

SOFTBALL STUDY GUIDE - 2016/17

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.

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
1	Any defensive fielder may make a live-ball appeal with the ball in her possession by tagging the runner or touching the base that was missed or left too early.	True	False			
2	A fair ball is a batted ball that first falls or is first touched on or over fair territory beyond first, second or third base.	True	False			
3	A foul tip is a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt or hand and is legally caught by any defensive player.	True	False			
4	A leap is when both feet of the pitcher are airborne prior to delivering the pitch.	True	False			
5	A slide is illegal if:	The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide into the fielder.	The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position.	The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg.	The runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.	All of the above.
6	A timing play occurs when the last out of an inning is not the result of a force out and the exact time of the out may or may not allow a run to score.	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
7	All of the following are true regarding the catcher's box, EXCEPT:	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.	The catcher's box is a rectangle.	The catcher's box is 8 feet, 5 inches wide.	The catcher's box is 10 feet deep.	The catcher's box includes the area directly behind home plate, between the batter's boxes.
8	Faking a tag is always considered obstruction.	True	False			
9	The umpire rules a catch and the batter is out if the:	Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to throw to second base it drops out of the player's hand.	Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to run the ball in to the infield it pops out of the glove.	Left fielder catches a fly ball in the tip of the glove and it immediately pops out.	A and B	
10	The 3-foot running lane is a space defined by a line drawn 3 feet from and parallel to the first-base foul line starting halfway between home and first base and extending to first base in foul territory.	True	False			
11	An appeal must be made on the last play of the game before all infielders leave the field.	True	False			
12	The defense may appeal either during a live or dead ball, but it must occur before the next pitch (legal or illegal).	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
13	When the ball goes out of play, runners must be given the opportunity to complete their baserunning responsibilities before a dead-ball appeal is made.	True	False			
14	A runner may leap or hurdle a defensive player who is lying on the ground.	True	False			
15	Awarded bases must be run legally.	True	False			
16	Obstruction is called on F2 when she is about to receive the ball while blocking home plate, and comes in contact with the runner sliding into home.	True	False			
17	Following batter's interference with the catcher, the batter is out and each runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.	True	False			
18	If B1 steps out of the batter's box after F1 has brought her hands together, B1 runs the risk of having a strike called on her for being out of position.	True	False			
19	The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches.	True	False			
20	All of the following team personnel are permitted outside the designated dugout/bench, EXCEPT:	The batter.	Runners on base.	The on-deck batter.	Defensive players.	The coach giving defensive signals.

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
21	Initiating malicious contact is a serious offense and results in the offender being ejected.	True	False			
22	A base coach may use a stopwatch while coaching at first or third base.	True	False			
23	Any adult coach may attend the pregame conference with the umpire(s) and verify that the team is in compliance with all NFHS rules.	True	False			
24	Prior to the start of the game at the pregame conference, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying which of the following?	That the lineup card is correct.	That all players are legally equipped.	That players and equipment are in compliance with all NFHS rules.	None of the above.	All of the above.
25	While in the coach's box, coaches may not wear any type of jeans or "cut-offs."	True	False			
26	A legal substitute may replace a courtesy runner on a base, but the substitute is actually replacing the pitcher/catcher in the lineup for whom the courtesy runner is running and the pitcher/catcher has left the game.	True	False			
27	B1, the pitcher, hits a single and advances to second on the next play. Her coach may replace her with a courtesy runner at this time.	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
28	When a courtesy runner is injured, the replacement must either be a legal substitute or the pitcher/catcher for whom she is running.	True	False			
29	A delayed dead-ball situation occurs when the batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.	True	False			
30	It is a delayed dead-ball situation when an illegal pitch occurs, but no pitch has been delivered to the batter.	True	False			
31	The ball becomes dead immediately when a fielder leaves the field of play with one foot after catching a fair or foul batted ball.	True	False			
32	The ball becomes dead in all of the following situations, EXCEPT:	There is interference by a runner or retired runner.	The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.	An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.	An illegal pitch is delivered.	The batter-runner steps backward toward home plate to avoid being tagged out.
33	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?	B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is live and in play.	Foul ball; the ball is dead and B1 remains at bat.	B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is dead.	Foul ball; the ball is live and in play and B1 remains at bat.	None of the above.

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
34	A team may use the DP/FLEX option provided it is made known at the pre-game conference.	True	False			
35	All of the following are true regarding the FLEX player, EXCEPT:	The FLEX is listed in the 10th position in the lineup.	The FLEX may be substituted for by the DP playing defense.	The FLEX may bat anywhere in one of the nine positions of the batting order.	The FLEX may be replaced by a legal substitute at any time.	When the FLEX is substituted for by the DP, the team is down to nine players.
36	If the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX has left the game.	True	False			
37	The DP may be substituted for at any time by:	A legal substitute.	The FLEX playing offense.	Anyone else in the batting order.	A and B only.	A, B and C.
38	When the DP/FLEX option is used, the lineup may be reduced to nine and then returned to 10 any number of times.	True	False			
39	A circle of what size shall be drawn around the pitcher's plate?	8 feet in diameter.	12 feet in diameter.	14 feet in diameter.	16 feet in diameter.	None of the above.
40	A one-piece rubber bat grip and knob combination on a bat is legal.	True	False			
41	All fast pitch batting helmets must be equipped with a NOCSAE-approved face protector.	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
42	All of the following are true regarding gloves/mitts, EXCEPT:	Gloves shall be a maximum of two colors, excluding lacing and manufacturer's logo.	Glove lacing shall not be the color of the ball.	Gloves shall not be entirely optic in color.	Gloves may have one American flag not exceeding 2 by 3 inches.	Gloves may have markings that give the appearance of the ball on the outside, but not the inside.
43	All of the following are true regarding the knob of the bat, EXCEPT:	It may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened.	Devices, attachments or wrappings are permitted that cause the knob to become flush with the handle.	It must protrude at a 90-degree angle from the handle.	A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal.	
44	With R1 on first, B2 bunts a ball to F5 and both R1 and B2 advance safely. The defense protests the batter before the next pitch because B2 batted with a Reebok Vector that has holes in the taper part of the bat. B2 is declared out and R1 is put back on first base.	True	False			
45	While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and immediately stops, must then return to first or attempt to advance to second base.	True	False			
46	While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who rounds first base toward second base may stop, but then must immediately return to first or attempt to advance non-stop to second base.	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
47	"No pitch" shall be declared if a runner is called out for leaving the base too soon.	True	False			
48	All of the following are true regarding the ball rotation, EXCEPT:	A pitcher has a choice of balls at the start of each half-inning if both balls have been in play.	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.	The ball in play should be returned to the 16-foot circle after every half-inning.	The pitcher may possess both balls and choose the one she wants to start that half-inning.	All of the above.
49	Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher, she has 10 seconds to release the next pitch.	True	False			
50	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:	Tape on the contact points.	Saliva.	Powdered resin or any comparable drying agent.	Any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm, or thigh which the umpire judges to be distracting to the batter.	All of the above.
51	When a pitcher fails to deliver the pitch within the required timeframe, a ball is called on the batter and runners are advanced one base.	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
52	Any equipment judged to be potentially dangerous by the umpire is illegal.	True	False			
53	Exposed undergarments are considered part of the official uniform and shall be black, white, gray or a solid school color.	True	False			
54	Religious and medical-alert medals are considered jewelry and are prohibited.	True	False			
55	A team's lineup card shall include each starting player's first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order.	True	False			
56	At the pregame meeting, the head coach must list all team members on the team's roster.	True	False			
57	The use of the DP/FLEX is required.	True	False			
58	A run does not score if a preceding runner is declared the fourth out for missing a base, and the defensive team selects that out to its advantage.	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
59	A team may finish the game with fewer than eight players.	True	False			
60	The pitcher has her choice of balls at the start of each half-inning unless both balls do not get put into play in the first half of the first inning.	True	False			
61	The score of a forfeited game is 7-0 unless the offending team is behind; then the score remains as recorded.	True	False			
62	After the game starts, the umpires are sole judges as to whether conditions, including grounds, are fit for play.	True	False			
63	A coach is not permitted to project a substitution.	True	False			
64	It is legal for S1 to substitute for the starting pitcher F1 in the third inning, and then re-enter the original pitcher in the fifth inning in the same position in the batting order.	True	False			
65	An umpire's decision involving fair/foul call or a safe/out call may be appealed by requesting assistance from another umpire.	True	False			

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
66	The plate umpire is responsible for ensuring that a team's bats and helmets are inspected.	True	False			
67	The plate umpire's pregame duties include which of the following:	Inspect batting and catching helmets.	Inspect bats.	Inspect the condition of the field.	Define the dugout/bench areas.	All of the above.
68	A substitute who is withdrawn may re-enter once per game provided she does so in the same batting position.	True	False			
69	Which of the following are appealable plays?	Missing a base.	Batting out of order.	Leaving a base early on a caught fly ball.	All of the above.	
70	All of the following statements about sliding are true except:	If a runner slides, it may be feet first or head first.	In order to complete a legal slide, a runner must be able to touch the base with either her hand or foot.	In order for a runner to avoid unnecessary contact, she is required to slide if a fielder has possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag.	On an overslide, a runner may be tagged out if she does not remain in contact with the base.	
71	B1 bats out of order and reaches first base. F1 then steps onto the pitcher's plate and commits an illegal pitch. The defense then appeals that B1 has batted out of order. What is the correct ruling?	B1 is declared out and the next batter comes to the plate.	B1 is replaced by the legal batter at first base.	The defense can no longer appeal batting out of order since the infraction was not discovered prior to the next pitch.	The defense is allowed to appeal since the pitch was illegal and the player B1 is declared out.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
72	B1 fails to promptly take her position in the batter's box within the 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch. What is the correct ruling?	The umpire awards an additional five seconds and play continues.	The umpire grants the batter time until she is ready for play to resume.	The umpire declares the batter out for delaying the game.	The umpire calls a strike on the batter.	
73	The batter is standing in the batter's box when an inside pitch hits her in the knee completely in the batter's box. The proper call is:	Dead ball and the batter is awarded first base.	Strike on the batter because she needs to make an effort to get out of the way of the pitch.	Strike on the batter because the pitcher is entitled to throw over the inner part of the batter's box.	None of the above.	
74	A coach cannot have which of the following items in the coaches box on the field?	A stopwatch.	A cell phone recording video.	A tablet device being used as a scorebook.	A scorebook.	
75	Each team, when on defense, is allowed how many charged conferences without penalty during a seven-inning game?	One.	Two.	Three.	Four.	
76	Which action is not legal for a courtesy runner?	She has not participated in the game.	She runs for the pitcher only.	She runs for the catcher only.	She becomes a substitute in the same half inning she was a courtesy runner.	
77	After reaching base legally, a team has the option to use a courtesy runner for:	The pitcher only.	The catcher only.	The pitcher and/or catcher.	The team's slowest player as designated by the coach during the pre-game meeting.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
78	With no outs and R1 on second base, B2 is at bat with a two-ball, one-strike count. On the pitch, the ball contacts the jersey of B1 completely in the batter's box while R1 attempts to steal third base. The catcher throws to third base and R1 is tagged out. What is the correct ruling?	Ball is live, R1 is out and batter has a three-ball, one-strike count.	Ball is dead, B1 is awarded first base, R1 is out at third base.	Ball is dead, B1 is awarded first base, R1 goes back to second base.	Live ball, only B1's jersey was contacted, not B1.	
79	A head coach who intends to utilize the DP/Flex option must alert the umpires and opposing team:	Before that coach's team bats for the first time.	Before that coach's team throws its first pitch on defense.	During the exchange of lineup cards at home plate during the pregame conference.	Before the DP's first at-bat.	
80	The correct pitching distance in NFHS fastpitch softball is:	38 feet.	40 feet.	43 feet.	45 feet.	
81	Which statement about bats is correct?	Bats should be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges.	Materials inside the bat or treatment/devices used to alter bat specifications and/or enhance performances are prohibited and render the bat illegal.	A nick or paint chip in the bat from metal cleats that does not extend into the laminations of the bat should not render a bat illegal.	All of the above.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
82	A small hole has naturally occurred in front of the pitching plate during the course of the game. On the pitch, the pitcher pushes off the plate with her pivot foot and loses contact with the ground as she drags across the hole. Her pivot foot, however, is no higher than the level plane of the ground around the hole as she delivers the pitch. What is the correct call?	No call. The pitch is legal because in the umpire's judgment, the foot would have been in contact with the ground had the hole not been present.	No pitch, and the game is delayed until the hole can be repaired.	Illegal pitch because the pivot foot is not touching the ground in the bottom of the hole.	No pitch and the pitcher receives a warning. If the pivot foot fails to touch the ground in the bottom of the hole on future pitches, an illegal pitch will be called.	
83	It is an illegal pitch if:	F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate immediately and brings her hands together.	F1 is on the pitcher's plate, looks to the coach for a signal and then looks to F2 and simulates taking a signal before bringing her hands together.	F1 stands behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from the coach, steps on the pitcher's plate and simulates taking a signal from F2 before bringing her hands together.	F1's shoulders are in line with first and third base, the ball is in her glove or hand and the hands are separated.	
84	The game begins when the:	Pre-game conference ends.	Home team takes the field for warm-ups.	Umpire calls "Play Ball."	First pitch is thrown.	
85	When a coach makes a substitution during a game, the home plate umpire should report the substitution to:	The opposing team's scorekeeper.	The opposing team's head coach.	The opposing team's captain.	The opposing team's base coaches.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
86	B1 hits a high fly ball down the line to right field. F9, with both feet clearly in fair territory, reaches across the foul line in an attempt to catch the ball. While the ball is still in the air, completely over foul ground, the ball deflects off of F9's glove and lands in fair territory. The correct call is:	Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.	Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when she touched the ball.	Fair ball because after she touched the ball it landed in fair territory.	Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.	
87	Bases are loaded with two outs. B6 hits a deep fly ball that lands in the gap in right center field. R3 tries to score from first base. Which of the following timing play statements are applied correctly?	B6 is tagged out at second base before R3 touches home plate. R3's run would not count.	B6 slides past second base and R3 touches home before the tag on the overslide. R1, R2 and R3's runs would each score since they occurred prior to the third out being made.	R1, R2, R3 all touch home plate with B6 on first. During the dead ball, F1 correctly appeals R3 missing second base. This is not a timing play so R3 becomes the third out. No runs would count on this play.	All of the above.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
88	R3 is caught in a rundown between third base and home. As R3 is attempting to return to third base, she is obstructed by F5 and subsequently tagged while off the base by F6. The correct call is:	The call is always an immediate dead ball when a runner is obstructed.	When a fielder obstructs a runner the initial call is always a delayed dead ball. Once the obstructed runner is put out, it becomes a dead ball and the umpires shall award R3 the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction.	R3 is awarded home.	The umpire will issue a warning to F5 and notify her coach.	
89	Which of the following situations involving a bunt occurring on a third strike is correct?	A batter whose third strike bunt attempt ends up a foul ball will be called out.	An attempted bunt can never be ruled an infield fly.	A batter whose foot is touching home plate when the bat makes contact with a pitched ball will always be called out (whether the ball is hit fair or foul).	All of the above.	
90	State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for the following reasons:	Inclement weather.	Religious reasons.	Different styles and colors due to budget restrictions.	A and B.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
91	With the ball in the circle and no attempt by F1 to make a play on a base runner, when is the runner declared out based on the look-back rule?	The batter-runner is safe at first base on a dropped third strike. She overruns first base and turns to the right. Seeing no fielder near second base, she runs toward second where she is safe.	The batter-runner gets a base hit and rounds first base and comes to a complete stop. She then returns to first base.	The batter-runner who gets an infield hit and overruns first base toward right field turns left, stops and then advances to second base.	The batter-runner gets a base hit and overruns first base toward right field, turns left and moves toward the infield in any direction except toward second base, then returns to first base.	
92	B1 hits a dribbler a few feet down the first-base line. F2 fields the ball and doesn't throw because B1 is outside the running lane and in the way of a potential throw.	Plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.	Plate umpire indicates the ball is fair. There is no interference by B1.	Plate umpire signals delayed dead ball. At the end of the play, if the umpire judges that F2 could have made an out, call B1 out for interference.	Plate umpire calls dead ball and issues a warning to the offense for being outside the running lane.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
93	Bases are loaded with no outs, with a one-ball, one-strike count. B4 hits a ground ball. As F4 is fielding the ball, R3 collides with her. What is the correct ruling?	The ball is dead and R3 is out. All other runners return to their bases and B4 returns to bat with the same count.	R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play, the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. R1 and R2 advance at their own risk.	Since R3 was in the baseline there is no interference, and all runners advance at their own risk.	The ball is dead and R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference.	
94	With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a ground ball on the first-base side of the infield. F4 moves into the baseline to make an initial play on a batted ball. R1, using normal movement, alters her base path going either behind or in front of F4 to avoid contact with F4 fielding the ball. The correct call is:	The umpire signals obstruction on F4 for causing R1 to alter her path. Awarding the base to R1 would have achieved had it not been for the obstruction on F4.	If R1 runs in front of F4, the umpire should signal dead ball and call interference because R1 is never allowed to run in front of F4 when she is making an initial play on a batted ball.	R1's movement is to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a batted ball, so as long as in the umpire's judgment there is not interference, this is a legal play.	R1 is called out because she is not allowed to alter her base path. She must stop to avoid contacting F4 making the initial play on a batted ball.	

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
95	With one out, R1 on third base and R2 on second base, B4 hits a fly ball on the first-base side of second base almost directly at F4. As R2 takes a couple of steps toward third base, she makes contact with F6, who is moving toward the batted ball.	The umpire signals and verbalizes "Dead Ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make an initial play on a batted ball.	The umpire signals and verbalizes "Dead Ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make a live-ball appeal of R2 leaving early if the fly is caught.	The umpire makes no call; this is nothing more than a "train wreck" with both players doing what they were supposed to do.	The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes "Obstruction." F6 is guilty of obstructing R2.	
96	In which instance is the runner NOT declared out for interference?	The coach near third base runs toward home plate near the baseline while a fielder is making a play on a batted ball and draws a throw to home.	The runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a fair batted ball.	The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while standing on second base.	The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while not in contact with a base and before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher.	
97	At the end of the top of the first inning, it is discovered that the pitcher's plate is set at the wrong distance.	After the plate is set at the correct distance, the half-inning is replayed.	Allow the bottom of the inning to be played before the correction is made.	Make the correction immediately.		

Question Position	Question	Answer1	Answer2	Answer3	Answer4	Answer5
98	Regarding the taper of a softball bat, which statement is not in compliance with the current rules?	The taper connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.	The taper of a bat is defined as having a solid surface.	The taper shall have a conical shape since it connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.	All are correct statements.	
99	Team A's pitcher has a pink digital camouflage arm sleeve on her pitching arm extending from her uniform top all the way down to her wrist. The ruling should be:	Legal, sleeves are not covered in NFHS softball rules.	Legal, as long as it does not contain any of the opposing team colors.	Illegal, the sleeve must be removed or covered. Sleeves must follow the same color restrictions as exposed undergarments. They must be a single solid color: black, white, gray or school color.	Illegal, sleeves are not allowed to be worn.	
100	A batting helmet shall be worn by offensive personnel while:	The ball is live and the player is in live-ball territory.	The on-deck batter is in the on-deck circle and the ball is live.	Base runners are on base, the ball is live and they are in live-ball territory.	All of the above.	