

# Umpires Quiz 2013

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Prepared by the Editors of *Referee* magazine



If the baserunner accidentally runs into a fielder making a play on the ball and knocks her down, causing her to misplay the ball, and the base umpire makes no call as in question four, what should the umpires do?

In each of the following, you are given a situation and at least two possible answers. You are to decide which answer or answers are correct for ASA, NFHS, NCAA or USSSA rules, which might vary. Note: Rule references are from the most current rulebook available from each sanctioning body.

(Answers appear on pg. 4)

1. In the top of the first inning the team at bat informs the umpire that F6 is wearing jewelry.
- F6 is immediately ejected from the game without warning.
  - The umpire will issue a team warning to the defensive team.

- After a team warning about wearing jewelry, the next offender on that team and the head coach are restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.
- F6 may not play until she removes the jewelry.
- F6 must remove the jewelry only if the umpire determines the jewelry is dangerous.
- Players may wear jewelry.
- Reserve players sitting on the bench may not wear jewelry.
- For subsequent violations after a warning the offender is restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game and their current head coach shall be ejected.

i. Medical alert bracelets and necklaces are not considered jewelry.

2. Team B leads 4-3 as team A bats in the last of the seventh inning. R3 occupies third base and R1 is on first when B1 bats. R1 breaks with the pitch as B1 hits a fly ball to F9 for the second out. R3 leaves third base before F9 touches the fly ball. F9 throws to F3 at first base to play on R1. The base umpire calls R1 out on a close play for the third out but after R3 touches home plate. The defensive team then runs off the field.

- Team A has tied the game.
- R3's run does not count because the third out of the inning was a force out.
- The plate umpire should have announced that R3's run scored.

3. Fast pitch. B1 swings and "foul nicks" the ball directly back to first strike F2's shoulder pad. The ball caroms high into the air where it is caught by F1 in flight in fair territory.

- B1 is out on the caught fly ball by F1.
- That is a foul tip and the ball is live.
- That is a foul ball.
- The plate umpire will immediately give that call to the nearest base umpire.
- The ball is dead.

4. R1 is on first base with no outs when B2 hits a ground ball to F4. F4 is fielding the ball when R1 accidentally runs into F4, knocking her to the ground and obviously causing her to misplay the ball. The base umpire makes no call and R1 advances to third and B2 stops at first. Now what?

- The plate umpire should call time and immediately take charge by declaring R1 out.

- b. The plate umpire should make the call only when the defensive coach asks him to rule on the play.
- c. If the defensive coach complains to the plate umpire, the plate umpire should tell the coach to discuss the play with the base umpire.
- d. When the play is over, the base umpire should openly call to the plate umpire for his or her opinion of the play.
- e. The base umpire may confer with the plate umpire about the play when requested to do so by the defensive coach.
- f. There is no interference because R1 accidentally ran into F4.
- g. The plate umpire should automatically call out both R1 and B1.
- h. After a private discussion between the umpires, the umpiring crew may summon both coaches to the conference and announce that R1 is indeed out for interference and B2 is awarded first base.
5. B1 hits for extra bases and after taking a wide turn around second runs into F6 standing about 12 feet behind a direct base line from second to third.
- a. B1 is out for running out of the base line.
- b. The ball is dead.
- c. B1 is ejected from the game for running into F6 at top speed.
- d. F6 is charged with interference.
- e. F6 is charged with obstruction.
- f. The play is allowed to continue.
- g. The ball is dead if B1 is tagged out at third.
6. It is a foul ball when:
- a. A batted ball settles on home plate.
- b. A batted ball bounces over first or third base and lands in foul territory.
- c. A batted ball rolls against B1's discarded bat in fair territory and deflects into foul ground.
- d. A batted ball rolls against B1's discarded bat in foul territory and deflects into fair ground.
- e. A fielder standing with both feet in foul ground touches a fly ball over fair territory.
- f. A batted ball strikes third base and deflects into foul ground.
- g. A batted ball first touches foul ground between home and first or home and third.
- h. A batted ball first touches foul ground beyond first or third base.
- i. A line drive strikes the pitcher's plate and deflects into foul territory between home and first or home and third.
- j. A declared infield fly first touches in foul ground and bounces fair between home and first or home and third.
- k. A declared infield fly falls untouched in fair territory and bounces foul between home and first or home and third.
7. B1 bounces a batted ball in front of the plate near the first-base line. As F2 is fielding the ball she is inadvertently bumped by the plate umpire, preventing F2 from making a play and B1 is safe at first base.
- a. The ball is dead.
- b. The ball is delayed-dead.
- c. The ball is live.
- d. The play stands and B1 remains on first base.
8. R2 is on second base and R1 is on first with no outs when B3 hits a pop up in the infield and F6 settles comfortably under the ball. The infield fly rule is declared by the umpires while R2 is about 10 feet off second and R1 is standing on first. F6 accidentally drops the ball with R2 immediately advancing to third and R1 to second. B1 reaches and occupies first base. The defensive team makes an appeal that R2 failed to tag up at second before she advanced to third.
- a. B1 is out.
- b. B1 is removed from base.
- c. R1's advance is legal.
- d. R2 is out on appeal.
- e. R2 is returned to second and R2 to first.
- f. R2 remains on third base.
- g. Play resumes with two outs.
9. R2 is on second with no outs when B2 hits a ground ball to F6. As F6 is fielding the ball she is contacted by R2. F6 recovers and throws out B2 at first.
- a. R2 is out for interference.
- b. B2 is out at first base.
- c. The ball is delayed-dead when R2 contacts F6.
- d. The ball is immediately dead when R2 contacts F6.
- e. F6 has committed obstruction.
- g. The umpire will always declare B2 out for R2's interference.
- h. B2 is awarded first base.
10. Fast pitch. R1 is on first base as B2 bats with a 1-1 count. After F1 commits an illegal pitch by replanting her pivot foot, B1 hits an over-the-fence home run.
- a. The ball is dead immediately when an illegal pitch occurs.
- b. R1 is awarded second base.
- c. B2 remains at bat and a ball is added to her count.
- d. The illegal pitch is ignored.
- e. The home run stands.
- f. F1 is issued a warning for committing an illegal pitch.
11. Fast pitch. Speedy R1 is on first base when B2 bunts the ball down the first-base line. F3 fields the ball and moves toward B1 to attempt a tag.
- a. B2 is out if she stops to delay or avoid F3's tag.
- b. B2 is out if she steps back toward home plate to delay or avoid F3's tag and the ball is live.
- c. B2 is out if she steps back toward home plate to delay or avoid F3's tag and the ball is dead.
- d. R1 is entitled to second if she reaches second before the ball becomes dead on B2's violation.
- e. R1 is always returned to first base when the ball becomes dead on B2's violation.
- f. It is legal for B2 to step back toward home plate to delay or avoid a tag.
- g. B2 is not declared out unless she retreats beyond home plate.
12. With R3 on third and R1 on first and two outs, B5 hits a ground ball to F4. R1 runs toward second, then stops and runs directly back toward first when F4 attempts to tag her.
- a. The ball is live.
- b. Any out made on R1 is a force out.
- c. The ball is dead immediately.
- d. R1 is out.
- e. R1 is in jeopardy of being put out.

- f. A tag play can never be a force out.
- g. R1 may legally reverse direction in that situation without violating any rule.

**13.** Fast pitch. B1 swings and “nicks” the ball sharply and directly off F2’s hand. The ball deflects off the umpire’s mask and is caught in the air by F2.

- a. B1 is out on the caught fly ball.
- b. That is a foul ball.
- c. The ball is dead.
- d. That is a legally caught foul tip.
- e. The ball is live.

**14.** Fast pitch. R3 occupies third base and R1 stands on first base while F1 holds the ball within the pitcher’s circle. F1 then places her glove with the ball inside between her legs and R3 leads off third breaking contact with the base. Seeing R3’s actions, R1 leaves first base.

- a. The ball is dead immediately.
- b. The ball remains live.
- c. R3 is out.
- d. R3 is in jeopardy of being put out.
- e. R1 is out.
- f. R1 is in jeopardy of being put out.
- g. No base running violations have occurred.
- h. The umpire will call an umpire’s time out and send R3 back to third.

**15.** With R3 on third and R1 on first and two outs, B2 hits a ground ball to F4. R1 runs directly back toward first when F4 attempts to tag her.

- a. The ball is live.
- b. Any out made on R1 is a force out.
- c. The ball is dead immediately.
- d. R1 is out.
- e. R1 is in jeopardy of being put out.
- f. A tag play can never be a force out.
- g. R1 may legally reverse direction in that situation without violating any rule.

**16.** B1 hits a ground ball to F6. On the throw to first F6’s throw bounces off F3’s glove and is rolling in playable

foul territory near the dead ball line. A spectator picks up the ball and tosses it to F3.

- a. If the spectator is with the offensive team, B1 is out.
- b. If the spectator is with the defensive team, a blocked ball award of one extra base is mandated by rule.
- c. That type of interference is considered inadvertent.
- d. The ball is immediately dead.
- e. B1 must be placed at the base she reached at the time of the interference.
- f. The umpire will rule spectator interference has occurred.
- g. It is always a grounds rule double when spectator interference occurs.

h. The umpire will place B1 on the base she would have attained had the spectator not interfered.

i. The umpire should always extend both arms overhead to signal time when spectator interference occurs.

j. After calling and signaling the ball dead, an unofficial but effective signal to communicate spectator interference is for the umpire to remain holding his or her hands overhead and then clasp his or her left wrist with his or her right hand.

k. The umpire will always eject the spectator from the grounds before resuming play.

**17.** R2 is on second when B1 hits a fair ball in front of the plate. B1’s discarded bat and the batted ball come into contact in fair territory front of home plate.

- a. B1 is not out unless B1 intentionally contacts the ball a second time with her bat.
- b. B1 is not out and the ball is live if the ball rolls against the bat.
- c. B1 is out and the ball is dead if B1’s bat strikes the ball.
- d. When B1 is declared out for interference, R2 is always returned to second base.
- e. It’s a foul ball if an untouched batted ball rolls against the bat in fair territory and settles in foul ground.
- f. It’s a fair ball if an untouched batted ball rolls against the bat in fair territory and settles in fair ground.

**18.** B1 hits a single to center field and takes a wide turn around first base. As F6 takes the throw from F8 at second base, B1 crashes into F3 about five feet from first.

- a. Obstruction is called on F3.
- b. B1 is guaranteed second base, one base beyond the point of obstruction.
- c. The ball is delayed-dead.
- d. B1 is protected to first base.
- e. The umpire will issue a warning to F3 and her coach.
- f. A subsequent violation by F3 will result in a one base award to the obstructed runner.
- g. B1 is always penalized for crashing into F3.

**19.** R1 is on first base when B1 hits a line drive that’s caught by F6. R1 is about five feet from retouching first base when F6’s throw goes over the fence beyond first base.

- a. R1 is awarded the base she must retouch, plus one additional base.
- b. R1 is awarded two bases from R1’s position at the time of the throw.
- c. R1’s award is based on her position when the ball becomes dead.
- d. R1 is awarded third base.
- e. R1 is awarded only second base.

**20.** R2 is on second with no outs when B1 hits safely to right field. F9 throws to F2 who fields the ball in a crouched position about five feet to the left of home plate on the third base foul line. R2 avoids F2’s tag by hurdling over F2 and landing on the plate.

- a. R2’s act is legal.
- b. R2 is out for hurdling over F2.
- c. The ball is dead.
- d. R2’s run counts.
- e. R2 is ejected from the game.
- f. A team warning about hurdling is issued to R2’s team.
- g. The ball is always live and in play.
- h. R2’s run does not count.
- i. The ball is live unless interference is called.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

**1 – ASA – e, i** (3-6F); **NFHS – b, c, d, i** (3-2-12, 3-6-1Pen.); **NCAA – f** (No rules provision); **USSSA FP** (18 and under only) – **b, d, h, i** (2-5, 11-2D Pen); **USSSA SP – e, i** (2-11B)

**2 – All – a, c** (ASA R/S 1, 8-7F, G, H, I and Effect; NFHS 2-1, 8-6-6, 7, 8, 9; NCAA 7.1; USSSA FP Rule 9; USSSA SP 8-5T Effect)

**3 – All – c, e** (ASA 1-Foul Ball, 1-Foul Tip; NFHS 2-25-1, 2-25-2; NCAA 1.51, 1.52; USSSA FP 3-Foul ball, 3 Foul Tip)

**4 – All – c, e, h** (ASA 8-7J-1, NFHS 8-6-10a; NCAA 12.9.7 Effect; USSSA FP 8-18G; USSSA SP 8-5B)

**5 – All – e, f, g** (ASA 8-5B Effect; NFHS 8-4-3b Pen.; NCAA 9.4.2. Effect; USSSA FP 8-4E; USSSA SP 8-7E Effect)

**6 – All – c, d, h, i, k** (ASA 1-Fair Ball, 1-Foul Ball; NFHS 2-20, 2-25; NCAA 1.40, 1.51; USSSA FP 3-Fair Ball, 3-Foul Ball; USSSA SP 3-Fair Ball, 3-Foul Ball)

**7 – All – c, d** (ASA 8-1E-7, 8-6F; NFHS 5-1-1f-1, 5-1-2c; NCAA Off. Interp; USSSA FP 10-2C Effect; USSSA SP Off. Interp.)

**8 – All – a, b, c, f** (ASA 1-Infield Fly, 8-7F Effect; NFHS 1-30; NCAA 11.18 Effect; USSSA FP 3-Infield Fly, 9.1B; USSSA SP 3-Infield Fly, 8-5T Effect)

**9 – All – a, d, h** (ASA 8-7J-1 Effect; NFHS 8-6-10a Pen.; NCAA 12.9.7 Effect; USSSA FP 8-18G; USSSA SP 8-5B Effect)

**10 – All – d, e** (ASA 6-3J Effect; NFHS 6-1-2c Pen.; NCAA 10-8 Effect; USSSA FP 6-1E-3, 6-3)

**11 – ASA, NFHS, USSSA FP – c, d** (ASA 8-2H Effect; NFHS 8-2-8 Penalty; USSSA FP 8-17G); **NCAA – c, e** (12.29.5)

**12 – All – a, b, e, g** (ASA 8-7A, 8-7C; NFHS 8-6-1, 8-6-3; NCAA 12.9.1, 12.9.6; USSSA FP 8-18A, 8-18M; USSSA SP 8-5N, 8-5O)

**13 – All – b, c** (ASA 1-Foul Ball, 1-Foul Tip; NFHS 2-25-1, 2-25-2; NCAA 1.51.4, 1.53; USSSA FP 3-Foul ball, Foul Tip)

**14 – ASA – b, d, f, g** (8-8T, R/S 34K); **NFHS, NCAA, USSSA FP – a, c** (NFHS 8-7, 8.7.1B; NCAA 12.21.1; USSSA FP 8.2)

**15 – All – a, b, e, g** (ASA 8-7A, 8-7C; NFHS 8-6-1, 8-6-3; NCAA 12.9.6, 12.9.1; USSSA FP 8.18A, 8.18M; USSSA SP 8-50, 8-5N)

**16 – All – d, f, h, i, (j\*)** (ASA 8-6L Effect, R/S 33F; NFHS 8-4-3k, 8.4.3U; NCAA 4.9 Effect; USSSA FP 8.14E.1; USSSA SP 3-Interference B) \*recommended signal

**17 – All – b, c, d, e, f** (ASA 1-Fair Ball, 1-Foul Ball, 7-6K E; NFHS 2-20-1, 2-25-1, 7-4-13; NCAA 1.40, 1.51, 11.15 Effect; USSSA FP 7.14G Ex, Note, Pen; USSSA SP 3-Fair Ball, 3-Foul Ball, 8-4B)

**18 – ASA, NFHS, USSSA FP – a, c, d** (ASA 8-5B Ex, Effect; NFHS 8-4-3b Pen, Ex; USSSA FP 8.13); **NCAA – a, c, d, e, f** 9.3 Effect, Notes, 9.4, 9.4.2, 9.4.2.8 Effect; **USSSA SP – a, b, c** (8-7E Effect)

**19 – ASA, NFHS, NCAA, USSSA FP – b, d** (ASA 8-5G Effect; NFHS 8-4-3f Pen; NCAA 9.10.1 Effect, Notes; USSSA FP 8.14C, 8.15C) **USSSA SP – a, e** (8-7F Effect, 8-9D Effect)

**20 – ASA, NCAA, USSSA SP – a, d, g** (ASA POE 13; NCAA 9.3, 9.4; USSSA SP no rules provision); **NFHS – b, c, h** (8-6-10 Note, Pen.); **USSSA FP – b, h, i** (8-18C Pen., Note)