



SOFTBALL CANADA

FAST PITCH 2015

SOFTBALL CANADA NATIONAL UMPIRE EXAM

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MINIMUM PASS MARK

Level I - answer questions 1 to 50 - **60%**

Level II - answer questions 1 to 65 - **70%**

Level III - answer questions 1 to 75 - **80%**

Level IV - answer questions 1 to 90 - **85%**

Level V - answer questions 1 to 100 - **90%**

- 1** You are required to write from question 1, up to and including the questions listed for your level, and obtain the acceptable pass mark for the level of officiating that you are registering.
- 2** Questions 1 to 100 inclusive are True or False. The entire question must be correct in order for you to answer "True". Should any portion of the question be incorrect, then the response made is "False".
- 3** All questions pertain to Fast Pitch.
- 4** Mark the most correct response (there is only one) on your answer sheet.
- 5** Please read each question carefully and double-check your answer sheet before submitting.

SOFTBALL CANADA'S UMPIRE CASEBOOK
is an excellent resource to assist in answering exam questions.

NOTE: ALL RULE INTERPRETATION REQUESTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL UMPIRE IN CHIEF

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LEGEND FOR ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS TEXT

B1, B2 etc. - Batter	F1 - Pitcher	DR - Designated Runner
BR - Batter-Runner	F2 - Catcher	DP - Designated Player
R1 - Runner on 1st base	F3 - 1st Baseman	FLEX - the player for whom the DP bats
R2 - Runner on 2nd base	F4 - 2nd Baseman	U1 - 1st Base Umpire
R3 - Runner on 3rd base	F5 - 3rd Baseman	U2 - 2nd Base Umpire
PU - Plate Umpire	F6 - Shortstop	U3 - 3rd Base Umpire
BU - Base Umpire	F7 - Left Fielder	
	F8 - Center Fielder	
	F9 - Right Fielder	

LEVEL

I

**Answer questions 1 - 50 inclusive on the answer sheet provided
TRUE OR FALSE**

- On a foul tip the ball is in play.
- The number 00 on a team uniform is illegal.
- The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of his wind-up.
- If a helmet is worn by a defensive player, it must have two ear flaps.
- On balls hit to the outfield and when there is no play at first base, the BR may use any part of the double base.
- A player entering the batter's box or discovered using an illegal bat is ejected from the game. The bat is also removed from the game.
- A Delayed Dead ball is a game situation in which the ball remains live until the conclusion of the play.
- No pitch is declared when a runner is called out for lead-off.
- A regulation tie game must be replayed from the beginning using the same line-ups.
- When there are 2 outs, a replacement runner is mandatory if the catcher is on base.
- The BR shall be called out if he fails to touch 1st base after he is issued a walk and instead enters his team area.
- The strike zone is the space over any part of home plate between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes his/her natural batting stance regardless of where the batter stands in the batter's box.
- The pre-game meeting (plate conference) is a good time to agree upon any special ground rules that will establish the limits of a playing field.
- An umpire may suspend play when, in his judgement, the safety of the players is in jeopardy.
- A pitched ball becomes "Dead", as soon as it makes contact with any part of the batter's person or clothing, regardless if the ball is struck at or not.
- A strike is called on a batter for each legally pitched ball struck at and missed by the batter. A ball touching home plate and struck at will be still called a strike.
- 1 out, R3, R2, when B9 hits a pop up to the second base person. B9 is automatically out because the infield fly is in effect.
- It is permissible for a pitcher to lick his fingers before gripping the ball without wiping off.
- A hit ball settling on home plate is a fair ball.
- A player can be removed from the game and ruled ineligible if they do not remove jewellery that the umpire has judged as distracting.
- The proper mechanic for the plate umpire is to remove his/her mask with their left hand.

22. The ball slips from the pitcher's hand during her delivery which allows the runner on 2nd base to steal third. This is not allowed because the ball is dead when it slips from the pitcher's hand.
23. The batter leaves the batter's box after a called strike to take new signals from the third base coach. The PU can call an additional strike on the batter without a warning for leaving the batter's box.
24. Protests will be considered when an umpire fails to apply the correct rule to a specific situation.
25. A batted, thrown or pitched ball that is touched, or handled by a person not engaged in the game is considered a blocked ball.
26. An official bat can be 36 inches long.
27. There are 11 situations for which an appeal is required prior to an umpire making a ruling or decision.
28. When a runner is called out for passing a preceding runner, the ball remains live.
29. A runner may run behind or in front of a fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball to avoid causing interference.
30. The on deck batter enters the on deck circle with a bat which has a weighted ring over the end of the barrel. The PU should remove the equipment and rule the on deck batter out.
31. A bat that has a cork safety grip is considered an altered bat?
32. A runner is called out for running outside the base path, in order to avoid being touched by the ball in the hand of a fielder. This is a dead ball situation.
33. The defensive conference rule is waived for U14 and under categories.
34. An ejection is the act of any umpire ordering a player, official or any team member to leave the game and the grounds for the duration of the game.
35. If a runner leaves a base early on a caught fly ball and the play is properly appealed, the umpire will point to the runner and call and signal "OUT".
36. When a batter takes his position in the batter's box, his feet can be partially inside and partially outside the lines of the batter's box.
37. To indicate a trapped ball, an umpire should verbalize loudly, "TRAPPED BALL- NO CATCH" and at the same time use the safe call signal mechanic.
38. "Dead Ball" is ruled immediately when a BR steps back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag by a fielder in possession of the ball.
39. A pitched ball is hit hard on the ground. The batted ball deflects off of F4 and hits the BU before bounding out into right field. The PU rules "Delayed Dead Ball", allows the play to continue and then awards the BR 2B.
40. When two or more umpires are officiating a game, the plate umpire is basically in charge of the crew and therefore, may overrule calls made by any of the other officials.
41. In the top of the 7th inning, with two (2) outs and Henderson on 1st, Crowley hits a single. Henderson is thrown out trying to get to 3rd base. In the top of the 8th inning with the International Tie Breaker rule in effect, Henderson will start at 2nd base.
42. Runner on first base, two strikes on batter, who swings at the next pitch which hits him/her. The batter will be declared out.
43. To improve your judgment, concentrate on mechanics, positioning and good umpiring skills.
44. A player engraves his name on the barrel end of the bat. This is considered altering the bat.
45. Only the plate umpire may call the infield fly.
46. A regulation wind shirt may be worn tucked into the top of the pants or worn with sleeves pushed up.
47. A "Dead Ball" is ruled in all cases, when interference is caused by the team on offense.
48. An obstructed runner is always awarded at least one base from where the obstruction occurred.

49. A runner slides into home and misses touching home plate. The runner begins to run to the dugout. The catcher retrieves the live ball and while standing between the runner and home plate, appeals the missed base. The PU rules the runner out.
50. A home run is indicated by the right arm being extended above the head, with a fist clenched moving in a counter-clockwise circling motion.

LEVEL

II

Answer questions 1 - 65 inclusive on the answer sheet provided TRUE OR FALSE

51. The batter hits a pitched ball on the ground through the infield into center field. As the BR rounds 1st base, he collides with F3 who is standing on the fair portion of the double base. The BU should Call "Obstruction" by the first base person and signal a delayed dead ball.
52. With no outs, R1 and B2 scheduled to bat. B4 comes to bat instead and grounds into a double play. Prior to the next pitch, the defense appeals B4 batting out of order. The double play stands and B2 is declared out for the third out. B3 will start at bat in the next inning.
53. A player withdrawn due to bleeding, who is unable to return to the game within the time allowed to treat the injury, may subsequently re-enter the game, subject to the provisions of the Re-entry rule.
54. R1 and one out. B1 bunts a pop-up to F3 who intentionally drops the ball in order to attempt a double play. The PU calls B1 out and lets R1 continue to run the bases at his own risk.
55. In the 5th inning with one out and R3, F3 fields a ground ball, holds R3 at 3rd base and touches 1st base for the second out. Thinking that there are three (3) outs, F3 then carries the ball into the dugout area. The umpire calls "Time", calls F3 back to the field and resumes play with R3 at 3rd base and two outs.
56. Catcher's obstruction is an example of an "Option Play" whereby the coach of the offended team is given the choice of taking the enforcement of the illegal action or the result of the play.
57. With the bases loaded and one out, the batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman, who steps on third for a force and the second out. He then tags the runner still standing on third. The inning is now over.
58. No runners on base, a batter swings and misses for strike three and the ball deflects off the catcher's mask and rolls up the first-base line in fair territory. As the first baseman runs in to pick it up, the batter/runner collides with him and ultimately reaches first safely. The PU allows the play to stand.
59. The batter hits a hard ground ball back to the pitcher. The ball gets stuck in the webbing of the pitcher's glove. Unable to dislodge the ball, the pitcher throws the glove, with the ball inside, to the first baseman, who catches the glove with the ball inside and touches first before the BR. The batter is declared out.
60. Batter hits a pitched ball sharply to right field where F9 scoops the ball after one hop and throws it toward first base to force BR out at first. The ball bounces past the F3 and out of play, just as the runner reaches first base. The BU awards the runner third base.
61. The BR is obstructed by F3 when rounding 1st base and attempting to go to 2nd base. On his way to 2nd base, the BR runs into and interferes with F4 who is attempting to catch a thrown ball from F9. The "Obstruction" is nullified and the "Interference" is enforced on the BR.
62. In the bottom of the fourth inning, F6 is injured on a play and is bleeding. F6 is withdrawn from his position and replaced with a replacement player that had already been used as a substitute and had been removed from the game when the original player was re-entered into the game. The replacement player is legal and can stay in the game if F6 does not return.
63. R3, two out, batter has a full count. Pitcher separates then brings hands back together which is called an illegal pitch. The PU awards the batter a ball and R3 is awarded home. The batter walks to first base.
64. There are two outs and the batter hits a double to left center field scoring R3. The next batter has a count of one ball when the defense appeals that R2 had batted out of order. The PU rules that R2 is "Out" and negates the run scored by R3. There are three outs and inning is over.
65. In master's play, if a designated runner is used he must be listed in the last spot on the line-up card.

LEVEL III**Answer questions 1 - 75 inclusive on the answer sheet provided
TRUE OR FALSE.**

66. F2 is hit by a foul ball and is forced to leave the game. The PU does not allow the new F2 any warm-up pitches because only a replacement pitcher is allowed five warm-up pitches.
67. An illegal pitch shall be called when F1, after taking the pitching position and receiving a signal from the catcher, throws to a base while the ball is live and his foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate.
68. F4 is in position to field a ground ball. The ball bounces off of F4 and lands in front of her. As she steps forward to retrieve the ball R1 collides with F4. The umpire rules dead ball and interference on R1.
69. R3 and B4 is at bat with a count of 2 balls.. B4 hits a high foul fly ball towards F5, who moves into foul territory to catch the ball. R3, who started for home on the hit, returns to re-touch his base but, in doing so, collides with F5 in foul territory causing the ball to drop to the ground. It is correct to rule B4 out on the interference and return R3 to 3rd base.
70. With R1 and R2, F2 attempts a pick-off of R1 with a quick throw behind B3 who is legally occupying the left handed batter's box and in the umpire's judgement, did nothing intentional to prevent the throw. The thrown ball from F2 bounces off B3's helmet and flies up over the dugout into dead ball territory. R1 and R2 are both awarded home.
71. Team A has not used any defensive conferences in the first seven innings of the game. In the eighth inning Team A is charged with one defensive conference and later that same inning asks for another conference since they have only used one conference in the eight innings. The Plate Umpire reminds Team A that they are only permitted one defensive conference in extra innings.
72. Jones, listed ninth in the batting order, is replaced by a substitute after reaching 1B safely. Later in the game, Jones re-enters as a runner for a teammate listed third in the order at 2B. This is an illegal re-entry and Jones is removed from the game and replaced by a legal substitute.
73. When a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains upright and deliberately crashes into the defensive player, the ball is dead and the runner is out. All runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the crash. In all cases, the offensive player initiating the crash is ejected.
74. R3 and R2 with 2 outs. Batter has a count of 1-1 when the next pitch is called a strike. The batter makes some comment about the quality of the strike call and steps out of the batter's box. The PU requests that the batter return to the batter's box which is ignored by the batter. PU calls strike three for out number three.
75. The pitcher has taken a legal pitching position with both feet in contact with the pitching rubber. The ball is in both hands for the required minimum stop. The pitcher breaks her hands and then steps backwards off the pitcher's plate. The BU immediately calls an illegal pitch.

LEVEL IV**Answer questions 1 - 90 inclusive on the answer sheet provided.
TRUE OR FALSE.**

76. B7 is an illegal substitute at bat with a count of three balls and one strike when the defensive team reports the infraction to the PU. The PU rules B7 removed from the game and replaced with a legal substitute, or legal re-entry of the original starting player, who assumes the 3 ball – 1 strike count.
77. There are no outs, with R1 and R3, B6 has a count of 2-2. F1 delivers an outside pitch as R1 attempts to steal 2nd base. B6 swings and misses, with the force of the swing causing B6 to step across the plate blocking a play by F2 to throw out R1. The BU rules R1 and the batter, "Out".
78. In the 3rd inning, the DP replaces the FLEX on defense as F1. The FLEX remains in the game at 1st base. The original F3 is now referred to as the O.P.O. These changes do not need to be announced.
79. No outs and no runners on base. B3 has a count of 1-1. The pitcher is called for an illegal pitch. B3 hits the pitch to the outfield and rounds 1st base. Before he returns to the bag, he is tagged out by F3 from a throw from F9. The offensive coach argues that he is entitled to an option on the play. The umpire agrees and allows B3 to return to bat with a count of 2-1.

80. There are 2 outs with a runner at third base. Batter bunts down the 1st base line. R3 advances to the plate on the bunt ahead of the throw to 1st. Catcher plays the ball and throws to F3. However, the thrown ball hits BR, who is more than halfway to 1st, not in the chute and running in fair territory. No call is made and R3 then touches home and scores.
81. The bases are loaded with 1 out. B6 has 3 ball, 2 strike count. On the next pitch, a third strike is called and the ball gets by F2. The batter takes off for 1st base while all runners attempt to advance. F2 retrieves the ball and throws to F1 covering home plate and steps on the plate before R3 arrives, then throws the ball to F5 who steps on 3rd base just ahead of R2's arrival. Thinking that there are three outs, F5 rolls ball toward pitcher's circle and leads the defensive team off the field. The third base coach has all his runners including the batter touch all bases including home. On this play three runs would score.
82. No runners on base and 1 out. The batter has a count of 3 balls 1 strike. On the next pitch the batter begins to swing and stops. The PU signals to the BU and asks "Swing?" BU replies "Yes" and signals the strike call. The catcher then throws the ball to F5 who throws the ball around to the other infielders. The PU is correct to award ball four on the batter.
83. During an U14 game, with one out and R1, B2 hits a ground ball to right field. The BR intentionally removes his helmet and throws it to the ground in the vicinity of 2nd base. F9 fields the ball and throws the ball toward 2nd base hoping to get BR out on the tag. On the throw R1 has rounded 3rd base and is heading home. The ball, thrown by F9, hits the discarded helmet that prevents the ball from getting to F6 covering at 2nd base. The BU immediately calls "Dead Ball" when contact is made with the helmet and returns R1 to third and BR is returned to 1st base.
84. There are runners at 3rd base and 1st with 1 out. B10 hits a pitched ball for a double but misses 1st base and the runner at 1st base misses touching 2nd base on his way to third. The runner at 3rd base scores easily on the play. The defence properly appeals that R1 missed touching 2nd base and then that the BR missed touching first base. R3's run would count on this play.
85. None out. B4 leads off the inning with a walk. B7 hits a safe single, advancing B4 to 2nd. B5 bunts and is thrown out at 1st, with both runners advancing one base. B6 is walked, loading the bases. B7 should now bat but he is standing on 2nd, so the defence want him declared out. Nobody is declared out for batting out of order, B7 remains on 2nd and B8 becomes the next batter.
86. R1 breaks for 2nd on the pitch. B2 hits a fly ball to F8, who catches the ball as R1 rounds 2nd. R1, realising he has not tagged up, turns back, retouches 2nd and heads for 1st. F8 throws the ball to F3 but the throw is wild and goes out of play. At the time the ball goes dead, R1 is between 1st and 2nd. With the ball out of play, R1 is awarded 3rd. He retouches 1st, then proceeds to 2nd and 3rd. When F1 receives a new ball from the umpire, the defence make a legal appeal for R1 leaving his base before the fly ball was caught. The appeal is upheld and R1 is out.
87. There are no runners on base. The batter has a 1-1 count. The next pitch is called a strike and the ball rolls away from the catcher. The third base person retrieves the ball and throws it back to the short stop who was standing beside the pitcher. The PU calls for a ball on the batter because the ball was not thrown directly back to the pitcher. The count is now 2-2.
88. The lead-off batter, positions himself within the lines of the batter's box prior to the pitch. As the pitcher is preparing to pitch, he steps completely out of the back of the batter's box, As the pitch arrives at the plate he steps back into the box and hits a line drive up left field line. The PU calls the batter "Out".
89. Adams is on 3B, Jones is on 2B, Smith is on 1B, with one out. The offensive coach calls a time out, bringing the three runners together. After the conference, Smith goes to 3B and Adams goes to 1B. On the next pitch B4 hits a single, Smith and Jones score, and Adams is now on 3B again. The defense requests time and properly appeals to the umpire that the offense switched runners. The umpire calls Smith and Adams out, removes the run scored by Smith, and allows the run by Jones to count.
90. Runners on 3rd and 2nd with none out when B3 bunts the 3rd strike in an attempted squeeze play. The ball pops up in the air, over foul territory, toward F5, who is in a position to catch the ball. R3, in attempting to return to 3rd, and realizing that R2 will be thrown out if the ball is caught, deliberately collides with F5 who is in foul territory and the ball falls safely to the ground in foul territory. The umpire rules that B3 is out for bunting foul on the third strike, R3 is out on the interference and R2 is also out for the deliberate attempt by R3 to prevent a double play.



Answer questions 1 - 100 inclusive on the answer sheet provided TRUE OR FALSE.

91. R1 and R2, B6 hits a shallow ground ball to F9. As R1 leaves first base for second, he is obstructed by F3. PU signals obstruction and determines in her mind that R1 will be protected to second base. Since this is a delayed dead ball, the play continues and F9 throws a dart to F5 who tags R2 as he is rounding third base and heading home. R1 having seen the ball thrown into the infield, holds up between first and second watches the play develop then continues to second where he is tagged out by F4 on the throw from F5. There are two outs on the play.
92. Runners at first and third, one out. B5 hits a sharp grounder to F3 who fields the ball. B5 stops running toward first base about thirty feet up the line as R3 and R1 advance toward home plate and second base respectively. After R3 crosses home plate and just prior to R1 reaching second base, B5 steps back to avoid the tag by F3. The PU calls "Dead Ball" and rules B5 out as soon as B5 steps back to avoid the tag. Since this is a timing play, the PU rules R3 scores and returns R1 to first base.
93. During the 2nd inning of a playoff game, Player #10 of the home team, is ejected for an unsportsmanlike act. In the bottom of the 7th inning, the game is tied and there are 2 outs, when R3 scores on a close play at home plate. Both players get up and start pushing and shoving which leads to both benches clearing for a melee around home plate. Once order has been restored the PU realizes that player #10 had left the bench and entered the field in aid of his team mates. The PU is correct in declaring this game a forfeit and the visiting team wins by a score of 7-0.
94. B1 hits a long drive to center field. F8 crashes into a collapsible fence and knocks it flat on the ground toward dead-ball territory. F8 catches the fly ball while standing on the completely horizontal fence. PU rules a home run.
95. There are two outs and the bases are loaded. The next pitched ball is called ball four on the batter. R1 advances to 2B, touching the base, and in the same motion takes two steps beyond 2B. F2 throws the ball to F6 who tags R1 while he is off 2B. R3 has yet to touch home plate. The BU rules R1 out and R3 will be allowed to score.
96. R1 and R3 with one out. R1 is stealing on the pitch. F4 tags R1 out on a throw from F2 and then throws the ball home where R3 is also tagged out. Before the defensive team leaves the playing field, the offensive team properly appeals that F4 was using an illegal glove. The umpire allows the appeal and returns R1 to 1st base and rules R3 out since the catcher's glove was legal.
97. At a Canadian Championship, in the bottom of the 4th inning, an unannounced substitute comes to the plate and hits a three-run home run. In the top of the 5th inning, the same player makes two catches for outs in the F9 position. In the bottom of the 6th inning the player's coach realizes that this player has never been announced to the PU as a legal substitution and proceeds to rectify the situation. The opposing coach immediately insists that all actions by said player be nullified because he was an illegal substitute. The PU informs the coach that everything is legal, and all plays stand and the player is now legally in the game. The opposing coach continues his argument saying the umpire is wrong and he is protesting. The protest is accepted. The PU is correct in his interpretation of the rules and is also correct in his acceptance of the protest.
98. At the end of an inning, F2 leaves his mask outside the first base dugout. His team now comes to bat with B1 and B2 both hitting safely and finishing up at 3rd and 2nd respectively. B3 now bats and hits a ground ball to F5, who throws the ball to F2 in an attempt to retire R3. The throw gets away from F2, contacts the mask in front of the dugout and rebounds away from F3, who is backing up the play at home. At the time the ball contacts the mask, R3 has touched home plate, R2 has rounded 3rd and BR is advancing toward 2nd. RULING: A blocked ball is declared, R3 is safe at home, R2 returns to 3rd and BR returns to 1st.
99. There is one out with runners on 1st and 3rd bases. An illegal re-entry is at bat. She hits a ground ball and the defense turns the double play at 2nd and 1st bases respectively. The offensive coach notifies the PU that the batter was an illegal re-entry and appeals that the BR should be "Out and R1 and R3 returned to their bases last legally touched. The PU allows the double play to stand and ejects the offensive coach and the illegal re-entered player from the game.
100. The bases are loaded with two outs. A batter bats out of order and hits a pitched ball, clearing the bases. The BR tries to stretch his double into a triple and is tagged out sliding into third base for out number three. The teams' switch positions, but before a pitch is thrown, the team coming to bat appeals that the last batter had batted out of order. The PU agrees. No runs score.