



# 2012 ASA Umpire Exam

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The examination consists of 50 questions based on Rules 1-10 and the Mechanics section of the ASA Official Rule Book. Questions are true or false and multiple choice. Answers should be put on the answer sheet and returned to the grader or test committee. **THE ANSWER SHEET SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE ASA NATIONAL OFFICE.**

The abbreviations used in the questions follow the following: B (N) = Batter; R1 = runner closest to home; R2 is the succeeding runner; R3 is the runner on first base when the bases are full; S (N) = substitutes; CR (N) = courtesy runner(s); PC (N) = physically challenged player; and F (N) = fielder by number. F1 is pitcher; F2 is catcher; F3 is first baseman; F4 is second baseman; F5 is third baseman; F6 is shortstop; F7 is left fielder; F8 is center fielder; and F9 is right fielder. If F10 is used it would be the extra fielder in the slow pitch game.

This examination may be given to all ASA registered umpires under one of the following methods to be determined by your local state/metro ASA commissioner, local umpires association, local parks and recreation department, or military sports officer:

- 1) Under supervision without the use of the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 2) Under supervision using the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 3) With no supervision and using the ASA Official Rule Book.

Retain the question portion of this examination for further study. Use care in marking your answer sheet. PLEASE COMPLETE THE EXAM BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

After completing, mail or return the ANSWER SHEET ONLY to:

GRADER \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY  
OF SOFTBALL

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## 2012 General Questions - True or False

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1. As R1 races toward home plate F2 blocks the plate causing R1 to slow down resulting in R1 being tagged out. The umpire rules that F2 is legally blocking the plate because F2 was about to receive the ball.
2. With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a grounder to F4 who attempts to tag R1 but R1 reverses directions and runs back to first base. The umpire rules a dead ball and R1 out.
3. No run can score on the third out of an inning when the preceding runner is called out on an appeal for failing to touch a base.
4. With no outs, R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B3 hits the ball up the middle for a base hit. An errant throw to F2 allows R1 to score. F2 retrieves the ball but the on-deck batter interferes with F2 who is attempting to tag R2. The umpire rules a dead ball at the time of interference, R2 is out and B3 must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
5. A blocked ball is a batted, pitched or thrown ball that is touched, stopped or handled by a person not engaged in the game, or which touches loose equipment or any object that is not part of the official equipment or official playing area.
6. The base line is a line directly between a base and the runner's position at the time a defensive player is attempting to tag that runner.
7. In cold weather, a player puts a warming sleeve on a bat. The umpire should allow usage of that bat because the warming sleeve did not change the characteristics of the bat as produced by the manufacturer.
8. (SP ONLY) If the umpire mistakenly allows two intentional walks at one time and the first batter fails to touch first base, an appeal shall be honored on the first batter.
9. (SP ONLY) The pitcher must come to a full and complete stop with the ball in front of the body. The front of the body must face the batter. This position must be maintained at least two seconds before starting the delivery.
10. Interference is the act of an offensive player or team member, umpire or spectator that impedes, hinders, or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play. Contact is not necessary.
11. (SP ONLY) If the EP is used, the team may drop down to 10 players and go back to 11 players as many times as they have legal substitutes.
12. A bat with an axe-shaped handle is legal in all divisions of ASA play.
13. A substitute may be reported by the manager to the official scorekeeper or to the plate umpire.
14. Obstruction is the act of a defensive team member who impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases and that fielder is fielding a batted ball.
15. (SP ONLY) A limit of six (6) over the fence home runs will be used in Co-ed Open and Women's C Slow Pitch.
16. It is not interference if a runner intentionally hits a deflected batted ball with their elbow while running the bases.
17. When there is spectator interference, the ball is dead, the batter and all runner(s) are awarded the bases they would have reached had the interference not occurred.

18. The batter becomes a runner on ball four.
19. A runner is out for interference even if that runner accidentally contacts a fielder attempting to throw the ball.
20. Wooden softball bats manufactured prior to 2000 may be used even though they do not bear the ASA Certification Mark
21. If a batter swings at and misses the pitched ball but accidentally hits it on the follow through, the umpire should:
- A: Allow the play to continue.
  - B: Declare "foul ball" as the batter was still in the batter's box.
  - C: Rule the ball "dead," call a strike on the batter and return all runners to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch.
  - D: Declare "catcher's obstruction."
22. (SP ONLY) The pitcher delivers the pitch with excessive speed. The umpire rules:
- A: Warns the pitcher and awards a ball on the batter.
  - B: Removes the pitcher from the game.
  - C: Awards a ball on the batter and awards all runners one base.
  - D: None of the above.
23. A player has the logo of another softball association on the uniform top.
- A: The player may continue playing if the logo is covered.
  - B: The player must change the uniform top even if the logo could be covered.
  - C: The player may finish the game wearing the uniform top but must have a uniform top without the logo for the next game.
  - D: The embarrassment and humiliation of wearing a uniform with the logo is sufficient punishment.
24. When a runner is positioned behind and not in contact with a base to get a running start on a fly ball:
- A: The runner must touch the base after the ball is caught or it will be considered a missed base.
  - B: The umpire shall call "dead ball" and the runner is out. Return all runners to the last base occupied.
  - C: The runner is called out and the ball remains live.
  - D: The runner is out only if they advance a base.
25. B1 hits a ground ball to F6, an unreported substitute, who fields the ball and throws B1 out at first base. Before a pitch to B2, the offensive team protests an unreported substitute. The umpire should rule:
- A: No penalty since F6 is in the game and a pitch was thrown to B1, F6 is considered a reported substitute.
  - B: The offensive coach has the option of taking the result of the play or having B1 bat again assuming the same count. All runners return to the last base occupied prior to the play.
  - C: B1 is out and F6 is ejected and replaced with a legal substitute.
  - D: B1 has the option of batting again and F6 is ejected and replaced with a legal substitute.
26. (SP ONLY) The over-the-fence home run limit for Industrial and Men's Class B is:
- A: 10
  - B: 8
  - C: 6
  - D: 4

27. (SP ONLY) The pitcher, while not in contact with the pitcher's plate, simulates a legal pitch. Which of the following statements is true?
- A: The pitch is ruled a ball or strike depending on its location.
  - B: No pitch.
  - C: Dead ball, an illegal pitch called and a warning issued to the pitcher.
  - D: Dead ball, no pitch and a warning issued to the pitcher.
28. B1 hits a ground ball to F6. F6's throw causes F3 to jump to catch the ball and land on the contrasting color portion of the base. B1 collides with F3, who is still on the contrasting color portion of the base.
- A: F3 is guilty of obstruction.
  - B: There is no obstruction and B1 is safe because F3 did not touch the white portion of the base.
  - C: B1 is safe because F3 did not touch the white portion of the base and the defensive team must appeal the play.
  - D: B1 is out because the throw pulled F3 into foul territory causing F3 to come down on the contrasting color portion of the base.
29. Smith is injured and replaced in the line-up by a legal substitute, Jones. Two innings later, Smith attempts to re-enter for Jones.
- A: Since Smith left the game because of an injury, Smith cannot re-enter.
  - B: Smith would have to obtain a physician's written approval before re-entering.
  - C: Smith could re-enter only if a signed document waiving any liability of the umpire from further injury.
  - D: Provided Smith has not previously re-entered, this is legal.
30. (SP ONLY) In Slow Pitch with stealing, a base on balls allows the batter-runner to:
- A: Advance to any base with liability to be put out and the ball remains live.
  - B: Advance to first base only and the ball remains live.
  - C: Advance to first base only and the ball becomes dead.
  - D: Advance to first base only, unless a play is made on another runner or an errant throw and the ball remains live.
31. A batter swings at the pitch and misses the ball, the umpire rules dead ball if the batter:
- A: Accidentally hits the ball on the follow through.
  - B: Intentionally hits the ball on the second swing.
  - C: Hits the ball after it bounces off the catcher's glove/mitt.
  - D: All the above.
32. With a count of 1-ball and 1-strike, B1 hits a high foul fly ball beyond first base. F9 straddles the dead ball line with her left foot completely in dead ball territory and her right foot completely in live ball territory. F9 raises her left foot off the ground just before catching the ball.
- A: Not a legal catch.
  - B: A foul ball is ruled.
  - C: Legal catch and B1 is out.
  - D: B1 remains at bat with a count of 1-ball and 2-strikes.
33. An offensive player is discovered by the defensive coach to have the wrong uniform number:
- A: The offensive player is disqualified.
  - B: There is no penalty. Correct the number in the score book or have the player change their jersey.
  - C: The offensive player is considered an illegal substitute.
  - D: Both the coach and player are disqualified.

34. The runner is out for interference and the ball is dead immediately in all of the following, EXCEPT:
- A: When a fielder is attempting to field a batted fair ball.
  - B: When a fielder is attempting to throw the ball.
  - C: When a runner is hit with a thrown ball.
  - D: When a runner physically assists another runner.
35. The ball becomes dead in all of the following situations, EXCEPT:
- A: The batter-runner steps backward toward home plate to avoid being tagged out.
  - B: There is interference by a runner or retired runner.
  - C: An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.
  - D: An illegal pitch is delivered.
36. (SP ONLY) With no outs, B1 has a 1-ball and 2-strike count. B1 hits the next pitch foul.
- A: The count remains 1-ball and 2-strikes.
  - B: The batter is allowed another foul ball.
  - C: The batter is out only if the ball is caught.
  - D: The batter is out.
37. Provided it is under the supervision and control of the umpire, which of the following is legal for a pitcher to use on the pitching hand:
- A: Powdered resin or any comparable drying agent.
  - B: Saliva
  - C: Rock resin.
  - D: All of the above.
38. The minimum length of grip tape allowed on the bat handle is:
- A: 10 inches
  - B: 6 inches
  - C: 12 inches
  - D: 15 inches
39. R1 is on first base; B2 is at bat with a count of 1 ball-2 strikes and no outs. B2 swings at the pitch and the foul tip is caught by F2. B2 runs toward first base. As R1 is diving back to first base, B2 collides with F3 who is attempting to catch the thrown ball from F2 to tag R1.
- A: B2 is declared out for interference; R1 remains at base.
  - B: B2 is already out and is charged with interference; R1 is also declared out.
  - C: B2 is awarded second base; R1 is awarded third base.
  - D: B2 is declared out for interference; R1 is awarded second base.
40. The batter-runner or runner may touch the white or contrasting color portion of the base:
- A: When tagging up on fly balls.
  - B: On balls hit to the outfield with no play on the batter-runner advancing to first base.
  - C: On an errant throw pulling the defense off the white portion of the base into foul ground.
  - D: All the above.

**Umpire Manual - True or False**

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41. (SP ONLY) The plate umpire should go "set" when the ball reaches the highest point of the pitch's arc.
42. In the Three Umpire System, with a runner on first base only, the plate umpire should rotate to third base, utilizing the holding zone.

43. When going to the outfield, move for an angle parallel to the flight of the ball as opposed to running directly at the fielder attempting to make the catch.
44. The base umpire cannot determine whether F3 pulled their foot on a play at first base. The base umpire should immediately go to the plate umpire for help before making the call.
45. In a run down, the umpire responsible for the coverage should move to get the best perspective of both ends of the play and should be approximately 10-12 feet from the rundown and move parallel to the baseline.
46. The proper mechanics in the Two Umpire System allows the base umpire to cover plays at home plate:
- A: Anytime the plate umpire has a call at third base.
  - B: Anytime the plate umpire has a call at third base and the throws gets away from the third baseman.
  - C: It is agreed upon by both umpires.
  - D: There is no time proper mechanics will allow this type of coverage.
47. In the Two Umpire System with R1 on first base, B2 hits an extra base hit to the outfield. The plate umpire should:
- A: Trail batter-runner about 1/3 of the way to first base and then move over to the holding zone at third base.
  - B: Move directly to the holding zone at third base.
  - C: Move directly to the holding in the middle of the field.
  - D: Move directly to the holding zone in the middle of the field and then move to the holding zone at third base, if needed.
48. The proper mechanic for a base umpire to call an untouched, foul fly ball near the line when going out is:
- A: Move down the line, stop point foul with the hand closest to the foul line and call "foul" or "foul ball."
  - B: Move down the line, stop give a dead ball signal and call "foul" or "foul ball."
  - C: Move down the line, stop point foul with the hand farthest from the foul line and call "foul" or "foul ball."
  - D: Move down the line, stop give a dead ball signal followed by a point with the hand nearest to the foul line and call "foul" or "foul ball."
49. In the Three Umpire System with R1 on first base, B2 hits a sinking line drive to right field. The first base umpire goes out because of a potential trapped ball. The right fielder scoops up the ball off a short hop and throws to first base. The base call is:
- A: The responsibility of the plate umpire.
  - B: The responsibility of the first base umpire.
  - C: A deviation from the Umpire Manual agreed to by the crew, prior to the game.
  - D: The responsibility of the third base umpire.
50. In the Two Umpire System with R1 on second base, B2 hits a fly ball to F8, who makes the catch. Which of the following statements is correct?
- A: The base umpire has the tag-up at second base and the plate umpire has the play on R1 at third base.
  - B: The plate umpire has the tag-up at second base and the play on R1 at third base.
  - C: The plate umpire has the tag-up at second base and the base umpire has the play on R1 at third base.
  - D: The base umpire has the tag-up at second base and the play on R1 at third base.

**ALTERNATE FAST PITCH ONLY QUESTIONS - True or False**

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8. (FP ONLY) With R1 on first base and B2 in the batter's box with a count of 1-ball and 1-strike, B2 takes a called strike as R1 attempts to steal second base. Out of frustration on the called strike, B2 accidentally drops the bat as F2 makes a play on R1. As F2 steps forward on the throw F2 trips over the bat and cannot complete the throw. The plate umpire calls a "dead ball," rules B2 out and returns R1 to first base.

9. (FP ONLY) With one out and R1 on first base, B3 receives a "base on balls" and R1 advances to second base but over runs the base and is tagged out. The umpire rules R1 safe since R1 advanced as a result of B3 being awarded a base on balls.
11. (JO FP) The DP draws a walk and the FLEX, who is the pitcher, is entered to run for the DP. The coach then asks the umpire to enter a Courtesy Runner for the FLEX who is now on first base. The umpire informs the coach that this is not possible because the FLEX did not bat for themselves.
15. (FP ONLY) A pitcher picks up dirt with the pitching hand and does not wipe the dirt off before pitching. This is an illegal pitch.
22. (FP ONLY) The batter fouls the pitch directly to F2's chest protector. F2 gains possession of the ball before it touches the ground.
- A: This is a foul tip.
  - B: This is a blocked ball.
  - C: This is a foul ball.
  - D: This is a line drive
26. (FP ONLY) On ball four, the Look Back Rule shall be in effect for all runners when:
- A: The pitcher has possession and control of the ball in the pitcher's circle.
  - B: The pitcher has possession and control of the ball with in the pitcher's circle and the batter-runner has touched first base.
  - C: F3 has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle.
  - D: The batter-runner has touched first base.
27. (FP ONLY) With R1 on first base and B2 in the batter's box with a count of 3-balls and 0-strikes, F2 lunges at the pitch in an attempt to throw R1 out at second base. In doing so, F2 steps on the plate and prevents the batter from swinging at the pitch.
- A: The umpire calls a strike on the pitch and allows R1 to advance.
  - B: The umpire declares "dead ball," a no pitch and returns R1 to first base.
  - C: The umpire declares "dead ball," catcher's obstruction and awards B2 first base and R1 second base.
  - D: The umpire calls "no pitch" and returns R1 to first base.
30. (FP ONLY) Which of the follow statements about the Look Back Rule is false?
- A: If two runners violate the rule at the same time, it is a dead ball and both runners are out.
  - B: The pitcher is considered to be in the pitcher's circle when both feet are on or within the lines of the circle.
  - C: The Look Back Rule cannot be in effect if the batter -runner has not reached first base or been put out.
  - D: A runner cannot be put out under the Look Back Rule if there is a play being made on another runner.
36. (JO FP with a time limit) B1 is at bat in the bottom of the sixth inning with two outs and trailing by two runs. F1 delivers the pitch with four seconds on the clock. B1 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws B1 out at first base. Time expired after B1 made contact with the ball but before F6's throw reaches first base.
- A: The umpires should start the seventh inning.
  - B: At the time the third out was made, time had expired and the game is over.
  - C: The umpire should go into the Tie-Breaker in the top of the seventh inning.
  - D: The umpire should have stopped the game after the fifth inning because there was not enough time to play a complete game.
41. (FP ONLY) The plate umpire should record any changes involving the DP or FLEX on the line-up card.

# 2012 UMPIRE EXAM ANSWER SHEET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Umpires umpiring fast pitch only should answer alternate questions (labeled FP ONLY) at end of the exam.

**NOTE:** Each answer should be marked solid, i.e. ● **DO NOT CIRCLE.**

**General Questions  
(True/False)**

	T	F
1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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18	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**General Questions  
(Multiple Choice)**

	A	B	C	D
21	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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**Umpire Manual  
(True/False)**

	T	F
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42	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
43	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
44	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
45	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Umpire Manual  
(Multiple Choice)**

	A	B	C	D
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**Fast Pitch Only  
(True/False)**

	T	F
8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Fast Pitch Only  
(Multiple Choice)**

	A	B	C	D
22	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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30	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
36	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Fast Pitch Only  
(True/False)**

	T	F
41	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>