2011 FAST PITCH SOFTBALL 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. Some questions are multiple choice. Please select only one answer for multiple-choice questions. For true-false questions, mark “A” for true and “B” for false.

NOTE: Send answer sheet to your state association office unless otherwise instructed.

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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.

Baserunning
1. When a double first base is used, the runner may use the white portion of the bag if there is a force out attempt from the foul side of first base.
2. A runner is considered to be in the three-foot running lane when she has one foot touching inside the lane and one foot touching on the line.
3. A batter-runner who reaches first base safely and then overruns or overslides the base may always return to that base without liability to be put out.
4. If a runner is tagged out between the two bases where she was obstructed, the runner is awarded the base(s) she would have reached had there been no obstruction.
5. If a runner is obstructed while returning to a base that she missed or left too soon, she is protected.
6. R1 is on first base; B2 is at bat with an 0-2 count and no outs. B2 swings at a third strike that is dropped by the catcher. B2 runs toward first base. As R1 is diving back to first base, B2 is hit in the back with F2’s throw to first base and the ball goes out of play. What is the result of the play?
   a. B2 is awarded second base; R1 is awarded third base.
   b. B2 is declared out for interference; R1 remains at first base.
   c. B2 is declared out for interference; R1 is awarded second base.
   d. B2 has struck out; R1 remains at first base.
   e. B2 has struck out and is charged with interference; R1 is declared out.
7. Runners are permitted to return to a missed base or a base left too soon before a dead-ball appeal can be made.

Batting
8. An improper batter is considered to be at bat as soon as she enters the batter’s box and one pitch has been thrown.
9. When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, all outs made on the play stand if the defensive team properly appeals.
10. Following batter’s interference with the catcher, the penalty enforcement will be based on the number of outs.
11. The batter is declared out if the offensive team’s coach interferes with F5’s attempt to field a foul fly ball.
12. The batter is out if, while in the batter’s box with the bat in her hand, the bat accidentally hits the ball a second time.
13. The batter is out when she throws her bat and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.
14. With a runner on first base and less than two outs, F2 must catch the third strike in flight for the batter to be put out.
15. The batter is awarded first base if a pitched ball strikes the ground and then contacts the batter, provided the ball isn’t swung at or called a strike.

Bench and Field Conduct
16. Metal cleats are permitted and must be round or rectangular.
17. Illegal equipment must be removed or made legal.
18. A player deliberately removing a batting helmet when it is required to be worn shall immediately be restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.
19. A coach may be in possession of electronic communication devices in the coaching box, provided they are being used for coaching purposes.
20. A strike/ball is called on the batter and a team warning is issued to the offense/defense when that team intentionally removes a boundary line on the field of play.
21. Only the offense can be penalized for malicious contact.
22. A team warning shall be issued for a player taking a tag without the ball.
23. A team warning is issued and the next offender restricted to the dugout for entering the contest unreported.

Charged Conferences
24. Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than three charged conferences without penalty during a seven-inning game.
25. A coach who calls time, goes out to speak with F6 and then replaces F1, is charged with a defensive conference.
27. If F2 goes out to confer with F1, a defensive conference is charged.
28. Time granted for an incapacitated player shall constitute a charged conference for the offense or defense.
29. During a defensive-charged conference, the offensive team may meet provided the non-charged conference concludes when the charged conference ends or doesn’t delay the game.

Coaching
- 30. Prior to the start of the game at the pregame conference, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying which of the following?
  a. That the lineup card is correct.
  b. That all players are legally equipped.
  c. That players and equipment are in compliance with all NFHS rules.
  d. B and C only.
  e. All of the above.
31. A team member ejected for unsporting conduct may occupy a coach’s box.
32. Only adults may occupy the coach’s box.
33. Coaches performing duties in live-ball territory must be attired in school colors, khaki, black, white or gray.
34. A coach not dressed in appropriate attire may be permitted on the field of play if he/she remedies the situation.
35. If a coach physically assists a runner during playing action, the assisted runner is out and any other additional outs on the play stand at the end of playing action.
36. When offensive team personnel interfere by being near a base to which a runner is advancing, the ball is dead and the runner closest to home is out.
37. If a base coach intentionally removes a coach’s box boundary line, a strike is charged to the batter and a team warning issued.

Courtesy Runners
- 38. To utilize a courtesy runner in the top of the first inning, the pitcher and catcher are identified as those players listed in the lineup as playing those positions; both must occupy those positions in the bottom of the first inning until the first batter has completed her turn at bat.
39. The same courtesy runner may not be used for both the pitcher and catcher in the same game.
40. If an injury occurs and no other substitutes are available, the courtesy runner must be used as a substitute.
41. When a legal substitute replaces a courtesy runner, the player for whom she was running has left the game.
42. A courtesy runner may run for another courtesy runner.
43. If a courtesy runner fails to report, she is considered an unreported substitute.

Dead Ball
44. The ball becomes dead immediately when a pitch touches a batter or her clothing.
45. A delayed dead-ball situation occurs when the ball comes in contact with the bat a second time.
46. The ball becomes dead immediately when a batted ball, while on or over foul ground, first touches the catcher’s glove or hand.
47. A delayed dead-ball situation occurs when the umpire interferes with the catcher who is attempting to throw a non-batted ball.
48. After a dead-ball situation, the ball becomes live when it is held by the pitcher within the 16-foot circle and the umpire signals “play ball.”
49. The softball field includes an elevated cement step in front of each dugout. B1 hits a foul fly caught by F3 such that her right foot is on the ground completely in live-ball territory and her left foot is on the elevated cement step with half the foot on the step and the other half over live-ball territory but completely off the ground. What is the result of the play?
  a. B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is live and in play.
  b. Foul ball; the ball is dead; B1 remains at bat.
  c. B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is dead.
  d. Foul ball; the ball is live and in play; B1 remains at bat.
  e. None of the above.

Definitions
50. All of the following are true regarding the catcher’s box, EXCEPT:
  a. The catcher must be in the catcher’s box from the time the pitcher steps on the pitcher’s plate until she releases the pitch.
  b. The catcher’s box is a rectangle.
  c. The catcher’s box is 8 feet, 5 inches wide.
  d. The catcher’s box is 10 feet deep.
  e. The catcher’s box includes the area directly behind home plate, between the batter’s boxes.
51. During the pregame conference between umpires, coaches and team captains, no balls may be hit or thrown in live-ball territory.
52. A runner’s base path is always defined as a direct line between two bases and three feet on either side of that line.
53. A fielder is considered to be making an initial play if the batted ground ball deflects off the pitcher.
54. A slide is illegal if the runner’s raised leg is higher than the fielder’s knee when the fielder is in a standing position.
55. An on-deck batter may use either the circle nearest her own dugout or the circle nearest the opponent’s dugout.
56. A strike may be called by the umpire for specific actions by the batter or offense.
57. In establishing the validity of a catch, the fielder must only hold the ball long enough to prove she has control.

DP/FLEX
58. After the DP/FLEX option is declared at the pregame conference with the submission/verification of the lineup card, a team may go down to nine players before the first pitch is thrown.
59. The DP starts as one of the nine hitters in the batting order.
60. The role of the DP is terminated for the rest of the game when the FLEX bats.
61. Placing the FLEX into one of the first nine positions in the lineup for someone other than the DP’s position is considered an illegal substitution.

62. All of the following are true regarding the FLEX player, EXCEPT:
   a. The FLEX is listed in the 10th position in the lineup.
   b. The FLEX may be substituted for by the DP playing defense.
   c. The FLEX may bat anywhere in one of the nine positions of the batting order.
   d. The FLEX may be replaced by a legal substitute at any time.
   e. When the FLEX is substituted for, the team is down to nine players.

63. The DP may be substituted for at any time by:
   a. A legal substitute.
   b. The FLEX playing offense.
   c. Anyone else in the batting order.
   d. A and B only.
   e. All of the above.

Field and Equipment

64. All of the following are true regarding a legal softball field, EXCEPT:
   a. The field shall be free of obstructions between the foul lines.
   b. The field shall contain an infield diamond.
   c. The field shall contain an outfield area enclosed by a fence.
   d. The bases are 60 feet apart when a 12-inch ball is used.
   e. The pitching distance is 43 feet for female fast-pitch games.

65. Which of the following is true regarding foul lines?
   a. Foul lines extend beyond the bases.
   b. Foul lines extend to the outfield fence.
   c. Foul lines extend to a minimum of 185 feet when an outfield fence is not present.
   d. Foul lines should be 2½ inches wide.
   e. All of the above.

66. All lines on the field shall be marked with what color material?
   a. Green.
   b. White.
   c. Yellow.
   d. Pink.
   e. All of the above colors are permitted.

67. All of the following are true regarding a double-first base, EXCEPT:
   a. A double-first base is required nationally.
   b. The double-first base shall be a one- or two-piece unit.
   c. The double-first base shall be 15 inches by 30 inches total.
   d. The double-first base shall be manufactured to be of equal height.
   e. The base in foul territory shall be a color other than white.

68. The pitching distance is measured from the rear tip of home plate to back edge of the pitcher’s plate.

69. A circle 16 feet in diameter shall be drawn around the pitcher’s plate.

70. If space allows, the on-deck circles should be 30 feet from home plate.

71. Once a game has started, if it is discovered that the pitching distance is incorrect, the correction shall be made immediately.

72. Bases shall be securely attached to the ground or an anchor system.

73. The pitcher’s plate shall be a rectangular white slab that is 24 inches by 6 inches.

74. Use of treatments or devices that alter the bat specifications or enhance performance render the bat illegal.

75. Batting helmets must have extended ear flaps that cover both ears and temples.

76. If worn on the batting helmet, an eye shield must be clear and permit 100 percent allowable light transmission.

Pitching Regulations

77. The pitcher may legally remove herself from the pitcher’s plate before or after the hands come together by stepping back from the plate with both feet.

78. A pitcher may not exceed 1½ revolutions of the arm in the windmill motion.

79. When a pitcher fails to deliver the pitch within the required timeframe, a ball is called on the batter.

80. Provided it is under the supervision and control of the umpire, which of the following is legal for a pitcher to use on the pitching hand:
   a. Tape.
   b. Saliva.
   c. Powdered resin or any comparable drying agent.
   d. Rock resin.
   e. All of the above.

81. All of the following are true regarding the ball rotation, EXCEPT:
   a. A pitcher has a choice of balls at the start of each half-inning if both balls have been in play.
   b. The unused ball must be put into play in the bottom of the first inning if it is not used in the top of the first inning.
   c. The ball in play should be returned to the 16-foot circle after every half-inning.
   d. The pitcher may possess both balls and choose the one she wants to start that half-inning.
   e. All of the above.
Player Uniforms, Equipment

82. Which of the following is true regarding knee and ankle braces that are unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design/production?
   a. They do not require any additional padding/coversing.
   b. They must be covered with athletic tape.
   c. They must be padded with 1/2-inch-thick foam.
   d. They are permitted with a doctor’s note.
   e. All of the above.

83. Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, splints, etc.) must be padded with:
   a. A closed-cell, slow-recovery foam.
   b. One-inch thick padding.
   c. Athletic tape.
   d. A gauze pad.
   e. A rubberized material.

84. Jewelry that is judged to be “soft” by an umpire may be worn by a player.

85. Unadorned devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips may be worn to control a player’s hair provided they do not exceed one inch.

Players, Positions

86. The pitcher is also known as fielding position No. 2 or F2.

87. All fielders, except the catcher, must be on fair ground at the time of the pitch.

88. A player may change to a different fielding position at any time, except the pitcher, who may only be removed and return to pitch once per inning.

89. A team’s lineup card must include all of the following, EXCEPT:
   a. First initial and last names.
   b. Jersey numbers.
   c. Position being played.
   d. Batting order of starting players.
   e. First initial and last name of coach.

90. All of the following will result in a team warning to the head coach for submitting an inaccurate lineup card, EXCEPT:
   a. Changing a player’s name.
   b. Changing a player’s number.
   c. Adding a player.
   d. Adding a substitute.
   e. Changing a player’s position.

Substituting

91. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall not return to play until cleared by:
   a. The head coach.
   b. A parent or guardian.
   c. The athletic director.
   d. An appropriate health-care professional.
   e. None of the above.

92. F1 and F6 may switch defensive positions any number of times in the same half-inning.

93. A player not listed as an eligible substitute on the lineup card shall be prohibited from playing.

94. Whenever an illegal offensive substitute is discovered on base, she is called out and restricted to the dugout/bench.

Umpiring

95. The plate umpire shall make all decisions except those commonly reserved for the field umpire.

96. The plate umpire may rectify any situation in which an umpire’s decision that was reversed has placed either team in jeopardy.

97. Umpires working the plate are required to wear a mask, throat protector and chest protector.

98. Umpire jurisdiction begins:
   a. Upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field.
   b. Upon the arrival of two umpires within the confines of the field.
   c. When the pregame conference begins.
   d. Upon the conclusion of the pregame conference.
   e. Upon the arrival of one umpire to the facility/park/school.

99. Umpire jurisdiction ends at the conclusion of the game when:
   a. The umpires leave the field of play.
   b. The umpires leave the visual confines of the facility.
   c. The umpires are in the parking lot or school building.
   d. The third out is declared in the final half-inning.
   e. The umpires are sure no final appeal will be made.

100. The umpire shall immediately remove a player from the game who exhibits the following signs or symptoms of a concussion:
    a. Dizziness.
    b. Confusion.
    c. Headache.
    d. Loss of consciousness.
    e. All of the above.
Answer Key
2011 NFHS Fast Pitch Softball Rules Examination, Part 1

1. A 8-10-2a
2. A 8-2-5
3. B 8-4-2b
4. A 8-4-3b Pen a
5. A 8-4-3b Pen Exc 2
6. E 8-6-18
7. A 8-8-16
8. B 8-8-17
9. A 7-1-1
10. A 7-1-2 Pen 2
11. B 7-4-4 Pen
12. A 7-4-12
13. B 7-4-13 Exc
14. A 7-4-14
15. B 7-4-7
16. A 8-1-2b
17. B 3-2-11
18. A 3-6-1 Pen
19. B 3-6-1 Pen
20. B 3-6-11
21. A 3-6-17 Pen
22. B 3-6-18 Pen
23. A 3-6-2 Pen
24. A 3-6-7 Pen
25. A 3-7-1
26. B 3-7-1
27. B 3-7-1
28. B 3-7-1; 2
29. A 3-7-3
30. E 3-5-1
31. B 3-5-2
32. B 3-5-2
33. A 3-5-3
34. A 3-5-3 Pen
35. A 3-5-4 Pen
36. A 3-5-5 Pen
37. A 3-6-17 Pen
38. B 8-9-2
39. A 8-9-1
40. A 8-9-4 Exc
41. A 8-9-6
42. B 8-9-6
43. A 8-9-7 Pen
44. A 5-1-1a; 8-1-2b
45. B 5-1-1b
46. B 5-1-1d(2); 2-25-2
47. A 5-1-2c
48. A 5-1-4
49. B 5-1-i Note b
50. E 2-10
51. A 2-14-2; 4-1-2a
52. B 2-3-2
53. A 2-47-3a
54. A 2-52-2b
55. B 2-56-1
56. A 2-56-1
57. B 2-9-2
58. A 3-3-6; 3-1-3; 4-1-2b
59. A 3-3-6a
60. B 3-3-6d
61. A 3-3-6g
62. C 3-3-6
63. D 3-3-6d
64. C 1-1-1; 1-1-2
65. E 1-1-3e, f
66. B 1-1-8
67. A 1-2-1 Note
68. B 1-1-2b
69. A 1-1-2d
70. A 1-1-3d
71. A 1-1-9
72. A 1-2-1
73. A 1-2-3
74. A 1-5-1c
75. A 1-6-4
76. A 1-6-7
77. A 6-1-1f
78. A 6-1-4d
79. A 6-2-3 Pen
80. C 6-2-2
81. D 6-5
82. A 3-2-13
83. A 3-2-13
84. B 3-2-12
85. B 3-2-12 Exc
86. B 3-1-4; Figure 3-1
87. A 3-1-5
88. A 3-1-6; 3-3-2 Note
89. E 3-1-3
90. E 3-1-3 Penalty
91. D 3-3-9
92. B 3-3-2 Note
93. B 3-3-1
94. A 3-4-2 Pen
95. A 10-2-1
96. A 10-2-3m
97. B 10-4-1
98. A 10-1-2
99. A 10-1-2
100. E 10-2-3k; 3-3-9

Note: The answers are given in the format of the NFHS Fast Pitch Softball Rules Examination, Part 1.