

Umpires Quiz 2011

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Prepared by the Editors of *Referee* magazine



Is it interference or obstruction when a baserunner and fielder collide when the fielder is attempting to make a play on the ball? See question 5.

In each of the following, you are given a situation and at least two possible answers. You are to decide which answer or answers are correct for ASA, NFHS, NCAA or USSSA rules, which might vary. Note: Rule references are from the most current rulebook available from each sanctioning body.

(Answers appear on pg. 3)

1. B1 hits a ground ball to F6 and is safe on a close play at first base. After overrunning first base and before returning to the bag:

a. B1 is out if she attempts to advance to second base and is tagged while off base.

b. B1 is out if she feints an attempt to second base and is tagged while off base.

c. B1 may legally attempt to run for second after making the turn after overrunning if she does so immediately.

d. B1 may legally attempt to run for second after making the turn and jogging directly toward first base.

e. B1 is out when tagged after overrunning first if she casually turns to her left to return to first.

f. A runner who overslides first base is out when tagged even if she had touched first base.

2. F6 intentionally drops a line drive hit by B1.

a. To rule B1 out, at least first base must be occupied with fewer than two outs.

b. The rule is not in effect when there are two outs

c. To invoke the intentionally dropped ball, an infielder must be able to catch the ball with ordinary effort.

d. The ball is dead immediately on an intentionally dropped ball.

e. The ball is alive and in play on an intentionally dropped ball.

f. The ball is delayed-dead on an intentionally dropped ball.

3. Charles is listed third in the starting lineup and playing third base. In the third inning Kelly legally replaces Charles and plays third base. In the sixth inning, Charles legally re-enters the game. In the ninth inning, the coach wishes to re-enter Kelly for Charles.

a. Kelly, who was a substitute, cannot re-enter the game after leaving the game.

b. Any player, once removed from the game, cannot re-enter the game.

c. Substitute Kelly is allowed to re-enter the game once after leaving the game.

d. Kelly cannot re-enter the game for Charles unless Charles is injured and no other substitutes are available.

e. Only starting players are permitted to re-enter the game.

f. For violation of the re-entry

rule, the game is immediately forfeited to the offended team.

g. The umpire will accept the change and wait for a protest from the offended team.

4. Fast pitch. R3 is on third with no outs. B4 draws a walk and the ball is returned to F1 in the pitcher's circle.

a. B4 may attempt to advance to second.

b. B4 may not attempt to advance if the ball is returned to F1 in the circle before B4 reaches first base.

c. The look-back rule does not take effect until B4 reaches first base.

d. R3 is out if she leaves third while F1 is holding the ball in the circle and not making a play before B4 reaches first base.

e. R3 is out if she leaves third while F1 is holding the ball in the circle and not making a play after B4 reaches first base.

f. The ball is immediately dead if R3 or B4 violates the circle rule.

g. The ball is live when R3 or B4 violates the circle rule.

5. With R2 on second B3 hits a ground ball to F6. F6 is about to field the ball in the baseline when R2 contacts F6 causing her to misplay the ball.

a. That is obstruction on F6.

b. R2 always has priority in the baseline.

c. F6 has the right to field the ball even while in the baseline.

d. That is incidental contact and results in a "no call."

e. That is interference on F6.

f. The ball is immediately dead.

g. The ball is delayed dead.

h. The ball is live and in play.

i. R2 always has priority in the baseline.

j. That is interference on R2.

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6. B1 hits a ground ball to F6. F6's throw to first bounces off F3's glove and it rolls in playable foul territory near the dead-ball line. A spectator picks up the ball and tosses it to F3.
- If the spectator is with the offensive team, B1 is out.
 - If the spectator is with the defensive team, a blocked ball award of one extra base is mandated by rule.
 - That type of interference is considered inadvertent.
 - The ball is immediately dead.
 - B1 must be placed at the base she reached at the time of the interference.
 - The umpire will rule spectator interference has occurred.
 - It is always a ground rule double when spectator interference occurs.
 - The umpire will place B1 on the base she would have reached had the spectator not interfered.
7. B1 hits a long fly ball to center field. The ball strikes the fence in flight, rebounds and strikes F8's glove and then deflects over the fence.
- The ball is considered in flight because it never touched the ground.
 - The ball is not considered in flight when deflected over the fence.
 - B1 is awarded a home run.
 - B1 is awarded a two-base hit.
8. Fast pitch. R1 is on first base with one out as B3 bats with one strike. R1 attempts to steal second base when B3 swings and misses but stumbles into F2 as she throws the ball toward second base. R1 makes second base safely.
- The ball is immediately dead.
 - The ball is delayed-dead.
 - R1 is out.
 - B3 is out.
 - R1 is returned to first base.
 - B3 continues to bat.
9. B1 checks her swing on a pitch that is a called ball. The catcher requests that you ask the base umpire about a possible attempt to strike at the ball.
- You are mandated by rule to go for help on a checked swing.
 - While it is good mechanics to go for help, you are not required to do so.
10. While discussing the infield fly in your umpire pregame, you and your partner decide:
- Once an infielder steps onto the outfield grass the infield fly rule should never be called.
 - The infield fly should be called as soon as the ball is batted in the air for the benefit of the fielders.
 - A bunt can be ruled an infield fly if the ball is batted high in the air.
 - Any ball batted in flight with a perceptible arc could be declared an infield fly.
 - The infield fly rule was designed to protect runners from trickery by the defensive team.
 - If an infield fly is dropped runners are forced to advance.
11. R2 is attempting to score on a hit by B3 to right field. F2 receives the throw from F9 about five feet up the third baseline and is waiting to make a tag. R2 remains on her feet and deliberately crashes into F2 dislodging the ball.
- The ball is dead.
 - R2 is declared out.
 - R2 is automatically ejected from the game.
 - R2 is ejected if you judge his or her act to be flagrant or malicious.
 - That is incidental contact since F2 was in the baseline.
12. R3 is on third, R2 on second and R1 on first with no outs. B4 hits a ground ball to F4 who throws to F6 at second base to force out R1. However, R1 interferes and prevents F6 from throwing to first base.
- The ball is dead.
 - B4 is out for the interference by R1.
 - R1 is out for interference.
 - R3 is out for the interference by R1.
 - R3 is out only if you believe a double play was prevented.
 - B4 is out only if you believe a double play was prevented.
13. B1 hits a properly declared infield fly near the third base foul line.
- The proper verbal call is, "Infield fly. If fair, the batter is out!"
 - If the ball falls untouched to the ground on foul territory and bounces fair between home and third it is not an infield fly.
 - The batter is out if a fair fly ball is not caught.
 - The ball is foul if it settles untouched on foul territory before first or third base.
14. R3 scores on a play before the third out is made. No run can score when the third out is the result of:
- Any continuous action double play.
 - The batter-runner being retired before touching first base.
 - A force play.
 - Any runner being declared out for missing a base.
 - Any runner being declared out for any base running infraction.
 - Any appeal play.
15. ASA Junior Olympic fast pitch, NFHS fast pitch, NCAA and USSSA youth FP only. It is legal for a player to wear:
- Shoes with metal baseball-type spikes.
 - Shoes with soft rubber cleats.
 - Shoes with hard rubber cleats.
 - Shoes with metal track spikes.
 - Shoes with metal golf spikes.
 - No shoes.
16. R1 is on first base with one out. B3 hits a line drive that deflects off the pitcher's plate and accidentally strikes R1 who is running toward second base in front of F4.
- R1 is not out because the ball was deflected into R1.
 - R1 is out only if the umpire is positive that an out was prevented on the play.
 - The ball remains live.
 - The ball is dead.
 - R1 is out.
 - B3 is awarded first base.
17. By rule, it is an appeal play when:
- There is a checked swing by B1 on a pitch that is called a ball.

b. B1 is tagged out on an attempt to advance to second after safely reaching first.

c. R1 leaves first before a pitch is released.

d. The base umpire is blocked out on a play at third.

e. Either team believes the umpire has misinterpreted a playing rule.

f. The defensive team claims B1 batted out of order immediately after B1 reaches base.

g. The plate umpire declares a strike after a checked swing.

h. A fielder with the ball informs the umpire and touches a base that a runner has passed.

i. A fielder with the ball informs the umpire and touches a base that a runner left before a caught fly ball was first touched.

18. Team A trails by one run in the bottom of the seventh inning. R3 occupies third base and R1 is on first with one out when B4 bats. R1 breaks with the pitch as B4 hits a fly ball to F8 for the second out. R3 leaves third base before F8 touches the caught fly ball as F8 throws to first to play on R1. The base umpire at first base calls R1 out on a close play for the third out, but after R3 touches home plate. Team B then runs off the field.

a. Team A has tied the game.

b. R3's run does not count because the third out of the inning was a force out.

c. The plate umpire should have announced that R3's run scored after R3 passed the plate.

d. Prior to leaving the field, the defensive team could have appealed that R3 left third before the caught fly ball was first touched.

e. On a proper fourth out appeal, the fourth out will replace the third out.

f. The plate umpire should have automatically declared R3 out without an appeal from the defensive team.

19. The DP and the Flex may both be playing offense at the same time.

a. True.

b. False.

20. With R2 on second base, B2 hits a fly ball that appears will fall in for a hit. However, F8 makes a spectacular catch. R2 is off with the hit and is near third when she realizes that the catch is made. As she attempts to return to second base, she is obstructed by F6 and is tagged out.

a. R2 is out. She is not protected due to a caught fly ball.

b. F6 has committed obstruction. R1 will be awarded the base, in the umpire's judgment, that she would have reached had there been no

c. The ball is delayed-dead.

d. The ball is dead.

e. F6 has committed obstruction. R1 will be awarded third base because of the obstruction.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1 — ASA, NFHS, USSSA SP, USSSA FP — a, b, c (ASA 8-7H; NFHS 2-1-1d, 8-6-8; USSSA FP 8-9, 9-1D; USSSA SP 8-4F); NCAA — a, b, c, d (NCAA 7.1.1.1, 12.8.1, 12.9.2.2)

2 — ASA, NFHS — a, b, c, d (ASA 8-2J Effect; NFHS 8-2-10 Pen); **NCAA, USSSA FP, USSSA SP — a, b, d** (NCAA 11.19 Effect; USSSA FP 8.17C; USSSA SP 7-2H Effect)

3 — ASA, NFHS, USSSA FP — c (ASA 4-5; NFHS 3-3-5; USSSA FP 5.6); **NCAA, USSSA SP — a, e** (NCAA 8.6; USSSA SP 5-5)

4 — All — a, c, e, f (ASA 8-7T; NFHS 8-7; NCAA 12.21; USSSA FP 8.2)

5 — All — c, f, j (ASA 8-7J-1; NFHS 8-6-10a; NCAA 12.9.7; USSSA FP 8.18G; USSSA SP 8-5B)

6 — All — d, f, h (ASA 8-5L, R/S 33F; NFHS 8-4-3k, 8.4.3U; NCAA 4.9; USSSA FP 8-14E-1; USSSA SP Rule 3-Interference B)

7 — All — b, d (ASA 8-5I-3; NFHS 8-4-1H Pen.; NCAA 12.3.3.5 Effect; USSSA FP 8.14C; USSSA SP 8-7B)

8 — ASA, NFHS, NCAA — a, d, e (ASA 7-6P Effect; NFHS 7-4-4 Pen.; NCAA 11.22.2 Effect); **USSSA FP — b, d, e** (7-12 Pen)

9 — ASA, NFHS, USSSA FP, USSSA SP — b (ASA Manual; NFHS 10-1-4; USSSA FP Interp; USSSA SP Interp); **NCAA — a** (15.9.1 Except. 1)

10 — All — d, e (ASA 1-Infld Fly; NFHS 1-30; NCAA 1.68; USSSA FP 3.40; USSSA SP 3-Infld Fly)

11 — ASA, NFHS, NCAA, USSSA FP — a, b, d (ASA 8-7Q Effect; NFHS 3-6-18 Pen,

8-6-13, 8-6-14 Pen; NCAA 12.14.2 Effect, Note; USSSA FP 8.18C Pen, 8.18D); **USSSA SP — a, b, c** (8-5V Effect)

12 — ASA, NFHS, NCAA, USSSA SP — a, d (ASA 8-7P Effect; NFHS 8-6-18 Pen; NCAA 12.9.11 Effect; USSSA SP 8-5B); **USSSA FP — a, e** (8.18H Note 1)

13 — All — a, c, d (ASA Rule 1, 8-2I; NFHS 2-30; NCAA 1.68; USSSA FP 3-35; USSSA SP Rule 3-Infld Fly)

14 — All — b, c (ASA 5-5B; NFHS 9-1-1 Exc.; NCAA 6.1.3; USSSA FP 4.2b; USSSA SP 4-6)

15 — ASA, NFHS, NCAA — a, b, c (ASA 3-6G Exc.; NFHS 3-2-11; NCAA 3.9); **USSSA Youth FP — b, c** (2.4A)

16 — All — d, e, f (ASA 8-7K; NFHS 8-6-11; NCAA 12.9.8; USSSA FP 8.18N; USSSA SP 8-5C)

17 — ASA, NFHS, NCAA, USSSA FP — b, f, h, i (ASA 7-2D, 8-7F, 8-7G, 8-7H Effect, POE 1; NFHS 2-1, 7-1-2 Pen., 8-6-6, 8-6-7, 8-6-8, 8-6-9 Pen; NCAA 7.1, 11.11, 12.22, 12.28; USSSA FP 9.1); **USSSA SP — f, h, i** (USSSA SP 6-11, 6-12, 7-1, 8-4F Effect, 8-5T Effect)

18 — All — a, c, d, e (ASA R/S 1, 8-7F,G,H,I and Effect; NFHS 2-1, 8-6-6,7,8,9; NCAA 7.1; USSSA FP 9-9; USSSA SP 8-5R,S,T and Effect)

19 — All — b (ASA R/S 15; NFHS 3-3-6; NCAA 8.2.2, 1.46)

20 — All — b, d (ASA 8-5B-2 Effect, R/S 36; NFHS 2-36, 8-4-3b Pen. (a); NCAA 9.4.2.6 Effect-2; USSSA FP 3-43, 8-7E Effect)