

SNZ UMPIRES ANNUAL RULES TEST

PRE-AMBLE:

1. This Annual Rules Test is based on the New Zealand Rule Book - as revised August 2014 and relates to Fast Pitch only.
2. For the sake of brevity and clarity some questions will use the following symbols:

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:

BR is the batter-runner; B1 is the lead-off batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.

FOR SUBSTITUTES:

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

FOR THE BASES:

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

FOR THE UMPIRES:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This Rules Test is an **Open Book Test**. You may use the New Zealand Rule Book to answer the questions. We highly recommend you do so. Answer strictly according to the New Zealand Rule Book and **NOT** local bylaws and/or ground rules.
2. Only the answer sheet (page 10) of this Rules Test is to be returned for marking. You should retain the question portion for your records and further study.
3. There are 100 questions in total.
4. All answers are either TRUE/FALSE and are worth (1) mark each (a total of 100 marks).
5. Please indicate your answer by writing on the answer sheet **T** or **F**
6. Answer sheets are to be scanned and emailed to tamakikm@actrix.gen.nz or can be posted to Wiremu Tamaki, 28A Manuka Street, Otaki 5512. If sending by post, where possible please provide an email address as your mark will be emailed to you.
7. The Rules Test will close **Sunday November 2nd**. The answers will be posted on the SNZ Umpires Website **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5.**

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

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- 1 It is legal to put an extra layer of tape on the handle of a metal bat which already has a proper rubber sleeve-type grip.
- 2 When F6 takes the field at the start of the game, it is noticed that he has a glove with a white circle on the outside that resembles a ball. The umpire allows F6 to use the glove.
- 3 With the bases loaded, a 4th ball is called and the runner from 3B removes his helmet prior to touching home plate. The umpire calls the runner from 3B out.
- 4 At the end of an inning, F2 leaves his mask in the playing field outside the dugout. His team now comes to bat and during the inning, a thrown ball hits the mask causing interference on an attempted play on a runner. The umpire calls the runner being played on out.
- 5 The 3B coach starts in the coach's box and as the runner approaches 3B, the coach moves down the line toward home to signal the runner to advance or to slide. This is legal and not considered interference.
- 6 The Coach inspects the line-up card at the pre-game meeting and the line-up is approved by the Coach and the PU. Two minutes later and prior to the first pitch of the game, the Coach advises he wants to change one of his starting players. This is considered a substitution.
- 7 The batter hits a fly ball to F8 who gets the ball in his/her hands but drops it when they start to throw to the infield. This a legal catch.
- 8 The 3B coach requests time to confer with the batter. Later in the same inning, the 1B coach requests time to confer with the 3B coach. The umpire should not allow this.
- 9 F1 may take the pitching position with his hands already together.
- 10 F1 delivers the ball to the batter without moving either foot from the pitcher's plate. The umpire calls an illegal pitch.
- 11 F1 has a maximum of 20 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball, or from the moment the umpire indicates "play ball".
- 12 With R1 on 3B and one out, Team "A" has informed the umpire that B4 and then B5 will be walked intentionally. This is permissible.
- 13 R1 on 2B and B3 at bat with a 2-2 count. F1 delivers the next pitch as R1 is called out for leaving the base too early. The pitch is called a strike. This is a double play.
- 14 The on-deck batter requests he be allowed to stand in the other team's "on-deck circle" because he wants to. The umpire allows this.
- 15 For the infield fly rule to be in effect, there must be less than two outs and runners on 1B and 2B, or runners on 1B, 2B, and 3B.

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- 16** If the batter drops the bat and the bat rolls against the ball over fair territory, the batter is not out.
- 17** It is a legal pitch if the ball slips from the pitcher's hand on the back swing of the arm during the delivery.
- 18** A batted ball that first touches foul ground between home plate and 3B, and then bounds over 3B and lands in fair territory is a foul ball.
- 19** A base runner is called out if he runs out of the base line to avoid a fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball.
- 20** If a line drive hits the pitching rubber and deflects untouched into foul territory between home plate and third base, it will be a foul ball.
- 21** Umpires should not allow more than one (1) charged offensive conference per inning.
- 22** A batter-runner may not step back toward home plate to avoid a tag.
- 23** Any base runner returning to a base while the ball is in-play, must touch the bases in reverse order.
- 24** The pitcher may wear a sweatband or similar type item on the wrist or forearm of the pitching arm.
- 25** A fielder catches the ball in the glove and drops the ball while transferring to the throwing hand. This is not a legal catch.
- 26** After over-running the double base, the batter-runner must return to the fair portion.
- 27** A coach can dispute a judgment "out" or "safe" call at any base.
- 28** If a team has only nine players, and one becomes injured, they can finish the game with eight.
- 29** A fair ball is ruled when a bounding ball passes over 1B or 3B and lands in foul territory.
- 30** The on-deck batter can use either on-deck circle.
- 31** It is not a requirement for a batter's helmet to have ear flaps.
- 32** A batter-runner, who overruns 1B, may return to 1B in fair or foul territory providing he is not judged to be making an attempt to advance.
- 33** The ball remains in play when a runner unintentionally kicks a ball which a fielder has missed.
- 34** A force out can only be accomplished by touching the base to which a runner is forced to advance.
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- 35** An umpire can call time while the ball is live, if he feels there is serious injury to one of the players.
- 36** The three-foot line starts at home plate and continues to 1st base.
- 37** To be deemed regulation, a game called for reasons other than the run ahead rule, must have completed at least 4 ½ innings of play.
- 38** A batted ball has bounced on the foul line beyond 3B and has then gone foul. This is a foul ball.
- 39** After being directed by the plate umpire to “Play Ball”, F1 does not need to have the ball in his or her possession to be on or near the pitcher’s plate.
- 40** F1 may ask the PU to intentionally walk a batter without throwing any pitches.
- 41** The pitch is in the strike zone when it touches B1. The PU should call dead ball and a “strike” on B1.
- 42** A batted ball comes to rest on home plate. This is a fair ball.
- 43** A runner may legally advance when a legally caught ball is first touched.
- 44** A player who over slides any base (not including home plate) other than 1B is in jeopardy of being put out by the defense if the player is touched with the ball while still off base.
- 45** While R1 is running to 2B, F4 touches him with the glove while holding the ball in his other hand. The BU calls R1 out.
- 46** On a dropped 3rd strike - pass ball, F2 fields the ball in 1B foul territory and throws to F3 who is standing on the foul portion of 1st base, before the batter-runner reaches the base. The BU calls the BR out.
- 47** Protective leg and arm guards may be worn by a batter or batter-runner, but not by a runner.
- 48** The ball is in play when F1 loses control of the ball during his windup and runners are allowed to advance at their own risk.
- 49** B1 hits a slow roller toward F3. Realizing he will not win the “foot race” to the bag, F3 tries to tag the BR. The BR avoids the tag by sliding under it, safely touching the foul portion of the double base with his hand. The BR’s momentum on the slide causes him to over slide the base. F3 tags the BR. The BU calls the BR out for over sliding 1B.
- 50** A ball is considered outside of the playing field when it touches an object outside the playing area.

- 51** The Plate Umpire must wear the same safety equipment as the catcher except for the helmet.
- 52** B1 hits a fly ball to centerfield and the ball hits the top of the outfield fence, bounces up into the air and is over the fence when F8 catches it. The BR slides into 3B safely. The BU calls "Time", rules a ground rule double and returns the BR to 2B.
- 53** F1 comes to bat and is legally substituted by S2. S2 singles and is then legally substituted by S3. When the team returns to play defense they try to re-enter F1 to pitch, but the umpire will not allow him to re-enter.
- 54** The starting F1 is excluded from the pitching position by the umpire in the 4th inning as a result of the team exceeding three defensive conferences. The same F1 comes back to pitch again in the 7th inning. The offensive team appeals to the PU before one pitch is thrown. The umpire ejects the pitcher.
- 55** In a women's game, most of the team players are wearing jewelry in the form of ear studs and neck chains. The pitcher is wearing long hanging earrings which are swinging when she moves. The Umpire instructs only her to remove her earrings as they are a distraction.
- 56** If a person, other than a team member enters the playing field and interferes with a fielder about to field a fair batted ball, the umpire will rule a dead ball and award the batter-runner 1B and runners advanced only if forced.
- 57** The umpire will eject the manager from the game without a warning, if he/she is found to be using illegal communication equipment.
- 58** If a player or coach disputes the umpire's judgment of balls and strikes, the Manager could receive a team warning, and any team member could be ejected from the game if he argues a call following the warning.
- 59** With two outs and a 2-2 call on the batter, the next pitch is called a ball. The batter steps out of the batter's box to take a signal from his coach. The Umpires calls strike three and the end of the inning.
- 60** Smith, a Replacement Player, has entered the game for Jones who had blood on his uniform. (The Coach did not announce Smith). After one pitch has been thrown, the opposing coach brings this to the umpire's attention. The umpire declares Smith Ineligible.
- 61** The home team (batting second) is losing by one run after five and a half completed innings. The home team scores two runs, in the bottom of the 6th inning, but the game is called due to weather conditions, before the home team has completed its turn at bat. The umpire rules this is a regulation game with the home team winning.
- 62** With two outs, the catcher bats and hits a two base hit. The offensive coach applies the temporary runner rule and places the last out of the inning at 2B. After the next pitch has been thrown, the defensive coach protests that the temporary runner is the incorrect player. Ruling: The Umpire calls the incorrect runner out.

- 63** On the line-up that is submitted to the PU before the game begins, Team B has Jones listed as the DP and Akers as the FLEX and in position F1. When team "B" goes onto the field, the manager informs the PU that the DP will now pitch and Ackers will leave the game. This is legal.
- 64** In the bottom of the 7th inning with the score tied, Team "A" has Cox (batting in the 3rd position in the line-up) running at 2B, Roberts (batting in 4th position) at 1B, and Adams (bating in the 5th position) in the batter's box with two outs. Before Adams completes her turn at bat, Cox is retired sliding into third. When Team "A" comes to bat in the 8th inning, they place Cox at 2B as the tie-break runner, because she was the last player out in the 7th.
- 65** R1 at 3B and R2 at 1B with one out. B4 hits a line drive to F6 which is caught. F6 throws to 1B to double up R2 who had left base on the hit. R1 tags up and scores when the ball is overthrown out of play. R2 fails to tag up and goes directly to 3B on a two base award for the overthrow. When the ball is returned to the infield, the defense appeals that R2 did not tag up and the umpire calls R2 out but scores the run.
- 66** Top of third inning, B2 is on 1B with two outs. B4 hits to F6, who tosses to 2B to force out B2 (third out), but B4 is safe at 1B. Before the defense left the field, they appeal that B3 should have batted. The umpire checks the batting order and sees that B3 should have batted. The umpire calls B3 out to re-establish the correct batting order.
- 67** The on-deck batter sees a pop foul come towards the direction of the on-deck circle he is in. There is a bat on the ground and one in his hands when he gets out of the way of F2 trying to make a catch. F2 trips over the bat on the ground preventing him from catching the ball. The umpire rules interference on the on-deck batter, the batter-runner is out and other runners are returned to the base held at the time of the pitch.
- 68** With F1 on the pitchers' plate ready to pitch, the batter steps out of the batter's box to stop play. The umpire did not grant time and F1 delivered the ball. The umpire should call a strike as the batter may not step out of the box.
- 69** F1 delivers a change up and the batter swings and misses, but has time to reset and swing again, making contact the second time, the ball lands in fair territory. The umpire rules dead ball.
- 70** On a fine day, the pitcher is playing without an undershirt. The weather changes and the pitcher calls time to put on a compression sleeve on his pitching arm to keep it warm. The umpire allows this.
- 71** B2 enters the batter's box on the left side, sets, and the umpire signals F1 to pitch. B2 then switches to the opposite batter's box while F1 is in position ready to pitch. This is legal.
- 72** None out with R1 on 2B. F1 pitches and R1 starts for 3B. F2 comes up throwing. B2 steps out of the batter's box as F2 throws the ball and it hits B2's helmet. R1 safely reaches 3B as the ball goes out of play. The umpire calls dead ball and calls B2 out for interference and returns R1 to 2B.

- 73** The batter is awarded an intentional walk. Immediately after the BR has started to 1B, F1 walks to F2 for a conference. The batter rounds 1B and reaches 2B before F1's throw arrives. The umpire allows the BR to remain on 2B.
- 74** B1 hits a fair ball to the outfield. B1 touches only the foul portion of the double base and continues to 2B. On an appeal, B1 would be out for missing 1B.
- 75** The batter is out and the ball is dead, if an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball, with less than two outs and a runner on 1B, including a line drive or a bunt. In order to invoke this rule, the fielder has to touch the ball which could have been caught with ordinary effort.
- 76** After overrunning 1B, the batter-runner returns to the fair portion of the base. He then steps on to the foul portion of the base to hand the coach his batting gloves. The pitcher is in the pitching circle in possession of the ball. The Umpire calls the runner out at 1B for not being in contact with the base.
- 77** R1 on 2B and R2 on 1B with one out when B4 hits a high foul fly ball between home and 1B. The ball drops to the ground without being touched and rolls into fair territory halfway between 1B and home. F1 picks up the ball and throws to F4 at 1B who tags R2 off the base. The umpire calls B4 out on the infield fly and R2 out on the tag.
- 78** R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B, and R3 on 1B with one out. B4 hits a high infield fly, and "infield fly" is ruled. No fielder catches the ball, which falls and rolls toward the 1B line, where it touches B4 over fair territory running to 1B. F2 now grabs the ball and throws to 3B to retire R1 who is off the base when tagged. This is still a double play as R1 is out on the interference by B4, not on the tag.
- 79** Brown, playing at 2B, is legally substituted in the third inning. He re-enters in the 4th inning and is substituted out of the game again in the 5th inning. In the 6th inning, Jones injures himself and has to be withdrawn from the game as his leg is bleeding. The coach advises the umpire that he will use Brown as the "replacement player". The umpire refuses the request on the grounds that Brown cannot re-enter the game on more than one occasion.
- 80** The batter receives a fourth ball and his coach immediately requests "time". The umpire does not call time.
- 81** B1 hits a fair ball that ricochets off F3 into foul territory. F3 retrieves the ball and B1 and F3 are side by side running to 1B. F3 reaches the foul portion before B1 reaches the fair or foul portion. The umpire calls B1 out.
- 82** B3 has a 2-2 count when he requests and is granted "time." . He then changes from a wooden bat to a metal bat. This is legal.

- 83** B3 enters the batter's box with a metal angular bat. This bat is legal.
- 84** In the bottom of the second inning of a Jr. Women's U-19 game, one of the teams protests that the pitching distance was at 12.19m (40 feet). The umpires should call out the grounds crew and immediately correct the distance.
- 85** Substitute S1 reports and takes a position in the batter's box for B6. Before a pitch is thrown the manager replaces S1 with S2. S1 can come back in the game later.
- 86** The umpire calls a ball on B1 and F2 throws the ball back to F1. F1, upset with the call, throws two pitches underhand to F6 before getting back on the pitcher's plate for the next pitch. Throwing to another defensive player between pitches is a violation.
- 87** F1 develops a blister on one of the fingers of the pitching hand. To prevent the wound from bleeding, the pitcher is seen applying a thin layer of an artificial repair known as "new skin" or "second skin" to his finger. The umpire allows the pitcher to pitch.
- 88** R1 at 2B, with B3 at bat and one out. On a 2-2 count, an "illegal pitch" is called and the batter swings. F2 drops the ball, but throws B3 out at 1B. R1 advances to 3B. Once the play is over, the Manager has an option.
- 89** Smith, F1 for Team "A", singles to F7. The coach now requests, and is granted, "Time" and speaks with Smith as he is putting his warm-up jacket on. The umpire informs the coach that this is a charged conference.
- 90** In the bottom of the fourth inning, the manager requests "Time" so he can confer with F1 on the mound. Three batters later, in the same inning, the manager;
- (a) yells to F6 to pitch and F1 to go to F6, or
(b) informs the PU on the way to the mound that he is changing F1 to another position.
- This action occurs prior to a discussion with any defensive player. The coach is charged with a second conference.
- 91** F1 and F2 are ready; however the batter just stands out of the batter's box looking at the coach giving signals. Finally the umpire states "Play Ball!" The batter continues to look at the coach, 10 seconds lapses, and the umpire calls a strike. No pitch has been thrown.
- 92** R1 at 2B. There is "F2 Obstruction" on a base hit by B2. R1 is thrown out at the plate, but missed 3B on the way to the plate. Even though R1 is out, the offensive manager stated R1 never touched 3B, therefore has not legally advanced a base and wants the F2 obstruction enforced, rather than the result of the play. The umpire agrees.
- 93** B1 hits a fair batted ball that deflects off F3 and the ball rolls into foul territory between home and 1B. F2 retrieves the ball and throws to F4 standing on the foul portion of the double base. B1, electing to run to the fair portion, is struck by the thrown ball over fair territory before reaching 1B. The BR is not out.

94 R1 is on 1B with no outs when B1 bunts a ball that's first caught in flight by F1, but subsequently dropped. F1 immediately recovers the ball and throws toward 2B and a 1-6-3 double play is completed. The PU, judging F1 intentionally dropped the ball, called a dead ball, ruled B1 out and directed R1 to return to 1B. The defensive coach claimed that an intentionally dropped ball ruling cannot be made on a bunted ball. The umpire is correct.

95 R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B, and R3 on 1B with no outs. B4 hits a single with R1 scoring and R2 advancing to the plate. The throw comes to the plate and R2 is caught in a rundown between 3B and home. R3 advances to 3B and is standing on 3B while B4 advances to 2B. R2 is obstructed going back to 3B and is then tagged out by F2. F2 then tags R3 standing on 3B. The umpire calls "Dead Ball" when R2 is tagged, places R2 on 3B and calls R3 out on the tag.

96 B7 hits a ground ball to F6 who makes a wild throw to 1B. The ball hits a player standing in the opening of the dugout and rebounds into the playing field. The umpire rules a dead ball and advances the runners two bases from the time of the throw.

97 Bottom of the 7th inning with the score tied and two outs. R1 on 2B and R2 on 1B. B5 hits a single to LF that is fumbled by F7. R1 scores on the hit. R2, thinking the game is over, leads off 1B a short distance and stops to watch the play. B5 rounds 1B and passes R2. F6 then touches 2B, suggesting it is a force out, thus nullifying the winning run.

98 R1 is on 1B when B2 hits a fly ball deep to LF. R1 advances, rounds 2B when he/she believes F7 will make the catch. R1 retreats, first touching 2B and is between 1B and 2B when F7 cannot make the catch. F7 recovers the ball and throws to 2B for an apparent force out on R1. The umpire rules that a force is not in effect and R1 must be tagged to be put out.

99 R1 at 3B, R2 at 2B and R3 at 1B with two outs. The offensive coach calls a time out and brings all runners to him. Needing two runs to tie, the coach has R2 and R3 switch because of R3's speed. When the conference is over, R3 goes to 2B and R2 to 1B. B4 hits a double scoring R1 and R3, with R2 advancing to 3B. B5 strikes out. Now the defense appeals to the umpire that R2 is on 3B, and was on 2B prior to the conference. The umpire calls both R2 and R3 out, and nullified the run scored by R3. R1's run does score. The manager calling the charged conference is ejected from the game.

100 R3 on 3B, with one out. F3 is fielding close to the foul line, half way between home and 1B. B5 slaps the ball past F3 and it is fielded by F4. R3 advances toward home on the hit, as F4 throws to F2. In an effort to get out of the way of F4's throw to home, F3 hinders B5 who is running to 1B, causing him to stumble. R3 crosses home plate safely, as F2, seeing B5 has not yet reached 1B, throws the ball to F4 now covering 1B. The ball beats B5 who is called out. RULING: The umpire should allow the play to stand.

SNZ RULES TEST ANSWER SHEET

NAME:ASSOCIATION:

EMAIL:PH:

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

A reminder this Rules Test closes SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2ND 2014

Email: tamakim@actrix.gen.nz or post Wiremu Tamaki, 28A Manuka Street, Otaki 5512