

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 03-960 5705. Or scanned and emailed to nzumpire@ihug.co.nz
Please ensure your email address is written clearly as your mark will be emailed to you.
7. The exam closes **Tuesday October 29th** answers will be posted on the SNZ Website **TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER**.

You have three weeks to complete your answer paper, the use of the rule book is highly recommended

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

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- 1 The batter's box is the area to which the batter is restricted while in position with the intention of helping his team to obtain runs. The lines are considered as being inside the batter's box
 - 2 The warm up bat must be of one piece construction, and it shall comply with the safety grip and safety knob requirements of the official bat.
 - 3 If the defense has an OPO is listed on the line up card there must also be a Flex
 - 4 The catcher may have one foot outside the catcher's box when expecting to receive pitches intended to walk the batter, and may do so standing to indicate to everyone including the umpire, the intention to throw the 'waste' pitch
 - 5 Fair territory is any part of the playing field that is not included in foul territory including any part of the ball touching any part of the foul lines.
 - 6 A batter completes his turn at bat when they are declared out or become a batter runner.
 - 7 On a very windy day, the batter hits the ball high into air. It passes 1B in foul territory before the wind blows it back towards the 1st base line where it bounces in fair territory before rolling foul.
Ruling: Foul ball
 - 8 A player entering the game as a replacement player is not required to be notified to the plate umpire.
 - 9 One down. R1 on first base. B1 hits a pop-up to F4. He allows the ball to hit off the back of his glove and drop to the ground. He picks it up and tags R1 and throws the ball to F3 in time to take the out.
Ruling: Both runners are declared out.
 - 10 Team black lists Jones as the DP for Brown (F1). At the top of the 3rd inning the defense substitute Harvey for F1 & McDonald for the DP. In the 7th the coach re- enters Jones for McDonald. The changes are all legal.
 - 11 R1 on 2B, R2 on 1B, none out. R1 is stealing on the pitch. B3 miss hits the pitch that pops up close to the 3rd base line over fair territory. Momentarily blinded by the sun, the ball falls to the ground where it first hits F5's glove before rolling into foul territory. F5 retrieves the ball and throws to F4 covering 2B in time to beat R2 sliding into the base.
Ruling: R2 is out, R1 safe at 3B and B3 safe at 1B
 - 12 A base coach may leave the coach's box to signal a runner to slide
 - 13 In flight describes any batted, thrown, or pitched ball that has not yet touched the ground or some object other than a fielder
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- 14** A pitched ball that touches the ground on a strike, prior to the catcher catching it is a trapped ball.
- 15** At the top of the 8th innings team A is at bat and puts their fastest runner who is scheduled to bat 3rd onto 2nd base, after a pitch is thrown Team B informs the plate umpire that the incorrect runner is at 2nd base. The Plate umpire replaces R1 with the correct runner and play continues without penalty.
- 16** R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B and R3 on 3B, 1 out. B5 hits a sharp grounder towards left field. F6 anticipating the play makes a sharp stop & takes the hit on the first bounce, tags R1 standing on 3B before touching the base. She turns to make the throw to 1B for the third out, R1 knocks the ball from her hand.
Ruling: Dead ball, R3 the runner closest to home is declared out on the triple play.
- 17** The playing field is the area within the foul lines, from Home Plate to first and third base, extending to the Home Run fence and perpendicular upwards.
- 18** R1 on 2B. B3 hits a slow ground ball towards F6 (fielding in shallow left field). F6 runs towards the infield to field the ball, but collides with R1 advancing to 3rd base. R1 falls to the ground. The BU signals obstruction and indicates a delayed dead ball. R1 regains his feet and continues towards 3rd base. F6 fields the ball and throws to F5 . F5 has the ball when the R1 runs into him in an upright stance and knocks the ball out of his hands.
Ruling: The BU calls dead ball and calls out R1 on the interference, and promptly ejects him from the game for the flagrant act.
- 19** R1 on 1B two out. B4 hits a long drive between F8 & F9. R1 advances to 3rd base but loses his helmet as he rounds 2nd base. F9 throws to F6 for the tag on B4, however he trips on the discarded helmet and B4 is safe at 2nd base. The defense appeal for the out on B4.
Ruling: The umpire rules in favour of the defense. Dead ball B4 is declared out.
- 20** In the bottom of the 7th inning with no score, two out and R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B, R3 on 1B,. F1 delivers a 4th ball to B4. B4 advances to 1B, R1 scores, R3 advances to 2B, R2 thinking the game is over, walks directly to the dugout to cheer with her team mates. Prior to all fielders leaving the infield, F3 appeals for R2 missing 3B. The PU accepts the appeal, but advises the run counts as the appeal was made after the run had scored. The defense protests. Is this a protestable situation?
- 21** B1 with a 1-0 count hits a high foul fly ball that first contacts an overhanging branch before being caught by F3. The Umpire rules Dead ball, and returns B1 to the batter's box with a 1-1 count.
- 22** R1 on 1B none out, steals on the pitch. B2 swings at, and his momentum carries him across the plate. In attempting to throw out the stealing runner, F2 throws the ball high to get over the head of B2. The throw misses the outstretched glove of F6, and allows R1 to advance to 3rd base.
Ruling: This is an example of batter's Interference. The ball is dead, B2 is out and R1 is returned to 1st base.
- 23** A defensive player must use only the fair portion of first base at all times
- 24** The pitchers plate shall be of rubber, the top of the pitchers plate shall be level with the ground

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- 25** In the 2nd innings the umpire notices that the 3rd and 1st base coaches are wearing communication equipment. When questioned by the umpire the 3rd base coach informs him that it's because they don't want the opposing team to see their signals. The umpire considers that this is fair and the game continues without penalty
- 26** A helmet without earflaps is considered illegal for all players
- 27** A batted ball that makes contact with the double base exactly where the fair and foul portion of the base intersects should be ruled a foul ball by the plate umpire.
- 28** The batter is not out if his foot is touching home plate when he hits the ball, as long as part of his foot is also touching the line of the batter's box
- 29** It is a delayed dead ball when detached equipment contacts a thrown or fair-batted ball
- 30** Whether a fly ball can be caught or not to invoke the Infield Fly rule is a protestable situation
- 31** One down. R1 on third base. B1 hits the ball to F3. F3 attempts to tag B1 who in an effort to avoid the tag, steps back towards home plate. R1 Scores. **Ruling:** Declare B1 out and return R1 to third base
- 32** The line that forms the pitcher's circle is considered to be within the circle
- 33** When an Umpire requests help from his associate, the final decision rests with the umpire requesting assistance.
- 34** After being substituted twice, and no longer eligible to re-enter, a DP may enter the game as a replacement player.
- 35** The runner is not out when he is hit with a fair untouched batted ball over foul territory and in the umpire's judgement no fielder had an opportunity to make an out
- 36** None out R1 on 3B. B2 hits a sharp drive back to F1. The ball deflects off his glove and rolls behind two bats left leaning against the fence by the defense. F3 is obstructed whilst retrieving the ball by the falling bats.
Ruling: Dead ball. Award all runners two bases from the last base touched at the time of the pitch. B2 awarded 2nd base and R1 awarded home.
- 37** A forfeit is the act of the base umpire ruling that the game is over by declaring the non-offending team the winner
- 38** A substitute will be considered in the game when announced to the PU and a pitch or play has been made.
- 39** During the 2nd innings the base umpire notices F6 applying something to the ball. On inspection he notes it is a foreign substance and warns F6 not to do it again. In the 4th inning the base umpire notices F6 apply the foreign substance a second time.
Ruling: The umpire ejects F6 from the game as he committed the act a second time.

40 Official line up cards are to be completed and submitted to the Official Scorer and the plate umpire, at the start of each game. It is permissible for the Official Scorer to retain the line-up cards to assist the plate umpire for the duration of the game after the official line-up has been approved at the pre-game meeting with the managers by the plate umpire

41 The manager of the defensive team has a conference with the pitcher. He leaves the pitching area on his way to the dugout. After crossing the foul line he returns to the pitching area and says something more to the pitcher.
Ruling: The umpire shall charge a second conference

42 Smith, a listed substitute, legally replaces Brown in the top of the 2nd inning. Brown re-enters the game in the bottom of the 2nd inning, replacing Smith. In the top of the 4th inning, Jones slides into a base and opens an old injury on his leg that begins to bleed. Smith now enters the game as a Replacement Player for Jones. The defensive coach waits until a pitch has been thrown before he appeals Smith as an illegal re-entry.
Ruling: The Umpire refuses the appeal

43 B1 enters the batter's box. Just as F1 puts his hands together to pitch the ball B1 crosses over in front of F2 to the other batter's box.
Ruling: The plate umpire awards a strike against B1.

44 R1 on 3B, one out. B3 hits to shallow right field bouncing just in front of F9. F9 throws to F3 standing on the corner of 1st base. R3 thinking that F9 would throw to the plate, attempts to run through the inside corner of 1st base, and collides with F3 as he is about to catch the ball.
Ruling: Dead Ball B1 is declared out on the interference and R1 is returned to 3rd base.

45 The batter swings at the third strike and in doing so misses the ball, but is hit by the pitched ball.
Ruling: Dead ball and batter is declared out.

46 R1 on 3B in an attempted squeeze play. B2 swings at, but misses the pitch. F2 seeing R1 advancing, attempts to throw to F6 covering 3rd base. Unfortunately his throw deflects off the helmet of B2 still standing in the batter's box. The ball rebounds to the back net and R1 scores.
Ruling: Dead ball, R1 is returned to 3rd base, and B2 is declared out.

47 The fitness of the playing ground shall be determined by all umpires assigned to the game in a pre-game meeting

48 F4 makes a diving catch and takes the ball in the air. However as she hits the ground, the force knocks the ball from the glove.
Ruling: This is not a catch

49 A ball hit with a short controlled chopping motion (not a full swing) is considered to be a slap hit . A slap hit is not considered to be a bunt.

- 50** Team Red substitutes the DP in innings three for a pinch runner. In the fifth inning the coach re-enters the DP for a safe hit before again substituting him for another pinch runner. In the bottom of the 7th inning the coach re-enters the DP. The plate umpire refuses to accept the re-entry of the DP, so the coach lodges a protest.
Ruling: The Umpire will win the protest?
- 51** The penalty for excessive defensive conferences shall result in the pitcher listed at the time of the excess conference being declared an illegal pitcher.
- 52** A fielder must be in the infield when making an appeal.
- 53** An appeal for missed base at 1st base will only be accepted if made prior to the BR retouching the fair portion of 1st base.
- 54** R1 at 3B, two out. B4 with 2 for 2 at bat in this game enters the batter's box. Prior to the first pitch, F2 advises the PU he wishes to intentionally walk the batter. As B4 advances towards 1B, F2 again advises the PU he wishes to intentionally walk B5 also. B5 drops his bat and follows B4 towards 1st base. B4 stops just prior to 1st base to hand the base coach his batting gloves and protective arm shield before advancing to 2nd base. In doing so he misses touching 1st base. The defense appeals the missed base on B4.
Ruling: The PU does not accept the appeal.
- 55** The ball is always dead when the batter bunts foul on the 3rd strike.
- 56** On a caught fly ball, unintentionally carried into dead ball territory, the batter is out, and the ball is dead. All runners are awarded two bases from the time the ball was declared dead.
- 57** A ball hit by a batter that steps out of the batter's box, with a foot entirely in contact in the ground, prior to stepping back into the batter's box is declared dead.
Ruling: This is an illegally batted ball.
- 58** B5 swings at a pitch with a count of 2 balls and 2 strikes. The ball just nicks the bat and rebounds on the catcher's glove and then lands straight into the catcher's hand.
Ruling: This is a foul tip, the ball remains live and B5 is out.
- 59** A game is called off due to rain after five and a half innings and the score is tied. In order to get a result the game will be replayed from the beginning.
- 60** B1 hits a ground ball to the outfield fence. In advancing to 2nd base B1 touches the foul portion of 1st base. On reaching 2nd base the defensive team then appeal B1 missed touching the correct portion of the base.
Ruling: The umpire calls B1 out for touching the wrong portion of the base.
- 61** From the second inning, the lead-off batter shall be the batter who's name follows that of the last player called out in the preceding inning
- 62** No runner can advance on an illegally batted ball.
- 63** A metal bat that becomes dented through use, and will no longer pass through a bat ring, is considered to be an altered bat.

- 64** R1 on 2B leads off on the pitch. B2 hits the ball deep to right of centre field. Thinking that it will carry, R1 advances to and rounds 3rd base before seeing the ball caught by F9. R1 stops and turns to run back to 2nd base and runs into F5 moving to cover as back up on the deep throw from F9. The throw beats R1 to 2nd base.
Ruling: Even though R1 was obstructed retreating to 2nd base, he clearly would not have made it back in time, so the obstruction is nullified and R1 declared out.
- 65** Washington is listed on the line-up in position 7. At the pre-game, the coach advises Roxworthy will replace Washington in the line-up due to an injury.
Ruling: The change is legal, Roxworthy is now the starting player and Washington can enter the game as a substitute.
- 66** All players must display their name on the back of their playing shirt in letters no smaller than 6 inches (15.2cm) (6")
- 67** The pitcher's right foot is not always the right foot
- 68** Any of the starting players and substitutes on the approved team list at the start of the game is allowed one re-entry during the course of the game.
- 69** B3 is in the batter's box with a 1-1 count, the captain of the defence team informs the plate umpire that he wishes to intentionally walk B3, the plate umpire denies the request. Is the plate umpire correct
- 70** As B1 is about to enter the batter's box, the PU notices that B1 is using a bat with plastic tape on the handle. The PU calls "Time" and declares B1 out.
- 71** R1 on 1st with one out. He is running on the pitch when B2 hits a long fly ball to deep right field. Thinking the ball will be caught R1 returns to 1st base but stumbles and falls. B2 assists him as he rounds 1st base. The ball goes over the fence for a home run.
Ruling: The umpire shall rule that both runs score
- 72** Must a male player wear a cap if he is wearing an approved helmet while playing defence
- 73** When a runner is called out for being physically assisted by anyone other than another runner, the ball is in play.
- 74** If a Manager, coach or other team official violates a rule, he may be warned for the first offence. For the second offence or the first offence is considered serious enough, the offender shall be ejected.
- 75** The official bat may be no longer than 86.4cm (34in) and weigh more than 1077.0 grams (38ounces) for male fast pitch players
- 76** A pitcher's unorthodox wind up leads him to hold a pause of the ball with his hands together for 5 seconds on the right side of his body before starting his forward motion.
Ruling: This is a legal pitch.
- 77** Offensive and defensive conferences will not be charged if they take place at any time when the umpire has suspended play

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- 78** Top of 5th inning Brown substitutes for Wilson. In the bottom of the 5th the PU notices Wilson has returned to his fielding position. After a pitch to the next batter, the offense appeal for the illegal re-entry.
Ruling: Declare Wilson ineligible and replace him with a legal substitute.
- 79** R1 on 1B, none out. B2 is obstructed by F2 as he hits the ball to F6. F6 errors the throw to F3. B2 misses 1B, on his advance to 2B. R1 advances to 3B, on the error. B2 is tagged out attempting to return to 1B.
Ruling: The obstruction is nullified and B2 is declared out.
- 80** After two innings the pitcher's have created a hole behind the pitching plate. Red team pitcher brings his rear foot back slightly to toe up at the edge of the hole, but no longer in contact with the plate. **Ruling:** This is allowed as the pitcher should be balanced prior to pitching the ball.
- 81** R1 on 2B, R2 on 1B. B3 hits a long fly ball to centre field which is caught. Both runners advance on the catch. The defence appeal immediately that R1 left early. The umpire agrees.
Ruling: Declare R1 out and R2 remains on 2nd base
- 82** A Batter who fails to wear a batting helmet after being ordered to do so by an Umpire, will be declared out.
- 83** Thinking that the batter will "pull" the ball, F5 Takes his position straddling the third base line. This is legal.
- 84** Team A disputes a call at 3rd base on a 3 man umpiring team. After a lengthy debate on the call refuse to carry on the game.
Ruling: The umpire at 3rd base, who's call it was, declares a forfeit game as Team A has refused to continue the game
- 85** The ball is dead when an Infield fly is called, and all runners must return to the base they occupied prior to the last pitch
- 86** F1 enters the diamond wearing a long sleeve cut off on his pitching arm only. The coach explains that his pitcher is recovering from a serious burn that needs to be kept out of the sun.
Ruling: provided the pitcher has both arms covered, with a long sleeve top, there is no penalty for the pitcher.
- 87** A thrown ball hits a photographer in foul territory of the right-field area who was given permission to be there by the plate umpire. Though the photographer did not have any intention to stop the ball, base-umpire declared dead-ball immediately when the thrown ball hit the photographer
- 88** Unannounced substitute Smith is entered in the 2nd inning in position F7. In the 4th inning B4 hits a fly ball which is caught by Smith. The Offence appeals for Smith being an illegal substitute. The Umpire removes Smith from the game and declares him ineligible and a legal substitute takes his place in the field. In the sixth inning Smith re-enters in position F7 and fields a ground ball. The Offence again appeal for Smith being an illegal player.
Ruling:The Umpire ejects Smith from the game and the starting player takes his place on the field.

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- 89** The batter steps out of the batter's box during the pitcher's delivery, the ball remains live and the pitch is determined a "strike" or "ball" in relation to strike zone of the batter
- 90** A Manager calls time, and is given time. He enters the infield and talks to the pitcher, then notifies the Umpire he is making a pitching change. While the new pitcher is taking his warm-up pitches the manager talks to the new pitcher. This is not considered a charged conference.
- 91** R1 on 2B.B2 hits a ground ball to F6 who bobbles the ball. The ball bounces behind F6, who attempts to retrieve it but makes contact with R1, slowing his advance. F6 picks up the ball and throws to F5 who tags R2 out.
Ruling: Dead ball, R1 awarded 3B on the obstruction of F6.
- 92** R1 on 3B, R2 on 1B, two out. B5 hits a slow roller to F4, who backs up to delay the tag, allowing R1 to score. B5 makes 1B before R2 is finally tagged.
Ruling: R1 scores as this is a timing play
- 93** B1 tries to avoid being hit by a wild pitch and steps onto home plate. The wild pitch hits the end of the bat and rolls foul.
Ruling: The ball is dead and the batter is out
- 94** During the pregame meeting with the Coaches, the coach of Green team erases the lines of the batter's box. The Umpire informs him that the first batter up from Green team will start with a strike called on him.
- 95** R1 on 2B one out. B3 hits a grounder to the outfield. R1 rounds 3B on the hit. F8 field the ball and throws to F2, who is blocking the plate. The ball reaches F2 simultaneous with R1. The ball hits F2's glove and rolls out. F2 grabs the ball and tags R1.
Ruling: The umpire rules R2 out.
- 96** If a player, manager, coach or other team official is ejected from the game, he/she shall go directly to the dressing room for the remainder of the game, or leave the grounds
- 97** A defensive conference should not be charged when a coach shouts instruction from the dugout
- 98** The plate umpire is having a bad day behind the plate, both opposing teams complain to the 3rd & 1st base umpires. After consulting with the plate umpire he agrees to swap with the 3rd base umpire. The game continues without any further problems. Were the umpires correct in their decision
- 99** At a pre-game bat inspection for team A, an umpire discovers a well worn bat which is an Easton bat on the approved ISF bat list. However, the markings "OFFICIAL ISF APPROVED SOFTBALL" are totally worn out and cannot be found anywhere on the bat.
Ruling: This is legal bat.
- 100** A base umpire can forfeit a game if he is physically attacked by a player

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NAMEASSN:.....

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

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

This Exam **CLOSES OCTOBER 29th 2013**

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