

SNZ UMPIRES RULE EXAMINATION

PLEASE NOTE:

1. This examination is based on the New Zealand Rule Book - as revised August 2010 and relates to Fast Pitch only.
2. A signal can be either VERBAL or PHYSICAL
3. For the sake of brevity in some questions the following symbols will be used:

For fielders:

F1 = Pitcher; F2 = Catcher;
F3 = 1st Base; F4 = 2nd Base;
F5 = 3rd Base; F6 = Shortstop;
F7 = Left Field; F8 = Centre Field;
F9 = Right Field.

For runners:

R1 is always the lead runner, followed by R2, R3 etc.

For batters:

B1 is the lead off batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.

For substitutes:

S1 is the first replacement player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.

1B = 1st Base; 2B = 2nd base; 3B = 3rd base; HP = Home plate

PU = Plate Umpire; BU = Base Umpire; 1U = 1st base Umpire; 3U = 3rd base umpire

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer strictly according to the New Zealand Rule Book, NOT local bylaws and/or ground rules.
2. Only the answer sheet of this examination is to be returned for marking. You retain the question portion for further study.
3. There are 100 questions in total.
4. All answers are either TRUE/FALSE or YES/NO and are worth (1) mark each, (a total of 100 marks).
5. Please indicate your answer by writing on the answer sheet. T, F, Y or N
6. Answer sheets are to be FAXED to 03-385 7634.

Or scanned and emailed to nzumpire@ihug.co.nz

7. The answers will be posted on the SNZ Website MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER.

Answer sheets not received prior to the posting of the answers will not be marked

- 1 A bat that rattles, shall be considered an illegal bat, even if it complies in all other respects.
- 2 Levi's and cutoffs are not considered proper attire for coaches.
- 3 An unannounced substitute can also be an illegal re-entry.
- 4 There shall be only one conference per inning defensively, or offensively. These shall be controlled by the PU.
- 5 A crow hop is defined as the act of the pitcher who pushes off from the pitcher's plate to deliver the ball.
- 6 An illegal re-entry occurs whenever the coach fails to notify the PU of the return to the game of any substitute.
- 7 B4 has hit consecutive home runs in two turns at bat. F1 & F2 confer, before F1 deliberately throws four pitches wide of the strike zone. This is considered an intentional base on balls and the ball is dead.
- 8 A substitute may be reported by the manager to the plate umpire or to the official scorekeeper.
- 9 Stealing is the act of a runner attempting to advance during or after a pitch to the batter.
- 10 A catch is a legally caught ball, which occurs when the fielder prevents the ball from touching the ground with the use of any part of his body and or glove.
- 11 B1 hits a sharp drive in foul territory toward 3B. F5 attempts to catch the drive, but only succeeds in deflecting the hit directly to the feet of F6 also fielding close to the 3B line. F6 retrieves the hit and throws to F3 in time to retire B1.
Ruling: Foul ball.
- 12 The score of a forfeited game shall be 7-0 in favour of the team at fault.
- 13 R1 at 2B. B2 miss hits to F5 who first checks the progress on R1 before throwing to F3. Her throw is off causing F3 to stretch for the throw. The base umpire is unsure as to whether F3 was still in contact with the base at the time of receiving the throw. The base umpire can request the PU makes the final decision.
- 14 A bat with one layer of tape over a cone-shaped soft rubber attachment at the knob end of a bat is considered an illegal bat.
- 15 Unless an umpire makes an incorrect decision based on a rule, his decision is not protestable.
- 16 A withdrawn player returning to the game un-notified, will not violate the illegal player rule until one pitch has been thrown.
- 17 Ejection is the act of any umpire removing a player, official or any team member from the game and grounds.

- 18 F1 takes the signal from the dugout while standing behind the pitcher's plate then steps on the pitcher's plate with the hands separated, simulates taking a signal from the catcher and brings the hands together to start the pitch. The umpire calls an illegal pitch because the pitcher did not take the signal on the pitcher's plate.
- 19 B1 slaps the ball back to F1. The ball hits the front of the pitching block & deflects into foul territory between 1B & Home.
Ruling: Fair ball - play on
- 20 A baseline is the shortest line between a base and the runner's position at the time a fielder is attempting to tag that runner.
- 21 F2 signals F1 for a pitch out. He stands with one foot on the lines of the catcher's box and the other foot entirely inside the box. The lines are considered within the catcher's box.
- 22 B1 bunts close to the 1B/Home line. The ball comes to rest entirely in foul territory. F3 standing in fair territory fields the ball and tags B1.
Ruling: B1 is out.
- 23 F5 is straddling the baseline when he fields a fair bounding ball from the batter. As one foot is in foul territory, the ball is ruled foul.
- 24 A bounding ball that first touches the ground prior to 3B in foul territory, before coming to rest touching 3B in foul territory shall be declared a fair ball.
- 25 Interference is the act of any player that intentionally impedes, hinders, or confuses the opposition attempting to execute a play.
- 26 The pitcher may leap from the pitcher's plate, land and with a continuous motion, deliver the ball to the batter.
- 27 The DH is a player in the batting order, other than the FLEX, for whom the DP is playing defensive. The DH continues to play offense, but not defense.
- 28 R1 on 3B, R2 on 1B with one out. B4 hits a long fly ball to F8, which he juggles before holding securely. R1, tags up on the touch and scores easily. R2 a very quick runner, also tags up on the first touch, but misses 2B on his attempt to reach 3B. F6 seeing the missed base calls to F8 for the ball. He stands on 2B for the appeal.
Ruling: R2 is out on the force at 2B. No runs score.
- 29 Plate umpires must wear a black face mask with throat protector (or extended wire protector in lieu) and shin guards. A body protector is recommended.
- 30 Leaping is the act of any fielder causing them to be airborne in a forward manner during the release of the ball. Leaping is a legal act.
- 31 A pitch that touches the ground prior to the batter swinging, and F2 catching it is considered a trapped ball.
- 32 A bat that shows signs of tampering shall be considered an altered bat

- 33 The run ahead rule shall be applied when there are 20 runs after three innings, 15 runs after four innings and 7 runs after five innings.
- 34 The pitcher's pivot foot pushing off on follow through of a continuous motion is considered a crow hop.
- 35 A base on balls occurs when four pitches are judged by the PU to be outside the strike zone, including any illegal pitches. The ball is dead and the batter awarded 1B.
- 36 A fake tag is a form of obstruction. It occurs when the fielder, without the ball, deceives the runner thus impeding their progress causing the runner to, stop, slow down and or slide.
- 37 The starting DR may be substituted. However they do not have the right to re-enter. Once substituted their participation in the game ends.
- 38 A bat left lying on the field of play by the team now playing defense would not be considered official equipment.
- 39 A batter-runner is a player who has finished their turn at bat and not yet reached 1B.
- 40 The ball is dead when a Batter steps out of the batter's box, then back into the box, prior to swinging & missing the legally delivered pitch.
- 41 F1 takes her position in the pitcher's circle with both feet touching the sides of the pitcher's plate. She takes the signal from F2, then proceeds to leap toward the batter before delivering the pitch as she lands.
Ruling: The PU shall declare an illegal pitch.
- 42 The batter is out if, with two strikes, he intentionally slowly taps a legally pitched ball with the bat, and it comes to rest in foul territory.
- 43 The time limit for all SNZ U15 games shall be 135mins
- 44 R1 (DP) on 1B. The FLEX bats and hits a single advancing R1 to 3B. B1 then takes his place in the batter's box and receives a pitch. Time is requested by the Offense for the coach to confer with B1. After the time out, B2 takes his place in the batter's box and advises the PU that B1 was batting out of order and it is actually my turn. The defense, thinking they are incorrect, wait until B2 is put out, before appealing to the PU for the batting order violation.
Ruling: The PU should deny the batting out of order violation as everyone is in the correct batting order.
- 45 Official equipment is any equipment in current use by either the offensive or the defensive team in the course of play.
- 46 A batter intentionally swings at, then pulls back out of the zone. The pitched ball strikes the knob end of the bat and comes to rest just in front of home plate.
Ruling: Foul ball - the batter made no intention to hit the pitch and the umpire should rule the ball dead.
- 47 If after the third out, an appeal is made for batting out of order, the appeal will not result in a forth out, but will ensure the correct batting order is reinstated.

- 48 B1 hits a sharp drive in foul territory toward 3B. F5 attempts to catch the drive, but only succeeds in deflecting it into the diving glove of F6 also playing close to the foul line.
Ruling: Catch. Declare B1 out.
- 49 Umpires judgement is not protestable.
- 50 Any umpire may suspend play when in his judgement, conditions justify such action.
- 51 The head coach is responsible for signing the line-up card.
- 52 With one out and R1 on 1B, B3 hits a ground ball to F3. F3 tags B3 and immediately throws the ball to F6 who tags 2B before R1 reaches the base. This is a double play and the inning is over.
- 53 The ball is dead when a batter swings at, but misses a legally delivered pitch, that subsequently touches any part of the batter's clothing.
- 54 An altered bat has been used by several players before it is discovered. The penalty should apply to all batters who used the bat during this inning
- 55 There is no penalty for failing to list an available substitute on the line-up card.
- 56 Two runners may not occupy the same base at any given time. The lead runner is entitled to the base unless forced to advance by the batter becoming a batter-runner.
- 57 An appeal play is a play or situation that an umpire cannot make a decision unless requested by a manager or coach of the non-offending team, during a time out and only while standing on the field of play.
- 58 The PU mistakenly indicates the count to be 1-2 instead of 2-1. On the next pitch the batter swings and misses. Thinking she has three strikes, she walks into the dugout.
Ruling: The PU should declare her out.
- 59 The red team has #4 listed as the DP. In the 2nd inning, the coach replaces #5 with the starting FLEX.
Ruling: The PU should not allow this as this is an illegal re-entry.
- 60 Substitute Brown comes into the game in the fourth inning without reporting and hits a single. A pitch is thrown to the next batter before the defense appeals to the PU that Brown did not report.
Ruling: Remove Brown from the base, declare him out and ineligible to participate further in the game, (except as a coach).
- 61 R1 on 1B. F1 walks onto the mound with his hands together and proceeds to take the signal from F2. On seeing the PU signal the illegal pitch, R1 steals to 2B.
Ruling: The base umpire shall immediately call Dead Ball and declare R1 out, and the PU shall declare No pitch.
- 62 If a team chooses to use a DR (Designated Runner) it must be declared at the pre-game.
- 63 Approved manufactured cloths imbedded with resin only are permitted for use by the pitcher to dry the hands.

64 B2 bats in place of B1 and hits a triple. B3 takes her place in the batter's box. F1 separates her hand to deliver the pitch when her coach calls for Time. F1 stops her pitching motion, and the defensive coach appeals for B2, batting out of order.
Ruling: As no pitch has been delivered, the PU shall uphold the appeal, declare B1 out, nullify the hit of B2, and return B2 to the batter's box.

65 R1 at 3B, R2 at 1B, two out. Bottom of the 7th inning, Red team is trailing Blue team 0-2. B4 hits an out of the park home run. R2 misses 2B. The defense appeal for R2 missing 2B.
Ruling: R2 is declared out, no runs score and Blue team win 2-0.

66 As F1 is about to release the pitch, B1 steps out of the batter's box. Realising the PU has not called TIME, he steps back into the box, where he is hit by the pitch outside the strike zone.
Ruling: Dead Ball, Award B1 1B on the hit by pitch.

67 B1 drives a pitch directly back to F1. F1 is only able to get a bare hand to the ball and cuts her finger in the process. The PU should allow F1 to wear a flesh coloured tape to cover the wound and prevent blood getting on the ball.

68 R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B, two out. The defense request Time for an on field conference between the pitcher, catcher & first base. After the Time out, F3 notifies the PU, to walk to walk the batter in order to load the bases.
Ruling: The PU should ignore the request, as F3 is not able to make that decision.

69 Additional out appeals may only be made after the 3rd out to remove a run.

70 B1 hits a ground ball to F6, an unreported substitute, who fields the ball and throws B1 out at 1B. Before a pitch to B2, the offensive team protests that F6 is an illegal player.
Ruling: B1 has the option of batting again with F6 being ejected and replaced with a legal substitute.

71 Top of the 7th inning Blue team trails the Green team by one run. B1 bats in place of B7 and picks a walk. B8 hits the next pitch for a double, advancing B1 to 3B. B9 is struck out. The offense then note that B1 is already on base, so B2 takes his place in the box. He hits next pitch straight back to F1. The defense then appeal for B2 batting out of order.
Ruling: The umpire calls B1 out, upholds the out on B2 and the game is over.

72 The DP is batting for the FLEX in position three in the line-up. In the third inning the Coach places the FLEX in position five in the line-up. The FLEX bats and reaches 2B safely. After a pitch to B6, the defense appeals that the FLEX is an illegal player .
Ruling: The FLEX is replaced on 2B by a legal substitute and the FLEX and the coach are ejected.

73 Under SNZ rules, a team that starts with a DR (Designated runner) can finish the game without one.

- 74** B1 takes his place in the batter's box and prepares to receive the pitch. As F1 separates his hands to commence his wind-up B1 requests Time.
Ruling: The PU shall refuse the request and call the pitch a ball or strike depending on the location of the ball.
- 75** The on-deck batter is warming up with two bats. One bat has a rubber flare attached to the handle.
Ruling: The PU should remove the bat from the diamond. Continued use would result in ejection of the player using that bat.
- 76** The on-deck batter may not stay in the on-deck circle if doing so would create interference with a thrown ball and impedes the defensive player's opportunity to make a play. The penalty would be to call the runner closest to home out and return all other runners to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- 77** At the pre-game meeting the PU notes both teams are using a DP. When the defense take the field, the PU notices the DP takes the mound as F1. B1 is struck out and B2 has a 1-2 count before the offense appeal for the unannounced use of the DP.
Ruling: All plays stand. The PU shall declare the DP ineligible and request the defense provide a legal substitute for the DP and a new pitcher. The coach remains in the game.
- 78** R1 on 1B is stealing on the pitch. B2 swings at and misses, the pitch that bounces through the strike zone and tips off F2's glove into the ball bag of the PU. F2 searches in vain for the ball as the PU moves out of the way of F2. R1 easily steals to 2B.
Ruling: Delayed dead ball should be signaled, and R1 returned to 1B.
- 79** R1 on 3B, F5 is fielding close to 3B for a possible pick off. B2 has a 0-2 count when he bunts the ball down the 3B line. R1 stealing on the pitch, is hit in foul territory, prior to the ball reaching F5.
Ruling: The ball is dead and the R1 is out for interference.
- 80** B4 hits the winning home run. As the PU kicks the bat out of the path of the incoming runner, he hears the bat rattle.
Ruling: The PU shall declare B4 out, nullify the run and remove the bat from the game.
- 81** A starting substitute can be re-entered later in the game legally, (for no longer than the completion of the inning and one further inning), without penalty if announced for the correct situation.
- 82** R1 on 1B. R1 leads off on the pitch, that B2 flies out to F9. R1 returns to 1B, however tags up on the foul portion of 1B before successfully advancing to 2B. F2 requests time to appeal for the non- tag up of F3.
Ruling: As R1 was in contact with part of 1B, the umpire should deny the appeal.
- 83** An illegal re-entry enters the game unannounced. He can continue to play without penalty until discovered by the opposition.

- 84** No outs, R1 on 1B and B2 scheduled to bat. B4 comes to bat instead and grounds into a double play. Before the next batter steps into the batter's box, the defense appeals that B4 batted out of order.
Ruling: The double play stands and B2 is also declared out for the third out of the inning.
- 85** An illegal player is unable to be used as a replacement player, except when there are no other players available. If discovered, the penalty is the same as for an illegal re-entry.
- 86** With one out and bases loaded, F3 is playing in front of 1B. B5 hits a fair line drive that strikes R3 off base in fair territory and then the ball bounces into dead ball territory. When the ball went out of play, no runners had advanced to the next base.
Ruling: Dead Ball. All runners are advanced two bases. B5 is advanced to 2B.
- 87** B2 has a 0-1 count. F1 twists her ankle on landing as she pitches the next pitch that B2 swings at. The defense request a time out to attend to the injured F1. F3 takes the mound and her five warm-up pitches whilst the PU undertakes the fielding changes with the defensive coach. The new F1 throws the next pitch successfully striking out B1. The Offense then appeal that F1 is using a mitt and should be given the option to allow B1 to resume her at bat with the 0-2 count.
- 88** B2 at bat with a 2-2 count. F5 & F3 are playing up close expecting a bunt. On the next pitch, B2 attempts to slap the pitch over the head of F5 but, miss-hits and the ball pops up into foul territory, no higher than B2's head. F5 dives into foul territory to take the catch.
Ruling: B2 is out on the foul tip.
- 89** R1 on 2B. B2 hits a line drive that just tips the top of F6's glove before carrying to F7. R1 tagged up at 2B on the touch of F6, and easily advances to 3B. B2 is declared out on the catch. F7 throws to F4 for the appeal for leaving 2B before the catch on R1.
Ruling: The umpires deny the fielder's appeal.
- 90** Unannounced substitute (S3) enters the game in the top of the 3rd inning for F9. With 1 out, in the bottom of the 5th inning, S3 enters the batter's box. She has a 2-2 count when the coach requests time and replaces her in the batter's box with the correct batter, B2. After the next pitch called a ball, the Offence then appeal for the unannounced entry of S3.
Ruling: The PU declines the appeal, as S3 is not currently in the game.
- 91** R1 on 2B, one out. B3 hits a long fly ball that is dropped by F9 leaning over the outfield fence. R1 leads off, and returns to tag up for the possible catch. As he runs towards 3B, he trips and lands hard on one knee. The 3rd base coach steps in to help him to his feet. He pushes him off and limps toward home, where he once again stumbles. B3 helps him the rest of the way home touching home after R1.
Ruling: Award B3 a home run. R1 is out on the assistance at 3B. The ball remains dead.
- 92** R1 at 2B. B3 hits a long fly ball towards the outfield fence. F7 leaps to make the catch and collides with F8. In the process the ball tips off the glove of F7 and goes over the foul fence.
Ruling: Award R1 home, and B2 2B.
- 93** R1 on 2B, two out. B4 drives a pitch toward 3B. F5 deflects the hit toward the fence. F2 retrieves the ball and throws to F6 for the tag on R1, however the throw hits the coach on the shoulder allowing R1 to reach 3B safely.
Ruling: no penalty, R1 is safe at 3B.

- 94** R1 at 1B. B2 hits a long fly ball to right field. R1 holds up for the first touch or possible catch as B2 rounds 1B and passes him. F9 misses the hit as it curves into foul territory.
Ruling: B2 is out for passing R1 as the ball was still live at the time he passed R1.
- 95** R1 at 3B, R2 at 1B. R2 leads off on the pitch but does not run directly to 2B, instead stops 3/4 of the way, 1.0m off the baseline towards the outfield. F2 throws to F6 for the tag on R2. On the throw, R1 attempts to steal home. F6 looks for the tag on R2, before throwing to F2 but not in time for the tag, and R1 scores. R2 then continues his advance to 2B. The defense feel cheated and appeal for the runner making a travesty of the game.
Ruling: The umpire shall uphold the appeal, declare R2 out and return R1 to 3B.
- 96** R1 on 3B, one out. B3 picks a walk. He drops his bat and jogs towards 1B. F2 throws the ball back to F1 standing outside the pitcher's circle. B3 rounds 1B and makes to advance to 2B as F1 steps into the pitcher's circle. On seeing B3 advancing toward 2B he makes a throwing motion as if to throw the ball. On seeing this, R1 leads off 3B and stops. B3 continues to creep toward 2B. F1 still has the ball.
Ruling: R1 must immediately advance or return to the base or he will be declared out.
- 97** #46 is substituted by S2 in the 3rd inning. In the 4th inning, #46 returns to field. In the 6th inning S3 enters the batter's box unannounced. The defense wait until he has completed his turn at bat before appealing. The PU acknowledges the illegal player appeal, declares S3 out and advises the offensive coach. The offensive coach advises he will return #46 to the batting lineup in place of the un-notified S3.
Ruling: The PU should not permit this as this will result in an illegal re-entry.
- 98** Immediately prior to the defense taking the field, the coach advises that the DP will pitch. B1 hits a line drive that is misfielded by F4, resulting in the need for a replacement player to complete the inning. The defensive coach advises the FLEX will replace F4.
Ruling: The PU shall allow the FLEX to enter the game but not as a replacement player.
- 99** F8 is fielding deep on the outfield fence. B1 hits a long drive that F8 judges will clear the fence. He leaps the fence, leaps back onto the fence with one stride using the extra height to catch the hit and re-land in fair territory. **Ruling:** As only one foot regained playable territory prior to making the catch, this is not a valid catch and the umpire shall award B1 2B on the blocked ball.
- 100** B1 with a 0-0 count, steps backwards out of the box to get a running start on a slap. Both feet are in the box when he swings at, but completely misses the pitch that hits him on the hands (outside the strike zone).
Ruling: Dead Ball, Strike 1.

SNZ 2011 Rules Examination

NAMEASSN:.....

EMAIL:..... PH:.....

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Check your answers – Send ONLY THIS SHEET for marking – this is an OPEN BOOK EXAMINATION

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