to the shortstop, who throws to first while the runner at third breaks for home. The batter-runner touches the white portion of first base ahead of the throw arriving. The umpire should:**

A. Say nothing and wait for a proper appeal.

B. Declare a dead ball, call the batter-runner out and return the runner who scored to third base.

C. Call the out at first and allow other play to continue.

D. Call the runner safe for beating the throw but warn both teams about touching the white portion of first instead of the orange.

**14. When the catcher obstructs, hinders or prevents the batter from striking or hitting a pitched ball:**

A. The umpire shall give a delayed dead ball signal.

B. If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all other runners have advanced at least one base, catcher obstruction is canceled and all action stands.

C. If the batter-runner and all runners have not advanced at least one base, the batter-runner will be awarded first base and advancing all other runners only if forced.

D. All of the above.

**15. In extra innings, we use the international tie-breaker rule, which means the last batter of the previous inning starts on second base. The offense wants to put in a courtesy runner for this player. That is allowed when?**

A. Before any pitches are thrown.

B. After at least one pitch is thrown.

C. After the runner reaches third base on his own.

D. Only after there are two outs.

**16. In the Major-Plus division (50+ to 70+), the home run limit is nine, and excess home runs are walks.**

A. True

B. False

**17. In the Major division, the home run limit is six, and excess home runs are dead-ball outs; runners cannot advance.**

A. True

B. False

**18. After a batter hits a home run, he may go directly to the dugout and any runners on base also may go directly to the dugout, as "hit and sit" is allowed.**

A. True

B. False

**19. The commitment line should be perpendicular to the third base line and 20 feet from the scoring line or scoring plate.**

A. True

B. False

**20. Players must be in the official batting line-up in order to run as a courtesy runner.**

A. True

B. False

**21. Warm-up donuts are allowed in the on-deck circle.**

A. True

B. False

**22. A foul tip must go higher than the batter's head for the catcher to record an out by catching the ball.**

A. True

B. False

**23. A runner heading home from third who suddenly realizes he is about to touch the strike mat may jump safely over the mat and score before the catcher, with possession of the ball, touches the mat.**

A. True

B. False

**24. A batter-runner who carries the bat to first base should be called out.**

A. True

B. False

**25. A runner coming home to score should be called out for running through the batter's box.**

A. True

B. False

**26. The defense challenges that the wrong batter just hit. Checking the line-up card, the umpire determines that the cor-**

rect batter (by name) hit, but his uniform number is incorrect on the line-up card. No pitches have been thrown to the next batter. The batter who just hit should be called out.

- A. True
- B. False

27. As two runners are advancing on the bases, an overthrown ball hits a glove that the offensive team left near the fence. There was no opportunity for the defense to get an out on the play. The umpire should call time and send the runners back to the last base touched at the time the ball was blocked.

- A. True
- B. False

28. A runner coming home crosses over the plane of the scoring line but does not get his foot on the ground before the catcher catches the ball while touching the strike mat. The runner is out.

- A. True
- B. False

29. The flip-flop rule is mandatory in pool play when the visiting team is ahead by at least 10 runs entering the final inning.

- A. True
- B. False

30. The flip-flop rule is optional in pool play and shall be invoked only if the team trailing on the scoreboard agrees to use it.

- A. True
- B. False

31. The flip-flop rule is mandatory in bracket play when the visiting team is ahead by at least 10 runs entering the open inning.

- A. True
- B. False

32. If a pitcher drops the ball after starting his pitching motion, a ball will be declared on the batter.

- A. True
- B. False

33. After a batter-runner touches first, the double-bag becomes one bag, and runner and fielder may use either portion.

- A. True
- B. False

34. Pitchers are required to wear a safety mask.

- A. True
- B. False

35. A courtesy runner is considered in the game when his coach announces the runner's number to the umpire.

- A. True
- B. False

36. If a player runs as a courtesy runner then comes up to bat later that inning and gets a hit, he cannot have a courtesy runner replace him.

- A. True
- B. False

37. Teams may start a game one player short, with an out declared the first time that spot in the order comes up to bat.

- A. True
- B. False

38. Courtesy runners may run as often as they want, including multiple times in the same inning, as long as they are not on base when it is their turn to bat.

- A. True
- B. False

39. Runners are allowed to slide across the scoring line or scoring plate only when attempting to avoid a collision with a defensive player.

- A. True
- B. False

40. An ejected player or coach must leave the bench area, unless the act is determined to be flagrant, then the player or coach must leave the grounds. If no substitute is available for the ejected player, an out will be recorded every time the ejected player's position comes to bat.

- A. True
- B. False

41. Batters may not chop down on the ball so that it bounces high in the air. If they do, they will be called out.

- A. True
- B. False

42. An illegal courtesy runner on base is committing a continuing violation and may be called out at any time when noticed on base.

- A. True
- B. False

43. Any fielder may use a mitt, as opposed to a glove.

- A. True
- B. False

44. There will be only one charged offensive conference per inning. A manager or team representative who insists on more than one offensive conference shall be ejected.

- A. True
- B. False

45. If a defensive team takes a second conference in the same inning, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position but may stay in the game.

- A. True
- B. False

**46. Pitchers may keep the game ball in their dugout every half-inning, as it speeds up the game not having the umpire handle the balls.**

- A. True
- B. False

**47. No runner may advance on a third strike ball that is hit into foul territory and caught for an out.**

- A. True
- B. False

**48. Runners may overrun second and third bases without liability to be put out.**

- A. True
- B. False

**49. The pitcher does not need to come to a complete stop before starting the delivery motion.**

- A. True
- B. False

**50. A pitcher has 10 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball or after the umpire indicates, "Play ball."**

- A. True
- B. False

**51. When not being played upon, a baserunner establishes his own base path.**

- A. True
- B. False

**52. When a runner passes a base, he is considered to have touched that base, as far as a force play is concerned.**

- A. True
- B. False

**53. A batter hits a sharp grounder that deflects off the pitcher's glove and hits a runner, who is unable to avoid the ball while running from first to second. The runner is out for interference.**

- A. True
- B. False

**54. Teams in the AA, AAA and Major divisions are limited to five runs an inning, except for the final, or "open" inning and for any extra innings. The Major-Plus division teams can score seven runs per inning until the open inning.**

- A. True
- B. False

**55. "No pitch" shall be declared if a runner is called out for leaving a base too soon.**

- A. True
- B. False

**56. Line-ups become official after the plate umpire has verified**

**and accepted them in the pre-game meeting.**

- A. True
- B. False

**57. Men's divisions age 65+ and older and women's divisions age 50+ and older play with 11 defensive players.**

- A. True
- B. False

**58. The official game time will start two minutes after the completion of the coin toss at the pre-game conference.**

- A. True
- B. False

**59. As soon as time has expired, the umpire will announce to both teams that they will complete the inning in progress and play one more, "open" inning. This announcement must be made before the last out of the inning.**

- A. True
- B. False

**60. A batter "tops" the ball, which rolls a few feet in front of the strike mat. As the batter-runner heads to first, the catcher picks up the ball and throws to first. The ball hits the runner in the shoulder, but the runner was on the foul side of the base line, in the runner's lane. The umpire should not call him out.**

- A. True
- B. False

**61. The pitch arc height is 6 to 12 feet, measured from the pitcher's hand as he releases the ball.**

- A. True
- B. False

**62. The pitcher shall not attempt a quick return of the ball before the batter has taken his position or when the batter is off-balance as a result of a pitch. The umpire will call time and allow the batter to get set.**

- A. True
- B. False

**63. If a runner coming home runs between the end of the scoring line and the batter's box, he should be declared out.**

- A. True
- B. False

**64. Any defender may wear a safety mask, and if discarded during a play, it becomes part of the playing field.**

- A. True
- B. False

**65. A fielder shall not take a position in the batter's line of vision or, with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. A pitch does not have to be released. The offending player shall be ejected.**

- A. True
- B. False

**66. A runner tags at third as a fly ball is caught. He heads home but stops after one foot crosses the commitment line. He retreats toward third. The umpire should call him out as soon as he retreats back past the commitment line.**

- A. True
- B. False

**67. If both teams have hit their limit of home runs, either team may go “1-up” and hit another home run.**

- A. True
- B. False

**68. Metal cleats are not allowed.**

- A. True
- B. False

**69. Players can wear earphones and listen to iPods while on defense or offense.**

- A. True
- B. False

**70. A runner must make every effort to avoid a collision with a fielder. If the runner misses a base to avoid contact, and in the umpire’s judgment the runner would have been safe without avoiding the contact, then the runner is safe.**

- A. True
- B. False

**71. An infield fly can be called on an infield pop up even if no infielder can catch the ball with ordinary effort.**

- A. True
- B. False

**72. Failure of the umpire to call “infield fly” does not negate the infield fly.**

- A. True
- B. False

**73. The pitcher may pitch the ball behind his back or through his legs.**

- A. True
- B. False

**74. The catcher can run out of the catcher’s box before the ball reaches the plate.**

- A. True
- B. False

**75. Batters enter the batter’s box already facing a 1-1 count.**

- A. True
- B. False

**76. A base runner obstructed in a run down shall be awarded the lead base at the time of the obstruction.**

- A. True
- B. False

**77. A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be admin-**

**istered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game.**

- A. True
- B. False

**78. A batter who makes contact with the ball while stepping on the scoring mat is out, whether the ball goes fair or foul.**

- A. True
- B. False

**79. Upon hitting a foul ball on a third strike, the batter is out. If the ball is caught in playable territory in the air, the ball remains live.**

- A. True
- B. False

**80. Teams can bat a maximum of 15 players.**

- A. True
- B. False

## *Umpire mechanics/responsibilities*

**81. The base umpire always starts in the A position, 13 to 15 feet behind first base.**

- A. True
- B. False

**82. Typically, the plate umpire will make all calls at the plate and third base, while the base umpire makes calls at first and second. When multiple runners are on base, the base umpire will follow the last runner into third for any call there, unless called off by the plate umpire.**

- A. True
- B. False

**83. Pitches determined to be illegal must be called as the ball hits the ground.**

- A. True
- B. False

**84. The plate umpire is responsible for all tag-ups.**

- A. True
- B. False

**85. Only the plate umpire can call an infield fly.**

- A. True
- B. False

**86. The plate umpire always should be in position to watch the play at first base in case the base umpire needs help on a pulled foot or swipe tag.**

- A. True
- B. False



**87. It is the tournament director's responsibility to rate the teams on the official game card.**

- A. True
- B. False

**88. The plate umpire is responsible to tracking the score, home runs and substitutes on the official game card.**

- A. True
- B. False

**89. The plate umpire should stay within six feet of home plate because making calls on runners trying to score is more important than any other play.**

- A. True
- B. False

**90. Umpires don't need to monitor courtesy runners because the opposing team's scorekeeper will do that.**

- A. True
- B. False

**91. When tournament balls are hit out of play, teams may throw in any league ball.**

- A. True
- B. False

**92. Strikes always should be called verbally but there is no need to say anything when a pitch is a ball.**

- A. True
- B. False

**93. When giving the count verbally, always say the number of balls first and show them on your left hand, and say the number of strikes second and show them on your right hand.**

- A. True
- B. False

**94. When making a strike call, the umpire raises his right hand above his head with an open hand then closes his fist. The elbow should be bent at a 90-degree angle.**

- A. True
- B. False

**95. Only home runs that count (and not excess home runs) are to be tallied on the game card.**

- A. True
- B. False

**96. In tournament play, umpires should arrive at the field how long before their game time?**

- A. 15 minutes.
- B. 5 minutes.
- C. 20 minutes.
- D. 30 minutes.

**97. The plate umpire's position behind the plate for the start of each pitch should be:**

- A. In the "slot," the area between the catcher and batter.
- B. With the catcher in front of you.
- C. In a position that allows you to see all of the strike mat.
- D. All of the above.

**98. You are the plate umpire. Your partner makes an out call at first base that should have been a safe call because the fielder puled his foot. You should:**

- A. Immediately overturn you partner's call. Getting the call right is the most important thing.
- B. Say nothing unless your partner asks for your help, and then confer with your partner before letting your partner change the call.
- C. Tell the defensive team to appeal the call so that you can correct it.
- D. None of the above.

**99. You are the base umpire. The plate umpire, who has calls on all fly balls unless you go out to the outfield on a trouble ball, makes an out call on a ball you clearly saw skip into the glove. The offensive team asks the plate umpire to get help from you. You should:**

- A. Wait to see if you partner asks for help. If he does, tell him what you saw and let him make the corrected call.
- B. Go ahead and give a safe sign so he knows he got it wrong.
- C. If your partner asks you for help, tell him he got the call right because it would look bad if you overturned him.
- D. None of the above.

**100. After what inning does the plate umpire start announcing game time remaining (and continues to do so after every half-inning)?**

- A. Third inning
- B. Fourth inning
- C. Fifth inning
- D. Only when less than 15 minutes remains on the game time.

