

2020 NCAA Softball Rules Exam Commentary

1. The definition of base path is:

- A. The direct line between any two consecutive bases.
- B. The imaginary direct line, and three feet to either side of the line, between a base and a runner's position at any time. It is the established path on the infield traveled by a runner who is attempting to advance to the next base.
- C. The imaginary direct line, and three feet to either side of the line, between a base and a runner's position at the time a defensive player is attempting to apply a tag. It is the established path on the infield traveled by a runner who is attempting to advance to the next base.**

Reference: Rule 2.6

The base path is only significant when a defensive player is attempting to apply a tag. Also, the definition was edited from "traditional" path to "established" path.

2. Attachments (e.g., screening, flags, pennants) are only allowed on the fair side of the pole.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: Rule 2.16.3

New for 2020.

3. After a walk, the batter-runner touches and rounds 1B, stops, and does not make an immediate decision to advance or return. The pitcher has possession and control of the ball, one foot is entirely within the line of the pitching circle, while the other foot has her toe in contact with the ground completely outside the line and the rest of the foot in the air not touching the ground or line. Under these conditions, the look-back rule is not in effect.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: Rules 12.16 and 2.20; Appendix A - Feet and Lines Chart

Almost every aspect the Look-Back Rule (12.16) except "The pitcher is considered to be in the pitcher's circle when both her feet are within the circle or on the lines." Since one of her feet is neither within the circle nor touching the line, the Look Back Rule is not in effect.

4. Attachments to a bat (such as sleeves, donuts and fans) are allowed in the on-deck circle if they are made of soft material.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 3.5

Attachments are not allowed in the on-deck circle.

5. **Players may wear a signal arm band attached to their belts.**

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 3.10.7

The signal arm band, if worn, shall be worn on the arm and as intended by the manufacturer.

6. **A player is not permitted to play while wearing visible undergarments which are yellow or gold. Visible undergarments must contrast with the color of the ball.**

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 3.10.8; 9/11/2019 Interpretation

New for 2020, undergarments must contrast with the color of the ball. Yellow and gold have been specifically designated as not allowed.

7. **The plate umpire shall have the authority to make decisions on any situations not specifically covered in the rules.**

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 4.10.4.2

Rule 15 was eliminated and this was moved to 4.10.

8. **Softball barrel compression testing (BCT) will be required to be conducted according to accepted protocols at a minimum prior to the start of each tournament, series, doubleheader, or single midweek game during the regular season beginning Jan. 1, 2021, for Division I and Jan. 1, 2022, for Divisions II and III.**

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 5.2

New. Division I begins next season, Divisions II and III get an additional year to implement.

9. **At sites where barrel compression testing (BCT) is performed, it is the responsibility of the tester to ensure all bats tested are on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.**

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 5.2.3

When testing is not performed by the umpiring crew, this is often not done by the tester. Rule 5.2.3.1 allows "when BCT has occurred in conjunction with the game, the umpire crew need only confirm the suitability of each bat by checking for damage and verify the total number of available, stickered bats rather than reconcile each individual model of bat with the team's highlighted bat list." This assumes that 5.2.3 has been followed and the tester has matched models with the approved bat list. Therefore, it is important to confirm that the tester has performed the individual model check. If not, umpires must still do this on the field.

10. All players listed in the starting lineup, and all substitutes, must be in uniform, in the dugout area and available to play at the start of the game.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 5.7 Note 2; A.R. 5-9

Substitutes must be listed on the lineup card, but are not required to be in uniform in the dugout area and available to play at the start of the game.

11. If team personnel, including players, are wearing any device capable of transmitting information while on the field, it does not need to be brought to the attention of the umpire by a coach for the umpire to issue a warning to the violator(s) and their head coach.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 5.9.8

Violation of this rule must still be brought to the attention of the umpire by a coach.

12. Using equipment to make noise (e.g., banging on a bench/bucket with equipment, shoes, or hands, banging bats and balls, etc.) is considered artificial noisemakers use and results in a team warning. Subsequent violations result in an ejection of the violator(s). Flagrant acts do not require a warning.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 5.11

New for 2020. In prior years, using equipment in any way other than what was intended by the manufacturer (for example, banging bats and balls in a dugout) was considered equipment misuse and carried ejection of the head coach for subsequent violations following a warning.

13. The use of artificial noisemakers (for example, banging on a bench/bucket with equipment, shoes, or hands, banging bats and balls, etc.), musical instruments, air horns and electronic amplifiers by student-athletes and team personnel is prohibited in team areas. Only if brought to the attention of the umpire by the opposing coach, the umpire shall issue a team warning. Any subsequent violation by the same team shall result in a behavioral ejection of the violator. If the umpire judges the act to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected without warning.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 5.11.2

New for 2020. This does not need to be brought to the attention of the umpire by a coach. Umpires must enforce this on their own. First violation is a team warning and subsequent violation(s) result in a behavioral ejection of the offender. Flagrant acts may be penalized by an ejection without warning.

14. (R1/R2/R3, 2 outs, Bottom 7): The game is tied. The batter walks. R3 touches home but R1 joins the celebration and does not touch 2B. The defense appeals that R1 did not touch the base to which she was forced. R1 is declared out and R3's run does not count.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 6.2.3.1; 12.12.2.1; A.R. 12-28

No run shall be scored if the third out of an inning is the result of a base runner being forced out. Prior to the 2020 rule book, A.R. 12-28 interpreted that a walk created a force for base runners. New in the 2020 rule book is an editorial change that after a base on balls, if forced, each base runner must advance one base with no liability to be put out.

15. (R1/R2, 2 outs): The batter hits a ball deep into the outfield. R2 scores, and R1 misses 2B on her way to touching 3B and home. After R2 and R1 touch home, the batter runner is thrown out at 3B for the third out of the inning. The defense immediately appeals R1 missing 2B. How should the umpires rule?

- A. R1 is called out for missing 2nd base and her run and R2's run do not count.
B. R1 is called out for missing 2nd and her run does not count. R2 scores on the timing play.
C. The runs by R1 and R2 count since the appeal was made after the third out of the inning.

Reference: 6.2.3.1; 6.2.4; 7.1.1.2.7; A.R. 6-5

At the time R1 misses 2B, it is a forced base. Therefore the timing of the appeal does not matter. When she is called out for missing 2B, it is a force out and no run shall be scored if the third out of an inning, or in this case the fourth out, is the result of a force out.

16. (R1/R3, 1 out): The batter hits a ball deep into the outfield. R3 scores. R1 misses 2B and arrives safely at 3B. The batter-runner misses 1B and arrives safely at 2B. The defense appeals both missed bases. Does it matter in which order the defense appeals the missed bases with regard to negating the run scored by R3?

- A. Yes. If the batter runner is called out on appeal for missing 1st base before R2 is called out on appeal for missing 2nd base, it removes the force on R1 at 2nd and R3's run would score on the timing play.
B. No, the order of appeals does not matter. R1 and BR were forced at the moment the bases were missed. No run shall be scored if the third out of an inning is the result of a force out. R3's run does not score.

Reference: 6.2.3.1; 7.1.1.2.7; 12.10.1; A.R. 7-2

Similar to Q#15.

17. (R2, 2 outs): The batter singles to centerfield. The throw to home plate is cut off and relayed to 2B and a tag applied to the batter-runner. R2 missed home plate just before the out on the batter-runner at 2B. The run scores on the timing play if there is no appeal or no attempt to touch home plate. If R2 returns to touch home plate, the run does not score because the third out (at 2B) preceded R2 touching home.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 6.2.3.2; 12.10.12.1; A.R. 12-22

18. (R1/R2/R3, 1 out): The batter grounds to F6 who steps on 2B to force out R1 before R2 reaches 3B and R3 reaches home. R2 misses 3B but continues heading home. F6's throw to 1B goes out of the play. The umpire awards the batter runner 2B and awards R3 and R2 home. The defense properly appeals that R2 missed 3B, and she is called out for the third out. Which is true about runs scored?

- A. No runs score since R2 was a force out at 3B and no run shall be scored if the third out of an inning is the result of a force out.
- B. R3 scores on a timing play. R2 missed 3B after the out on R1 at 2B occurred, which removed the force at 3B.**

Reference: 6.2.3.2; 7.1.1.2; A.R. 7-4

19. The home team only has 10 available players and is using the DP/flex. In the top of the 7th inning with two outs and a three run lead for the home team, the center fielder is injured diving for a catch. Without a substitute available the home team coach wants the DP to replace the center fielder on defense and even though she is clearly injured the center fielder will be listed as the OP. The umpire allows this change. The next batter strikes out. There has been no violation and the home team is the winner of the game.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 8.1.1.2; 6.3; A.R. 8-1

Only if the center fielder's spot comes up in the batting order AND she is unable even to stand in and take pitches would the home team be subject to a forfeit.

20. The offensive team must keep all personnel, except the base coaches, batter, base runner(s) and on-deck batter, in the dugout, bullpen or dead-ball area while the ball is live. Which of the following is/are true regarding the effect?

- A. The umpire shall warn the violator and issue a team warning.
- B. If the violator does not immediately comply, the umpire should eject him or her.
- C. The next violation of this rule by anyone on the warned team will result in an administrative ejection of the head coach
- D. All of the above.**

Reference: 6.5.3

New rule for 2020 - formerly an interpretation issued 4/30/2019.

21. Between half innings and during pitching changes the batter may only take warm-up swings in foul territory closest to her dugout, provided she is outside the batter's box.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 6.5.4.1

The batter may take warm-up swings from either side, as long as she is in foul territory and the umpire does not consider her too close to the home plate area. The on-deck batter is restricted to her team's side of home plate.

22. If using the media format, each team is allowed one charged conference per half inning for each extra inning. Once the defense uses its conference in an extra inning, they are not allowed an additional conference for each pitcher entered into the pitching position who has not yet pitched in that inning.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 6.7.2; 1.12.3

When using Media Format, Rule 6.12 applies in regulation innings provided the total number of conferences does not exceed seven (7). Once in extra innings, each team is only allowed one (1) charged conference per half-inning (one in its offensive half and one in its defensive half). NOTE: The aspects of Rule 6.12 which govern how umpires adjudicate what is and what is not a charged conference are the same in regulation and extra innings.

23. Once the umpire crew has exited the field, an appeal or protest cannot be considered.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 7.1.3

Rule 15 was eliminated and this was moved to 7.1.3.

24. The umpires may rectify any situation in which the reversal of an umpire's decision or a delayed call by an umpire on a live ball places a batter, batter runner, a base runner or the defensive team in jeopardy or prevents her/them from making the appropriate play, if done within the time allowed by rule.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 7.3.5

Rule 15 was eliminated and this was moved to 7.3.5.

25. (R1, 1 out, 3-2 count): R1 attempts to steal 2B. The pitch is called a ball. F2 throws to F4 who tags R1 as she slides into 2B. The umpire gives a big overhand out. R1, believing she was put out, heads toward her dugout. Which of the following statements are true?

- A. R1 is entitled to advance from 1B to 2B with no liability to be put out.
- B. The reversal of the umpire's decision on the live ball placed R1 in jeopardy of being called out for abandoning her base.
- C. A partner may approach the umpire unsolicited and alert them that this is an umpire jeopardy situation.
- D. All of the above.**

Reference: 7.3.5; 12.11.4; 12.12.7; 2020 CCA Manual p13 #3k

This is a scenario where a partner who is 100% certain they have information should approach a partner unsolicited.

26. At the pre-game meeting, after the lineup is official, the home team head coach informs the plate umpire that the DP (#45) will pitch for the Flex (#6), reducing the number of players in the lineup to nine. In the top half of the 4th inning, that coach informs the plate umpire that the Flex (#6) will re-enter and play 1st base for #9, the starting first base player, increasing the number of players in the lineup to ten. The plate umpire allows this change, makes #9 the OP and the DP (#45) may continue to pitch.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 8.1.2.7; 8.2.3; 8.2.9.1

The DP and Flex may play defense at the same time by making another player the OP.

27. In the 2nd inning the offensive coach has the Flex run for the DP. This does not count as a substitution for the DP.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 8.2.4

The player(s) in the DP spot is charged with a substitution when she is withdrawn from the batting order.

28. During the course of the game, the Flex has entered the batting order for the starting DP twice to run the bases. Since the starting DP is no longer eligible to re-enter the game, the Flex must stay in the batting order.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 8.2.5.2.1; A.R. 8-5

The player in the flex position may move into the DP spot any number of times.

NOTE: Although the intent of this question was to ask about regulations governing the DP/Flex, it doesn't specifically state that substitutes are available and is therefore being removed from scoring.

29. At the pre-game meeting, after the lineup is official, the head coach notifies the plate umpire that the DP (#23) will play first base for the Flex (#5), reducing the number of players in the lineup to nine. In the 5th inning, that coach wants to enter a substitute (#11) into the Flex position and have her pitch, increasing the number of players in the lineup to ten. The DP (#23) continues to play first base. The umpire allows the change without first re-entering the starting Flex (#5).

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 8.2.9.3; A.R.8-6

If the flex spot is inactive and there are nine players participating in the game, a substitute may be entered in the 10th spot without first reentering the starting flex player.

30. A starter is wearing uniform number 7 and is listed correctly in the hand written lineup, but is listed as number 18 in the pre-printed roster on the bottom of the card. The hand written lineup would take precedence and in this situation a correction to the pre-printed roster would be made but no other action.

- A. True
- B. False

Reference: 8.3.2; 2019 Case Book (2/26/19) A.R. 8-9

The lineup takes precedence over the preprinted roster and must have the correct number being worn by the starter. However, substitutes on the preprinted roster must have the correct number.

31. In the fourth inning, #2 leads off with a double. The next batter, #50 receives a walk. The following batter, #43, has a 2-1 count when the defensive coach appeals that #2 is an unreported re-entry. Which of the following is true?

- A. "No pitch" is declared. #2 shall be called out and declared officially in the game.
- B. #2 shall be called out and declared officially in the game. All other play stands.
- C. #2 is declared officially in the game, and all play will stand.

Reference: 8.3.3.3.3

When the unreported/misreported player has completed her turn at bat and a pitch (or many pitches) has been thrown legally or illegally to the next batter(s), the unreported sub is declared out if on base and declared in the game.

32. In the top of the 8th inning using the tie-breaker rule, #33 is the runner placed on 2B. #44, the first batter of the inning, is hit with the first pitch. Before the next pitch, the defensive coach appeals that #33 was unreported. Which of the following is true?

- A. "No pitch" is declared. #33 is called out and declared officially in the game. #44 is returned to bat with a count of 0-0.
- B. "No pitch" is declared. #33 is called out and declared officially in the game. #44 remains at 1st base.
- C. #33 is not out, declared officially in the game, and all play will stand.

Reference: 8.3.3.4.1

The unreported player is the base runner placed on second base in the tiebreaker, and a pitch has been thrown. She is on her original base when the violation is reported. Since the effect includes "No pitch", #44 cannot remain at first base.

- 33. In the top of an inning, the defensive coach does not report the re-entry of a substitute #24 who had pinch hit and then was removed. With R2 on 2B and 1 out, #24 catches a fly ball and R2 remains at 2B. Before the next pitch, the offensive coach reports to the plate umpire that #24 is back in the game. How should the umpire rule?**
- A. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count she had before the report. #24 is declared officially in the game. R2 remains at 2B.
 - B. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count she had before the report. #24 is administratively ejected. R2 remains at 2B.
 - C. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count she had before the report. #24 is administratively ejected. R2 is awarded 3B.**

Reference: 8.3.4.2.4; 8.3.3 Note 1

Player #24 is unreported, but also is an illegal player since she was a pinch hitter, was removed, and is re-entering the game. If an unreported player is also an illegal player, the penalty for an illegal player applies.

- 34. A fair batted ball or live thrown ball contacts a member of the offensive team/game personnel in unauthorized areas (in the field of play) or contacts loose offensive equipment not involved in the game, but on the playing field. What is the effect?**
- A. The ball is dead. The batter is awarded 2B and is credited with a double. Each other base runner is awarded two bases from the base legally occupied at the time of the pitch.
 - B. The ball is ruled blocked and dead. If no apparent play is obvious, no one is called out. Each runner must return to the last base legally touched at the time the ball became blocked, unless forced to advance. If the blocked ball prevented the defense from making a play, interference is ruled. The runner closest to home plate at the time of the blocked ball shall be declared out, and each other runner must return to the last base legally touched before the ball became blocked, unless forced to advance.**

Reference: 9.12.1; 12.17.3.5

- 35. If a fielder contacts dead-ball territory with any part of her body, including her entire foot or the entire portion of her foot that is in contact with the ground, she is considered out-of-play.**
- A. True**
 - B. False

Reference: 9.4 Note 5

- 36. When a line is used to determine dead-ball territory, the line is considered in play.**
- A. True**
 - B. False

Reference: 9.4 Note 1

37. F2 is blocking the entire plate with a runner advancing towards home. The PU signals obstruction. Before the ball arrives, the runner remains on her feet and with excessive (flagrant) force collides into F2 who is not holding the ball. Choose the correct ruling.
- A. The ball is dead, the runner is out and issued a behavioral ejection.
 - B. The ball is live, the runner is out and issued a behavioral ejection.
 - C. The ball is dead, the runner is safe and issued a behavioral ejection. The run scores.**
 - D. The ball is live, the runner is safe and issued a behavioral ejection. The run scores.

Reference: 9.5.3; 9.5.3.1 EFFECT

The key to this question is that the fielder is not holding the ball.

38. (R1/R2): The batter attempts a bunt but does not contact the pitch. R2 is caught in a rundown between 2B and 3B. R1 advances from 1B to 2B and is standing on 2B. F4 is blocking 2B without possession of the ball and the umpire rules obstruction as R2 attempts to dive back into 2B where she is tagged before reaching it. What is the correct ruling?
- A. The ball becomes dead when R2 is tagged. R2 is awarded 2B and R1 is returned to 1B.**
 - B. The ball becomes dead when R2 is tagged. R2 is awarded 3B and R1 is awarded 2B.

Reference: 9.5.3; 9.5.9; 12.15

The base R2 would have made without obstruction is 2B. Since a trailing runner (R1) is on that base, she is returned to the preceding base because she was not forced to advance because of the actions of the batter-runner (the pitch was not contacted).

39. (R1): On a base hit deep to the outfield, R1 is obstructed by F4 and falls to the ground. The batter runner passes her and arrives at 2B for a stand-up double well before the ball is returned to the infield. R1 returns safely to 1B. What is the ruling?
- A. At the conclusion of the play, the ball is declared dead. R1 is awarded 3B and the batter runner remains at 2B.**
 - B. At the conclusion of the play, the ball is declared dead. R1 is awarded 2B and the batter runner is awarded 1B.
 - C. The batter runner is out when she passes R1. At the conclusion of the play, the ball is declared dead and R1 is awarded 3B.
 - D. The batter runner is out when she passes R1. At the conclusion of the play, the ball is declared dead and R1 is awarded 2B.

Reference: 9.5.3; 12.4.3 exception (1) and Note 2

If an obstructed player does not reach the base she should have had there been no obstruction, at the end of playing action she is awarded the appropriate base(s). If the BR is able to reach 2B for a stand up double before the ball is even thrown to the infield, R1 would have reached at least 3B. Not included in the possible answer choices is awarding R1 home, which could be a possible outcome of this play depending on umpire judgement, and permissible by rule, but less likely. As to the BR passing R1, the obstruction of R1 allows her to be passed by other runners. Runners are returned to proper order as soon as the ball is declared dead. NOTE: R1 would need to touch 2B on her way to the dead ball award of 3B (Rule 12.10.1).

40. On a base hit, a base runner is obstructed between 3B and home. Before she touches home, a tag play on another runner becomes the third out. If the umpire judges the obstructed base runner would have scored before the third out was made, the run would count.

- A. True
- B. False

Reference: 9.5.3; A.R. 9-20

41. On an attempted pickoff, the fielder obstructs the base runner and apparently tags her out. The umpire declares dead ball and rules the base runner safe on the obstruction, but does not issue a warning to the fielder because a play was being made.

- A. True
- B. False

Reference: 9.5.3.8

Previously issued as an interpretation on 4/30/2019, it has been added to the 2020-2021 Rulebook.

42. (R2, no outs): R2 leaves 2B too soon on a caught fly ball. As the defense is making a live ball appeal at 2B, R2 is obstructed while returning to 2B to attempt to tag up. What is the ruling?

- A. If R2 would not have returned safely to 2B before the throw arrived, she would remain out.
- B. R2 is protected between the two bases where she was obstructed even if she is attempting to return to tag.

Reference: 9.5.7.2; A.R. 9-31 (A.R. 9-30 in 2019 Case Book)

See Q#43

43. (R2, no outs): R2, who left 2B too soon on a touched fly ball, is advancing toward 3B when she is obstructed. R2 attempts to return to 2B to tag up but an appeal is made in advance of her return. What is the ruling?

- A. If R2 would not have returned safely to 2B before the throw arrived, she would remain out.
- B. R2 is protected between the two bases where she was obstructed even if she is attempting to return to tag.

Reference: 9.5.7.5; A.R. 9-32 (A.R. 9-31 in 2019 Case Book)

Along with Q#42, these are two of the more challenging A.R.s to reconcile with each other. In general, an obstructed runner may not be called out between the two bases where she was obstructed unless certain things occur.

Rule 9.5.7.2 When another violation is being played upon - In Q#42, R2 has left 2B early on a caught fly ball (a violation) and that violation is being played upon by the defense (the live ball appeal at 2B). If she would have been out even if not obstructed, she would remain out. (Note that per Rule 9.5.3.8, a warning for returning obstruction is not issued since a play is being made.)

In Q#43, at the time R2 is obstructed a violation is not being played upon. She could conceivably advance or even score, and without an appeal made by the defense her advance would be legal. In this question and in A.R. 9-32 (A.R. 9-31 in the 2019 Case Book) R2 is being described as returning to attempt to tag and she is ruled safe on the obstruction. However, if she did instead advance a base(s) and did not attempt to return, she could subsequently be called out on proper appeal.

44. After hitting a pop up the batter runner is obstructed running to 1B by F3. The batted ball is caught in the air by the pitcher. The umpire awards the batter runner 1B.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 9.5.7.7

Another exception to the general principle that an obstructed runner may not be called out between the two bases where she was obstructed.

45. (R1/R3, 1-1 count): With R1 stealing, the plate umpire interferes with F2's attempt to throw R1 out at 2B. R1 stops running and F6, who caught the thrown ball, begins to chase R1 back towards 1B. R3 breaks for home. Which of the following is/are true?

- A. The ball remains live until the conclusion of the play. The umpire allows the result of the play to stand.
- B. The ball is dead immediately when R1 is not out on the initial throw by F2.
- C. R1 is returned to 1B and R3 is returned to 3B. "No pitch" is declared.
- D. R1 is returned to 1B and R3 is returned to 3B. The ball or strike call on the pitch stands.
- E. B and C
- F. B and D**

Reference: 9.6.1.3; A.R. 9-36 (A.R. 9-35 in 2019 Case Book)

If R1 had been out on the catcher's initial throw, the ball would have remained live with no umpire interference. But once a rundown or some other action starts, the ball is dead and base runners are returned to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. Also, since the interference happened after the pitch crossed the plate, the ball or strike call stands.

46. On a ball hit to the infield, the fielder contacts the base umpire and it prevents the fielder from making the play she had a reasonable chance to make. The umpire declares the ball dead and the batter out, and returns any base runners to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 9.6.1.3 Note

There is no interference called on contact between an umpire and a fielder on a batted ball. The ball remains live.

47. On a base hit to right field, the umpire makes contact with the batter runner as she is between 1B and 2B. The batter runner is thrown out on a close play at 2B. The umpire declares the ball dead on the apparent putout and awards the batter runner 2B, which is the base she should have received had there not been obstruction.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 9.6.1.3 Note; 9.5; A.R. 9-10

There is no obstruction called on contact between an umpire and a runner. The ball remains live.

48. A pitcher need not have her stride foot in contact with the pitcher's plate to be considered in the pitching position.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 10.1.1; 10.2.1.2
New for 2020-2021

49. Choose the best answer regarding when the pitcher's pivot foot may lose physical contact with the pitcher's plate.

- A. The pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate when the pitcher turns, twists or bends her pivot foot.
- B. If the pivot foot has not reduced the distance to home plate.
- C. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the ground; however, rocking onto either the toe or heel is allowed.
- D. A, B and C must all apply.**
- E. The pivot foot may never lose physical contact with the pitcher's plate.

Reference: 10.5.3
There have been no changes to the rules governing what the pivot foot may do.

50. The pitcher is allowed to hop or drag to a replant, gain a second starting point and push off her pivot foot.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 10.5.5
This is a crowhop and it is not allowed.

51. The pitcher's step/stride to the batter must be continuous. If the pitcher pauses her stride leg in mid-air during the delivery before releasing the pitch, it is an illegal pitch.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 10.6.2
This is an editorial change. The rule used to say that the step/stride and delivery of the ball to the batter must take place simultaneously. The new verbiage now specifically makes it illegal to pause the stride leg in the air during the delivery before releasing the pitch.

52. (No runners, 0-0 count): The pitcher throws an illegal pitch. The batter hits a double but misses 1B or her way safely into 2B. The defense properly appeals and the umpire calls the batter runner out for missing 1B. What is true about the illegal pitch effect?

- A. The offensive team may choose either the result of the play or the out is nullified and the batter is returned to bat with a 1-0 count.
- B. The illegal pitch is cancelled and the out stands.**

Reference: 10.8; 7.1.1.2.5; 12.10.11
Once a runner has passed a base, she is considered to have reached the base, even if she missed it. Therefore the illegal pitch is cancelled since the batter reached first base safely.

53. To have a legal position within the batter's box any part of each foot in contact with the ground must not be beyond the outermost edge of the line. If the umpire sees a line violation before the start of the pitch, the umpire shall suspend play and direct the batter to get into the box. If the batter fails to comply within 10 seconds, a strike is called. No pitch has to be thrown. The ball is dead.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 11.2.3; 2.20; Appendix A

In NCAA Softball, the word “within” has a very specific meaning. To be considered “within” the space, the player or coach must not have any part of the foot that is in contact with the ground extend beyond the outermost edge of the line, which is the restricting boundary. Since all lines may range in size from 2 to 4 inches wide, it would lead to inconsistent sizing if measurements were to the inside edges of lines.

NOTE: Although not specifically defined, to be “in” a space (as opposed to “within”) allows a foot of the player or coach to extend over the boundary as long as the as the part of the foot (or feet) that is in contact with the ground is (at least) in contact with the line (also referred to as “on the line”).

Obviously, if a player or coach is “within” a space that would also meet the requirements of being “in” a space.

54. The batter squares to bunt. At the time of bat-ball contact her knee is touching the ground outside of batter's box. The ball is dead. The batter shall be declared out immediately, whether the ball is fair or foul. Each base runner must return to the base legally occupied at the time of the pitch.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 11.2.5; 11.15.1

Previously issued as an interpretation on 3/2/2018, the 2020-2021 Rulebook now says a batter may not contact the pitch when any part of her body is touching the ground outside the lines of the batter’s box. I.e., she must be “within” the batter’s box at the time of bat-ball contact.

55. A legally batted ball that is declared foul cannot be changed regardless of additional information that might be made available to the calling umpire, with the exception of a dead-ball award (i.e., out-of-the-park home run, ground-rule double, and hit by pitch).

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 11.5.2

56. Any batted ball that travels directly from the bat to any part of the catcher or her equipment, other than the hand(s) or glove/mitt, is a foul tip and live.

- A. True
B. False

Reference: 11.6.1 Note

Any batted ball that travels directly from the bat, to any part of the catcher or her equipment other than the hand(s) or glove/mitt, is a foul ball and dead. It is not a foul tip

57. If a fair-hit ball touches an umpire while still in flight, it can still be caught as a fly ball.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 11.7.1.6

It is considered a ground ball.

58. One of the factors when determining if a batter has swung at the ball is the barrel of the bat out in front of her front hip.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 11.10 Note (2)

New for 2020-2021, “out in front of her body” changed to “out in front of her front hip”. This is still only one of the factors listed.

59. The batter hits or bunts the pitch and drops the bat. The batted ball and the discarded bat (out of the batter's hands) make contact in the air clearly over fair territory. What is the ruling?

- A. If the umpires judges that the ball hit the bat (as opposed to the bat hitting the ball) and there was no intent to interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is live and fair.
- B. The ball is dead, the batter is out, and each base runner must return to the base legally occupied at the time of the pitch.**

Reference: 11.12.1; A.R. 11-18

The effect for Rule 11.12.1 only allows for an umpire to judge between ball rolling against bat or bat hitting ball when the bat is on the ground. Otherwise, the ruling is bat hits ball.

60. A batter hit by a pitch shall not be awarded 1B if she obviously tried to get hit by the pitch (regardless of its location), unless it is ball four.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 11.13.1; 11.13.3.1

A batter is not required to attempt to avoid the pitch if it is entirely in/over the batter’s box. However, even if the pitch is entirely in/over the batter’s box, a batter may not obviously try to get hit by the pitch. If she does, she would only be awarded 1B if the pitch is not in the strike zone and results in ball four.

61. At the time of bat-ball contact, no part of a batter's body is touching the ground outside the batter's box. The batted ball hits the ground, then bounces up and hits the batter's leg while half of her foot is touching the ground outside the batter's box. This is a foul ball.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 11.14

Rule 11.14 says if a batted ball hits the batter, her attached equipment or clothing and she is “in” the batter’s box, it is a foul ball. Since only half her foot is out of the box, she is still “in” the batter’s box.

62. An infield fly is not declared on an attempted bunt even if all the requirements for an infield fly are otherwise met.

- A. True
- B. False

Reference: 11.16

63. An outfielder may catch an infield fly in the outfield provided an infielder could have caught the ball with ordinary effort.

- A. True
- B. False

Reference: 11.16 Note 4

64. (R1/R3): R1 is stealing on the pitch and intentionally runs into the outfield between 1B and 2B to confuse the fielders. What is the ruling?

- A. The ball is dead, R1 is out, and R3 must return to 3B.
- B. This is a legal play.

Reference: 12.10.3; A.R. 12-19

The Rules Committee believes this tactic, which involves running excessively out of the base line in order to confuse the defense, does not support the spirit and intent of the rule on the runner's base path and makes a travesty of the game.

65. (R2/R3): The batter hits a ground ball to F6. R3 is caught in a rundown between 3B and home. R2 advances and is standing on 3B. R3 subsequently returns safely to 3B. With both R3 and R2 standing on 3B, F6 tags both runners. What is the correct ruling?

- A. R2 is out.
- B. R3 is out.

Reference: 12.15

Because she is not forced to advance, R3 is entitled to 3B until she touches the next base. While R3 is not in contact with 3B, R2 cannot be tagged out if she is in contact with it. However, once R3 returns to 3B, and she and R2 are both in contact with it, R2 is no longer protected when tagged. R2 is the one called out.

66. (R2): The ball is hit to F5's left and is deflected by her toward the middle of the infield where F6 still has an opportunity to make a play. While F6 is using a natural motion to attempt to field the batted ball, she and R2 collide. What is the correct ruling?

- A. This is interference. The ball is dead, R2 is out and batter runner is awarded 1B.
- B. If R2's contact with F6 was not intentional, it is not interference and the ball remains live.

Reference: 12.17.2.1.5.5; 9.5.3.4; A.R. 12-57

When a ball deflects off a fielder (including the pitcher), and another fielder has an opportunity to make a play, interference would only be ruled if a runner makes intentional contact with the fielder who can make the play. Also, a fielder cannot intentionally alter her motion to obstruct the runner either, whether the ball is deflected or not.

67. (R3): The batter hits a foul pop-up between the third base line and the dugout. As she is moving towards the ball, F5 collides with R3. The umpire should delay a dead ball call and determine if the ball was playable, and by whom, before making a judgement. The umpire may take into account where the ball is when contact with the fielder is made but also where the ball ultimately lands or settles.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 12.17.2.1.6; 12.17.2.6.1; A.R. 12-58

A.R. 12-58 gives the umpire time to decide whether or not the ball is playable and by whom. Even if a fielder would be completely removed from the play by contact with the runner, if the ball lands out of play or far out of her reach, that contact doesn't matter. Also, since the ball is going to be foul, the delay in making a judgement does not put runners in jeopardy.

68. When the runner, not in contact with a base, is unintentionally hit by a fair batted ball after it touches or is touched by any fielder (including the pitcher) it is not interference, and the runner is not out.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 12.17.2.6.3

Similar to Q#66, on a deflection by a fielder, a runner struck by the ball is only out if she intentionally initiated the contact with the ball.

69. (R1, 1 out): The batter hits a ground ball to F4. She tosses it to F6 for a force out at 2B. F6's throw to 1B to complete the double play hits the retired R1 who is in the baseline between 1B and 2B. The batter runner reaches 1B safely. Although the benefit of the doubt goes to the defense, what factors should the umpire consider to determine if R1 committed interference?

- A. Does R1 make a legitimate attempt not to interfere with the throw.
- B. Does F6 intentionally try to throw at R1 whose actions would otherwise not impact the throw.
- C. Is it simply an errant throw.
- D. All of the above.**

Reference: 12.17.3.1; A.R. 12-60

Once R1 is called out, as a retired member of the offense she has different rights than as a runner.

70. (R1, 1 out): The batter hits a deep fair fly ball to left field. The batter runner passes R1 who is standing on 1B tagging up. The batted ball is not caught. F7 throws the ball to F4 who steps on 2B. What is the correct ruling?

- A. The ball is live. The batter runner is out for passing R1 and R1 is out on the force play at 2B.
- B. The ball is live. The batter runner is out for passing R1 and R1 remains safe at 1B.**
- C. The ball is dead. The batter runner is out for passing R1 and R1 remains safe at 1B.
- D. The ball is live. The batter runner is safe at 1B and R1 is out on the force play at 2B.

Reference: 12.4.3; A.R. 12-4

Because the ball is fair, the BR may not pass R1. In doing so, the BR is out for passing a preceding runner, the force on R1 at 2B is therefore removed, and the ball remains live. When F4 steps on 2B, there is no effect on R1 who remains on 1B.

71. (R3): On a walk, the batter runner runs through 1B farther than the umpire judges she needed to given the speed with which she was running to 1B to make it more difficult for the defense to make a play on her, intending to allow the runner from 3B to score more easily.

A. The ball is dead, the batter-runner is out, and R3 must return to 3B.

B. This is a legal play.

Reference: 12.5.9; 12.10.3; A.R. 12-9

Similar to Q#64, the Rules Committee believes this tactic, which involves running excessively into the outfield in order to confuse the defense, does not support the spirit and intent of the rule on the runner's base path and makes a travesty of the game.

72. A fielder is holding the ball and touches it to a forced base in advance of a runner. Immediately after the ball touches the base, the fielder loses control of the ball. The runner is not out on the force play.

A. True

B. False

Reference: 12.9.2.1.3; A.R. 12-3

A.R. 12-3 explains this very well. The keys to understanding this play are that it is a force play (which is ruled differently than a tag play), and that the fielder has possession of the ball in her hand/glove at the time she contacts the forced base in advance of the runner.

73. (R1/R3, 2 outs): After the pitch crosses the plate, R1 starts slowly jogging in the base line straight to 2B. F2 throws the ball to F4 who is standing in the base line. R3 breaks for home. F4 attempts to apply a tag on R1 who runs more than three feet to the side (not back towards first base) to avoid the tag. Choose the correct ruling.

A. The ball is live. R1 is out for deviating from her base path when a fielder is attempting to put her out. The timing of the out on R1 will determine whether or not R3 may score. If R1 is declared out prior to R3 touching home, no run will score. If R3 touches home prior to R1 being declared out, the run will score.

B. The ball is live. R1 is out for deviating from her base path when a fielder is attempting to put her out. R3 will not score, regardless of the timing of the out on R1.

C. The ball is dead. R1 is out for deviating from her base path when a fielder is attempting to put her out. R3 does not score.

Reference: 12.10.5; 2.6; 6.2.2

This is not a batted ball, so there is no force play in question. There is no provision for not scoring the run if R3 touches home prior to the third out on R1 for deviating from her base path when a fielder is attempting to apply a tag.

74. On a bunt, the batter runner is running to 1B outside of the runner's lane in fair territory the entire time. F2 throws accurately towards the fielder at 1B but the throw hits the batter-runner on her last stride before the base. Which is true?

A. Not interference - the batter runner is allowed the last stride to 1B regardless of where she had been running up to that point.

B. The batter runner is out for interfering with the fielder taking the throw at 1B. Although the batter runner may leave the lane on her last stride in order to touch first base, that does not apply to this play since she was not in the lane prior to her last stride.

Reference: 12.5.5; 12.17.1.5.2; A.R 12-46

75. (R3, 1 out, 1-1 count): R3 interferes with the fielder attempting to field a foul ball that might become fair and the fielder had a reasonable chance to make a play. The ball is dead, a foul ball is charged to the batter and R3 is out.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 12.17.2.1.6

There are two things to note here. First, the umpire must judge that there was a reasonable chance to make a play, even though the ball is foul. Second, even though the ball might have become fair, it was foul at the time of the interference. The batter is not awarded first but instead a foul ball is charged. If this had been a bunt attempt with two strikes, the batter would also be out.

76. If a suspended player is found after a game to have played in that game, she will be suspended for two games and her head coach will be suspended for four games.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 13.13 EFFECT

New for 2020-2021.

77. A runner who is obstructed sliding into a base cannot be tagged out if she overslides the base losing contact with it. The act of obstruction awards her this base. The oversliding is viewed as part of the runner's action that was obstructed.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 3/2/2018 Interpretation; 9.5

78. A runner is advancing toward home and there is a play at the plate. F2 drops the thrown ball. She picks up the ball in her bare hand and shoves the runner with her glove to prevent the runner from touching home plate. What is the ruling?

- A. Obstruction. Delayed dead ball is signaled. If the runner is tagged out, the ball is declared dead. At the conclusion of the play the runner is awarded home. In addition, the umpire shall issue a warning to F2 and notify her coach. Subsequent violation of the same rule by F2 shall result in a one-base award to the obstructed runner and each other runner forced to advance.**
- B. Obstruction. Delayed dead ball is signaled. If the runner is tagged out, the ball is declared dead. At the conclusion of the play the runner is awarded home.
- C. Legal play. The runner is out and the ball remains live.

Reference: 4/2/2018 Interpretation; 9.5.3.9

The spirit and intent of rule 9.5.3.9 also applies to the situation described in this question.

79. A pitcher is not restricted to using her pants to wipe any substance (dirt, resin, saliva) off her pitching hand. She can touch another part of her uniform or her body.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 4/2/2018 Interpretation; 10.13.1

Although the majority of pitchers will use their pants, a pitcher may also use another part of her uniform or her body, including a rag hanging in her belt behind her, or even her signal armband if she chooses.

80. If an obstructed runner deliberately crashes into a defensive player holding the ball, the crash takes precedence over the obstruction. The runner cannot simply run into the defensive player and not make an attempt to slide or go around the player. The ball is dead, the runner is out and other runners must return to the base they occupied at the time of the deliberate crash. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender will be ejected without warning.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 4/2/2018 Interpretation; 12.13

Compare this to Q#37 where the catcher is not holding the ball.

81. The pitcher is in the proper pitching position required for a legal pitch. Her stride foot is behind the pitcher's plate. After taking the signal, she repositions her stride foot by moving it backward, forward, sideways or off the ground before taking her forward step to start the pitching motion. This is an illegal pitch.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 10/21/2019 Interpretation; 10.2.1.2

When the 2020-2021 Rule Book was published, only stepping back farther to increase the distance behind the pitcher's plate was included. Subsequently, clarification has been issued that once the pitcher takes the proper pitching position required and takes the signal, she may not move her stride foot in any direction, whether it is in contact with the pitching plate or not. *Note: Once the pitcher has established her stride foot, simply dropping or rocking onto her heel is not a violation.*

82. The pitcher is in the proper pitching position required for a legal pitch. She has both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. After taking the signal, she moves her stride foot but maintains contact with the pitcher's plate before taking her forward step to start the pitching motion. This is an illegal pitch.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 10/21/2019 Interpretation; 10.2.1.2

See Q#81.

83. The pitcher takes the pitch signal from her signal arm band or from the catcher with neither foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. This is an illegal pitch since the pitcher is not in the pitching position.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 10/21/2019 Interpretation; 10.2.2

The pitcher must be in the pitching position when she takes the signal. Taking the signal from behind the pitcher's plate from her signal arm band or the catcher is illegal since the pitcher is not in the pitching position. The pitcher is considered to be in the pitching position when she has her hands apart, her pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate, both feet on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate, the hips in line with first and third bases, and the catcher in position to receive the pitch.

84. The coach is giving visual or verbal pitch signals while the pitcher is not in the pitching position. The pitcher may step into the pitching position, immediately put her hands together and start the pitching motion.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 10/21/2019 Interpretation; 10.2.2

See Q#83 also.

A coach may give visual or verbal signals while the pitcher is not in the pitching position, however, when the pitcher assumes the pitching position she must look at her signal arm band or the catcher to take or appear to take the signal. The pitcher may not simply step into the pitching position, put her hands together and start the pitching motion. There must be timing consistent with taking the signal from an arm band or catcher.

85. The coach is giving visual or verbal pitch signals while the pitcher is not in the pitching position. The pitcher then assumes the proper pitching position and looks at her signal arm band or the catcher to take or appear to take the signal. This is legal.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 10/21/2019 Interpretation; 10.2.2

See Q#84.

86. If either the defense or the offense request time before the ball is in the pitcher's control in the pitcher's circle, do not immediately grant it. First check to confirm all runners are stopped on a base, action has concluded, and then grant time.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p37; 6.11.3.1; 6.11.3.3

It is not required by rule that the ball be in the circle for an umpire to grant a team time. Certainly, much more discretion should be used when the defense requests time and there are runners, as the offensive team could look to take advantage of the look back rule. If the offensive team requests time, they have essentially indicated they intend to conclude action.

87. (R1): In the 3-Umpire system, with R1, no chase, and a hit to the outfield on the right side: As R1 advances to 3B, U1 should immediately mirror that advancement by moving to the point of plate holding area, regardless of where the throw goes.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p129

There is a possibility of a play on BR at 1B and U1 is in the best position to make this call. When a throw goes to 3B, verbally communicate to U3 and move all the way to the point of plate holding area.

88. Starting with the 2020 season, if the base umpires match, they may wear predominantly black shoes with white accents.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p21

Shoes should be all black.

89. As long as all umpires match, the crew may wear "NCAA" embroidered caps during a regular season non-conference game.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p21

In NCAA postseason play only.

90. Base umpires may choose whether or not to use an indicator.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p22

Ball/strike indicators must be used on plate and base.

91. Once an umpire ejects a coach or player that umpire should move away. One of the other umpires must step in and help defuse the situation by talking calmly and guiding the ejected person (without touching) off the field and may be required, if warranted, to inform a coach and game management that by rule the ejected person has one minute to leave the game or the game can be subject to forfeit. Do not resume the game until the ejected person has left the facility or is in the designated area.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p30

92. If there is an ejection of player, coach or team personnel, at the end of the game the umpires should discuss the ejection and contribute to the written incident report. The ejecting umpire is responsible for submitting the incident report directly to their coordinator. The coordinator will submit the report to the softball secretary-rules editor as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the game. If the ejection carries a game suspension the coordinator, not the ejecting umpire, must call the secretary-rules editor at the conclusion of the game.

A. True
B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p30

The ejecting umpire bears the responsibility of submitting the incident report to the secretary-rules editor and for calling the secretary-rules editor if the ejection carries a game suspension. A coordinator may be sent a copy.

93. Umpires should be proactive and not allow a team to violate the conference rule. Tell them, "Stop!" or "Wait!" Come between them and their target and do what is necessary to prevent a violation.

A. True
B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p44

94. Every mechanic and all opportunities for great umpiring are covered by the CCA Manual. Umpires should not read the play as it develops nor should they adjust their position to have a better view of the action as situations change.

A. True
B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p8, p34, p65

95. (R1): In the 3-Umpire System, the batter bunts a ball that rolls slowly near the first base line. It requires the plate umpire to stay with the ball longer than usual to determine fair/foul. U3 must be prepared to communicate and take R1 to 3B for a possible play.

A. True
B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p65

This is a fast-moving situation. U3 must read the pending situation quickly. There is no time for a delayed reaction.

96. (R1/R2, 0 outs): On a fly ball to the outfield, the mechanic for tag up responsibility would be the same between the 2-Umpire system and the 3-Umpire system with an umpire chase - the PU will take R2 (the lead runner) and the base umpire will take R1 (the trail runner).

A. True
B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p229, p435

The remaining base umpire, or base umpire in the 2 umpire system, has tag up responsibility for R1 and R2.

97. (R2, 1 out): In the 3-Umpire system, the batter hits a fly ball in foul territory near the 3B dugout. U3 decides to bracket the play with the plate umpire. U1 has all plays on R2 at 3B.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual p161

If a catch is made, U3 must move quickly back to 3B and make any call on R2 there. U1 would watch R2 tag up and make any calls at 2B.

98. (No runners): In the 3-Umpire system, the batter hits a trouble ball to F7. When the ball is hit, it is acceptable for U3 to hold up a "stop sign" indicating that they will return and cover 3B after the catch/no-catch.

- A. True
- B. False**

Reference: 2019 Training Tape - Week 10 (4/18/2019)

Holding up a "stop sign" has a major impact on the crew. It forces partners to stop moving in their natural coverage roles. On a trouble ball in your area, fully commit to your coverage. Do not pre-decide that you will return. After covering the trouble ball, turn and observe the continuing action. Then, and only then, may you communicate a return to help your crew.

99. (R1): In the 3-Umpire system, U1 goes out on a trouble ball to right field. The fielder retrieves the uncaught ball and throws it to the infield. A rundown begins between 2B and 1B on the batter-runner. It is acceptable for U1 to recognize the extended play and, if available, clearly communicate to the crew that they have returned to assist.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: 2019 Training Tape – Week 2 (2/22/2019) and Week 10 (4/18/2019)

On an extended play, the umpire may return to assist if needed. Communication is essential in this case.

100. As the non calling umpire you witness your partner call a runner out on a tag play, but you clearly see that the defender lost possession of the ball during the tag. What action should you take?

- A. Do nothing until the calling umpire asks for help.
- B. Approach the calling umpire unsolicited and provide them with the information you have.**

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual P13, #3e

A dropped ball is a specific situation where a non-calling umpire should approach the calling umpire unsolicited with information.

101. (R1, 1-1 count): With R1 stealing, the batter swings at the pitch, contacts the ball and it travels directly to F2's chest protector and then is caught by F2. F2 then throws out R1 at 2B as the plate umpire signals a foul tip. As the base umpire you saw the ball clearly hit the catchers chest protector, what action should you take?

- A. **Call time and bring the crew together, give the home plate umpire your information on the foul tip. The call should be changed to a foul ball, the base runner returned to 1B, and the at-bat resumes with a 1-2 count.**
- B. Do nothing unless the home plate umpire comes to you looking for more information.

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual P13, #3c; 11.6.1,

A foul tip not caught within foul tip guidelines is a specific situation where a non-calling umpire should approach the calling umpire unsolicited with information.

102. On a tag play, the calling position is achieved by being in position to see the path of the runner into the base and to see the ball/glove tag of the runner at a distance of 3-10 feet.

- A. **True**
- B. False

Reference: 2020 CCA Manual P35

When reading the play, you will need to determine the distance which works best for that play. You may also find that what you initially thought was a good distance must change as the play develops.

103. (R2/R3, 1 out): In the 3 umpire system, the batter hits a trouble ball to left field that U3 chases. The ball is caught for the second out. R2 and R3 tag and advance. The plate umpire reads the throw from the outfield and commits to the tag play at 3B on R2, who is tagged for the third out. Choose the best answer regarding the responsibility for watching R3 touch home and determining whether or not the run scores.

- A. The plate umpire must see the tag play at 3B and the touch at home.
- B. **U1 must view the timing of the tag at 3B in reference to the lead runner touching home and then should move confidently towards home plate signaling that the run scores or that the run doesn't score. U3 should also observe the action and be prepared to provide assistance if needed.**

Reference: 1/2/2020 National Coordinator Notes

The base umpire needs to be "big" in this scenario when scoring or waving off the run.

104. During a contentious game, the opposing coaches are constantly monitoring the actions of the other coach. The third base coach for Team A prefers to stand outside of the coaches' box approximately halfway between 3B and home between pitches. The head coach of Team B complains. Which of the following is true?

- A. The base coach may not be out of the coaches' box between pitches.
- B. The base coach may be out of the coaches' box between pitches but is restricted to the coaches' box before the pitch is released.
- C. The lines of the coaches' box are to prevent the coach from being too close to the batter's box and too close to the foul line, but there are no back edges.
- D. **B and C**

Reference: 2.11; 2.20; A.R. 2-5

A game management situation like this is made slightly easier by knowledge of the rules governing what can and cannot be done. Be careful not to insert your opinion as to whether or not it is ethical –simply follow the rule.

105. (No runners): The batter hits a triple and as she slides into 3B, the thrown ball goes by the fielder and hits the third base coach, who is trying to evade the ball, deflecting the ball into the dugout. The ball is ruled blocked and dead by the umpire. Which of the following is true?
- A. Return the batter runner to 3B because the blocked ball was caused by the offense and there is no apparent play.
 - B. Two-base award to the batter runner (home in this case) for the live thrown ball entering dead ball territory. The base coach did not intentionally interfere with a thrown ball, nor interfere with the defensive team's opportunity to make a play on a runner.**
 - C. Interference. Runner closest to home (batter runner) is out due to a non-playing member of the offensive team preventing the defense from making a play.

Reference: 12.17.4; 12.12.8.3

If a thrown ball accidentally touches a coach in foul territory, the ball is live. It is not interference if the individual tries to evade the ball or is not aware that the ball is coming.

106. During a game, the head coach casually mentions having seen your name in a box score from the prior weekend. The head coach then asks, "We're playing them next week. Is their pitcher's change-up as good as I hear?" In this situation, you should:
- A. Politely refrain from sharing information that might be used by a team's future opponent.**
 - B. Discuss the pitcher's change-up because the head coach has already heard about it.

Reference: Code of Conduct: Umpires (g)

Umpires can have prepared lines they use in situations like this.

107. (No runners, 0-2 count): The pitcher throws a pitch which bounces in front of home plate. After the bounce, the batter swings and the ball is tipped sharply and directly into the catcher's glove and caught. The batter is still entitled to attempt 1B on the dropped third strike.
- A. True
 - B. False**

Reference: 11.11.1; 11.6.1; A.R. 11-5

A dropped third strike applies only when the catcher fails to catch a third strike before the ball touches the ground with two outs or with first base unoccupied. A foul tip is a ball that travels sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's hand or glove/mitt and is legally caught unassisted by the catcher. If the catcher does not catch a foul tip, it is a foul ball, so a batted ball cannot result in a dropped third strike.

108. (R1, 0 outs): R1 is leading on the pitch. With one foot out of the box, the batter hits a line drive to F3 who catches it and immediately steps on 1B before R1 returns. What is the correct ruling?
- A. The ball is dead and the batter is out. R1 must return to 1B.**
 - B. Delayed dead ball. The defense may choose the result of the play (double play) or the batter is out and R1 must return to 1B.

Reference: 11.15.1

109. (R1/R3, 0 outs): F5 is playing behind the bag. While in contact with the base, R3 intentionally interferes with a fair batted ball. Choose the correct ruling.

- A. The ball is dead. R3 is out. The batter is awarded 1B. R1 is forced to advance to 2B.
- B. The ball is dead. R3 is out. The runner closest to home (R1) is also out. The batter is awarded 1B.
- C. The ball is dead. R3 is out. The batter is also out. R1 must return to 1B.**

Reference: 12.17.2.6.9

When a base runner in contact with a base intentionally interferes with the ball or a fielder making a play, the ball is dead. If there are fewer than two outs, both the batter and the base runner are out (only the batter is out if there are two outs). Each base runner must return to the base legally occupied at the time of the interference. NOTE: If intentional interference is ruled, the effect would be the same whether or not the position of the fielder closest to the base is in front or behind the base.

110. While on a vacation to Las Vegas, an NCAA softball umpire decides to place a legal wager on the outcome of the NFL Super Bowl. This can have an effect on that softball umpire's eligibility to officiate in NCAA championship play.

- A. True**
- B. False

Reference: NCAA Championship Officials Conflict of Interest Policy

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering, which has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. More specifically, there are several conflicts that could trigger further investigation and, based on the totality of circumstances, may render an official ineligible to officiate in any round(s) of any of the NCAA championships. One of them is betting, legally or illegally, on sports, either amateur or professional, in which the NCAA conducts a championship. NOTE: Others of note are participating in a fantasy contest (e.g., daily, weekly, season-long, etc.), brackets or similar contests in any sport, either amateur or professional, in which the NCAA conducts a championship, and in which anything of value is at risk with an opportunity to win a prize.