

WMBUA 2025 Pre-Season Exam Study Guide

This Exam Study Guide is designed to help you study for our WMBUA.org's Online 50 Question Exam This Exam Study Guide consists of 85 Questions. Your actual Online Exam will consist of only 50 of these same questions, randomly chosen for each member. This means that everyone will have their actual Online Exam questions in a different order and with 50 of the 85 questions randomly chosen for each person. If you answer all 85 of these Exam Study Guide questions you will be prepared for your actual Online Exam's 50 Questions. I encourage you to form study groups to discuss these 85 questions and discuss your answers in a group setting.

Instructions: The 2025 questions are specifically for the National Federation of High School (NFHS) 2025 Rules. I have also noted those questions where the Official Baseball Rules (OBR) ruling is different from the NFHS.

I have arranged the questions into groups based on their respective primary **TOPIC**. I hope this helps in your studies.

SPECIAL NOTE: This is the Answer Key Document. The Answers are in Bold Font highlighted in Yellow with supporting Case Plays and/or my Comments in RED font and Yellow highlight. The Case Play references in my Answers are per the 2023 and 2024 Case Books. I have not yet cross-checked the Case Play numbers against the 2025 Case Book. This Answer Key Document will be given to all our members as soon as possible after our February 16, 2025 meeting. NOTE: The 9 most often missed questions on the 2025 online Exam were ... Q27,Q47,Q48-2,(Q59-was most),Q61,Q64,Q67,Q78,Q80

New 2025 Rule Changes

Q01 The batter B1 hits a home run. As B1 touches home plate the catcher challenges the legality of B1's bat because it has pine tar about 2 to 3 inches above the manufacturer's bat grip. The bat grip is about 12 inches as measured from the knob. Should the Home Run count?

- A. Yes**
- B. No

NFHS 1-3-2

The Home Run counts. The bat is legal. Pine tar, resin, or any drying agent is permissible to be beyond the manufacturer's bat grip provided the pine tar does not extend more than 18 inches from the knob of the bat This 18" is considered to be the taper area of the bat.

Q02 During the 3rd inning Team A is leading 3-0, when Team A's assistant coach is ejected for stepping out of the dugout approaching the field to yell at the base umpire U1 following a close play at first base. The head coach subsequently enters the field to argue why his assistant should be ejected. The assistant coach refuses to leave the field in a timely manner and the head coach makes no effort to get him to leave, thus not allowing the game to resume in a reasonable amount of time. Can the umpires rightfully declare a forfeit and rule a 7-0 victory for Team B?

- A. Yes**
- B. No

NFHS 4-4-1 and 4-4-2

a game shall be forfeited to the offended team when the opposing team delays more than a reasonable amount of time in resuming play or in not obeying the umpire's order to remove a coach, player, or team personnel. The forfeited score is a 7-0 victory for Team B because the game has not yet gone the regulation number of innings and Team B was behind in the score at the time of forfeiture.

Review of 2022, 2023 & 2024 Rule Changes that are still in effect

Q03 The catcher's mask has a clear eye shield constructed of a molded rigid material but the catcher is wearing sunglasses under his helmet's face mask. Is this legal?

A. Yes

B. False

NFHS 1-5-4

Tinted eye shield as part of the mask is illegal equipment, but tinted glasses worn on the face underneath the mask is legal.

Q04 The batter, hearing a string of numbers announced by the 3rd base coach, takes an instruction card from his pants pocket, looks at the card, determines the offensive play call and then puts the card back into his pants pocket, and steps into the batter's box. Is this legal?

A. Yes

B. No

NFHS 1-6-1

This is legal. The card may be kept on the wrist or forearm or in the player's uniform pocket per the "2024 NFHS Official Baseball Rules Interpretations", which can be found on the NFHS website. I plan to also post this PDF on our WMBUA website.

Q05 The pitcher is wearing a wristband on his non-throwing arm containing the pitch selection and defensive plays. The wristband with the flap closed is a single color matching the color of his jersey. But at times, during his delivery the flap of the wristband comes open and the white card inside the wristband becomes exposed. The opposing coach protests saying this is distracting due to the white exposure and wants the wristband removed. The umpire does not make the pitcher remove his wristband because he decides it only happens sometimes, and he does not consider the flap as distracting. Is this umpire correct?

A. Yes

B. No

NFHS 1-6-1

The wristband would be legal if it didn't keep opening during delivery exposing the white card. It is legal for the pitcher to wear a wristband on his non-throwing arm provided it is a solid color, not white or gray, and is non-distracting. In this instance the exposing white from the card makes it illegal. If the exposed card was not white or gray, it would be the umpire's decision as to whether the flap opening up during delivery is considered to be distracting.

Q06 The team has used all its defensive charged conferences, and the coach does not want to change pitchers. The coach tells the catcher to call all the infielders to the mound for the purpose of relaying instructions to them through the catcher and his one-way communication device. The umpire discovers what is happening and charges a defensive conference to the team, thus forcing the pitcher to be removed. Is the umpire correct in his ruling?

A. Yes

B. No

NFHS 3-2-5 and 2-10-1

This is illegal use of the one-way communication device. A warning shall be given to the coach. A defensive conference cannot be charged, as a charged conference is a meeting which involves the coach or a non-playing representative of the team and a player or players of the team per the "2024 NFHS Official Baseball Rules Interpretations".

Q07 A right-handed pitcher engages the pitching plate with his pivot foot parallel to the pitching plate and touching it. His free foot is breaking the plane of the front edge of the pitching plate with his hands already together. But his shoulders are squared to the plate. Is this legal?

A. Yes, he is in a Windup Position

B. No, he is in the Set Position

NFHS 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3 **No, it is not legal. The position of his pivot foot determines that this pitcher is in the Set Position. A pivot foot positioned parallel to the pitching plate puts him in the Set position and when a pitcher takes a set position, the pitching hand shall be down at the pitcher's side or behind the pitcher's back. In the motion to become "set" in the Set Position he must join the gloved hand and the pitching hand, and he must go to the "set" position in one continuous motion without interruption with the ball in both hands in front of his body at or below his chin.**

TOPIC: PRE-GAME

Q08 The umpires notice pre-game that the home team is using a heater in their dugout, and some of the players who are seated near the heater have their hands in front of the heater to keep warm and have their bat with them near the heater to keep it warm as well. Is this legal?

C. Yes

D. No

NFHS 4-1-3b & 7-4-1a **Case 1.3.5 SITUATION F Using any artificial means to control the temperature of a bat is illegal. This situation was actually reported to me by an umpire in a game two years ago. He asked a) was it legal, and b) was the home team required to have a heater for the visiting team since they had one for their home team. My answers were ... a) a team can use a heater for their players but not for their bats, and b) there is no requirement that the home team must also supply the visiting team with a heater.**

Q09 The umpires notice Visiting team member #3 wearing an elbow brace with an exposed metal hinge. Is this legal?

A. Yes

B. No

NFHS 1-5-8 **Rule 1-5-8 states knee and ankle braces but Case 1.5.8 SITUATION D also states that and elbow brace, if unaltered from the original manufacturer's design and production does not require any additional padding.**

Q10 The Minnechaug High School field's originally constructed dugouts for the Home and Visitors are constructed the same. However, the home team has constructed a heavy wooden bench for the Home Team coaches to sit higher and that bench is right next to the original dugout on the home plate side. A similar bench has not been added to the Visitor's dugout area. Can the Home team coaches sit on their extended dugout?

A. Yes

B. No

NFHS 1-2-4 **Case 1.2.4 SITUATION C This situation is illegal for two reasons. 1) The expansion of the dugout must be equally applied for the Visitors; and 2) it should have been extended toward the outfield not toward home plate.**

Q11 The umpire sees a player from the Home team wearing a bandana a) during the on-field warmup before the start of the top of the first inning; b) while sitting on the bench as a substitute.

A. In both a) and b) the umpire shall issue a team warning to the Home team coach.

B. Only a) deserves a team warning.

NFHS 3-3-1 **Case Play 3.3.1 SITUATION WW Headbands are legal, but bandanas are illegal. The team warning is given because during the pre-game coaches conference each coach must verify each of his players is legally equipped.**

Q12 During the pregame conference, the head coaches of both teams' hand in their lineup cards to the Plate Umpire. The Home team's starting players as well as all eligible substitutes are listed on their lineup card, but the Visiting team's lineup card only lists the starting players with no substitutes listed even though the umpire knows there are more than 10 players in their dugout. The Plate umpire requires the Visiting coach to list his substitutes before he accepts the lineup card. Is the umpire's requirement correct?

A. Yes, if there are known substitutes they must be listed on the lineup card.

B. No, the umpire should suggest they be listed but not require them to be listed.

NFHS 1-1-2 **Rule 1-1-2 states the name and shirt number of eligible substitutes "SHOULD" be listed. It doesn't state "SHALL" be listed and Case Play 1.1.2 SITUATION A and SITUATION B further explain that the umpire should accept the lineup card but encourage the coach to list his eligible substitutes – Because - Keep in mind per Rule 3 there is no penalty for an unlisted substitute to later enter the game.**

Q13 During the pregame conference, the Plate Umpire asks the respective coaches if all their equipment is legal and if all their players are legally equipped. The home team coach verifies his equipment is legal and his players are legally equipped. The visiting team coach says he "thinks so". The Plate Umpire accepts both coach's answers and proceeds with the home team coach's Ground Rules. The Base umpire remains silent.

A. The Plate umpire should insist on getting a confirming verification from the visiting coach before proceeding.

B. The Base umpire should politely interrupt if the home team coach starts to present the Ground Rules and insist the visiting coach provide confirming verification.

C. It is acceptable in this instance to proceed with the Ground Rules.

D. Both A and B are correct actions

NFHS 4-1-3b **Case Plays 4.1.3 SITUATION A The game shall not begin until both coaches verify to the Plate umpire that all their equipment is legal and that all their players are legally equipped. Enforcement of the PENALTY described in 4-1-3 to restrict the head coach to the bench/dugout for the first violation is incumbent on asking each coach for verification during the pregame conference. As the U1 we should never allow our partner to make a mistake if we are certain his rule interpretation is incorrect (or in this case the Pre-Game Conference procedure).**

Q14 The home team provides only three legal baseballs to start the game.

A. **This is legal. The minimum to start a game is three baseballs.**

B. This is illegal. The minimum to start a game is five baseballs.

NFHS 1-3-1 **Case Play 1.3.1 SITUATION Per the NFHS three baseballs is the minimum to start a game, and no less than two baseballs shall be used to complete a game. However, the intent of the rule is to have enough baseballs to keep the game from being delayed when a ball is hit out of play. Therefore, it is the WMBUA recommendation that the Plate umpire ask for at least five baseballs to start the game.**

Q15 Five minutes prior to the start of the game the home plate umpire calls both team representatives together for the Pre-Game Conference. The Visiting Team's head coach and Home Team's assistant coach attend the conference. The Home Team Assistant coach notifies the umpire that the head coach will be late to attend the game by about 30 minutes or so.

- A. The Home Team's assistant coach may represent the team and the umpire tells the assistant that he will be the head coach today even after the actual head coach arrives.
- B. The Home Team's assistant coach may represent the team and the umpire tells the assistant that he will be the head coach today even after the actual head coach arrives; and the head coach will be restricted to the dugout for the game when he arrives because he did not attend the Pre-Game Conference.
- C. The Home Team's assistant coach may represent the team, and the umpire tells the assistant that he will be the head coach until the actual head coach arrives. Upon arrival the head coach will assume his normal responsibilities and he will not be restricted to the dugout.**

NFHS 3-2-4 **Case Play 3.2.4 SITUATION A** **This question was one of the most missed on our 2024 Exam, which is why I have repeated it for this 2025 Exam.**

TOPIC: Designated Hitter

****Q16** Team A's DH is Adams, and he is batting for the pitcher Smith in the 3rd spot in the batting order. The first baseman Jones is batting in the fifth spot in the batting order. In the 3rd inning the game was suspended for the remainder of the day due to rain & lightning. This suspended game is rescheduled for another day. At the start of the suspended game Team A's coach hands in his lineup card at the pregame conference with the original DH Adams playing first base and remaining 3rd in the batting order. Team A's lineup now shows the original pitcher Smith batting in the fifth spot in the batting order for the original first baseman Jones because Jones is not attending this suspended game resumption. Team A now only has nine players available to start this game, which includes Adams and Smith. The umpires rule that Team A's lineup cannot be accepted because the original pitcher Smith was DH'd in the original game by Adams and Smith and Adams are both locked into their original 3rd spot in the batting order, and they cannot both be in the field defensively at the same time. With only eight players now available to start the game, the umpires declare Team A has forfeited because the NFHS requires that nine players must start the game. Are the umpires correct?

- A. Yes** **I had YES as the correct answer in the online exam, but YES is Incorrect Because this "Resumed Game" is a continuation of a suspended game, so it needs to be thought of as being the same game, not the start of a new game. Therefore, no forfeit-continue with 8 players.**
- B. No

NFHS 3-1-4 **OBR Rule 5.11(a)(5) is Different** **A DH and the player for whom the DH is batting are locked into the same spot in the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting order. A suspended game is treated the same as the original game. Think of it as the same game. The role of the DH is terminated when the DH assumes a defensive position, but the original DH Adams and the original pitcher Smith are still locked into the same 3rd spot in the batting order as they were in the original game. In NFHS this is Not a forfeit because an NFHS game can continue with eight players. NOTE - I have stated that the OBR Rule is different because this exact scenario occurred in one of our 2024 American Legion games and American Legion plays by OBR Rules. In an OBR game the DH may be used on defense, continuing to bat in his same spot in the batting order, but the pitcher for whom he is batting must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player. In the actual 2024 American Legion game when this scenario took place the lineup for the resumption of the suspended game should have been legal and the game should not have been forfeited.**

Q17-1 Identify which statement(s) is(are) correct for a ten player Traditional DH:

- A. The DH role is terminated when the DH assumes a defensive position.**
- B. The DH role is terminated when a pinch runner is used for the DH.
- C. The DH role is terminated when the DH is ejected from the game.

- D. The DH role is terminated when a pinch hitter bats for the DH, or whenever the starting DH is substituted for offensively in the batting order.
- E. All the above are correct.

NFHS 3-1-4

Only A. is correct. Many people think A & C are both correct, but C. is not correct. The rule book does not say anywhere that the DH role is terminated for being ejected. There are only two scenarios where the Traditional 10-player DH role is terminated, if he assumes a defensive position, or when the player for whom he is batting comes to bat. This is a duplicate question from our 2024 Exam, our 2023 Exam and our 2022 Exam because it was an often-missed question from all three past exams.

Q17-2 Identify which statement(s) is(are) correct for the role of the nine-player “Player/DH”:

- A. The DH role is terminated when a pinch runner, or a courtesy runner is used for the Player/DH.
- B. The DH role is terminated whenever the Player/DH is substituted for offensively.
- C. The DH role is terminated whenever the Player/DH is substituted for defensively.
- D. All the above are correct.

E. Only A & B are correct.

NFHS 3-1-4

This is a duplicate question from our 2024 Exam and our 2023 Exam. An important purpose of the “Player/DH” is to allow that player to be substituted defensively and still maintain his offensive role as the DH for that substitute. So, C. is incorrect.

Q18 Adam is the designated Player/DH and is the starting pitcher. In the 4th inning with two outs Adam hits a single. The coach notifies the umpire he wants to have a courtesy runner for Adam. The umpire tells the coach that Adam cannot have a courtesy runner because on offense Adam is the DH batting for himself and not considered to be the pitcher. The coach can have a pinch runner for Adam but if he does then Adam is no longer the Player/DH. Adam can re-enter the game one time because he is a starter, but when he does, he re-enters as just a normal player and no longer the Player/DH.

A. The umpire’s ruling explanation is correct.

B. The umpire’s ruling explanation is not correct.

NFHS Speed-up Rules, 3-1-3 & 3-1-4

Various Case Play Situations for CR – This was an often-missed question on our 2024 Exam and our 2023 Exam.

Q19 Kent is listed in the lineup card as the RF/DH, hitting in the 3rd spot in the batting order. In the top of the 5th inning, substitute Taylor entered as the RF for Kent. In the bottom of the 5th Kent comes to bat for Taylor as the DH. Is Kent still the legal DH?

A. Yes

B. No, Kent can re-enter as a substitute for Taylor because Kent was a starter, but Kent cannot continue to be considered the DH.

NFHS 3-1-4

This is Legal. Kent was the “Player/DH”. The Player/DH can be substituted for defensively and still be the DH for his substitute – see Case 3.1.4 Situation G

TOPIC: Speed-Up Rules – Courtesy Runners

Q20 In the first inning, C1 Adams is a courtesy runner for the catcher. In the top of the third inning C1 Adams is inserted as a substitute runner for DH Blake who was batting for the second baseman F4 Thomas. A new courtesy runner C3 Charles runs for the catcher in the third inning. In the fifth inning the DH Blake who was

originally batting for F4 Thomas reenters the game as the DH for C1 Adams. In the same half of the fifth inning C1 Adams goes in to run as a substitute for DH Blake after DH Blake hits a single. Is this legal?

A. No

B. Yes.

NFHS 2-36-3a, 3-1-1, 3-1-4 and Speed-up Rules

C1 Adams was the legal new DH when he substituted to run for DH Blake in the 3rd inning, but C1 Adams is an illegal substitute when he entered to run for the DH in the 5th inning because a substitute cannot re-enter. Only a starter can re-enter (once); and when an illegal substitute is discovered on offense he is declared Out. C1 Adams was illegal because he had re-entered the game and was not a starter, but a re-entered substitute. As a side note, C3 Charles was a legal Courtesy runner for the catcher in the third inning. NOTE: This situation occurred in one of our 2024 HS games, and our WMBUA umpire ruled correctly at the time.

Q21 In the 1st inning C1 is a courtesy runner for the pitcher. In the 3rd inning, C1 is a courtesy runner for the catcher and C1 safely steals 2nd base on the first pitch. The base umpire then realizes that C1 should not have been allowed to be the courtesy runner for the catcher because he had previously been the courtesy runner for the pitcher. How should the umpires rule?

A. Remove C1 from the game, allow a new courtesy runner C2, but return C2 to first base.

B. Upon discovery, C1 shall be called out and restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.

NFHS 3-1-1 and Speed-up Rules

Case Play 3.1.1 SITUATION R and Case Play CR 1 SITUATION ... The same courtesy runner can run for only the pitcher, or only the catcher, but not both. C1 became an illegal substitute as soon as the first pitch was made, and as an illegal substitute on offense he shall be declared out upon discovery and restricted to the bench/dugout. NOTE: Both Umpires (PU & U1) should be tracking courtesy runners on their lineup card (PU) and/or a game note card (U1) to avoid allowing an illegal courtesy runner (illegal substitute) from entering the game - perform "preventive officiating".

Q22 Jones runs for catcher F2 as a courtesy runner in the 1st inning. In the 3rd inning Smith comes in to run for the catcher F2. Is this legal?

A. Yes, if Smith is an eligible courtesy runner and he is reported to the Plate Umpire as a courtesy runner when he enters.

B. No

NFHS Speed-up Rules

Case Play CR 2 SITUATION ... It is imperative that Smith be reported as a courtesy runner. If not, then he shall be a substitute pinch-runner.

Q24 Adams is the courtesy runner for the catcher F2 in the 2nd inning. In the top of the 5th inning Adams pinch-runs for the left fielder Baker but Adams does not take the field in the bottom of the 5th inning. In the 7th inning Adams is inserted as the courtesy runner for the catcher F2. What is the ruling?

A. Adams was a legal pinch runner in the top of the 5th inning

B. Adams should not have been allowed to enter as a pinch runner in the top of the 5th because he was already a courtesy runner for the catcher in the 2nd inning.

C. Adams was an illegal substitute in the 7th inning.

D. A and C are correct

NFHS Speed-up Rules

Case Play CR 8 SITUATION ... When Adams legally entered the 5th inning as a pinch runner, he became a substitute and when he did not stay in the game and play defense in the bottom of the 5th, he became ineligible to re-enter the game in any capacity. Therefore, when he entered the game again in the 7th inning, he became an illegal substitute and upon discovery he should be declared out.

TOPIC: Batting – Hitting

Q25 Team A has a runner on 2nd base when B2 hits a high foul fly in the vicinity of the on-deck circle. The on-deck batter, while watching the catcher coming toward him, backs away from the catcher and the ball but into the path of the 3rd baseman F5 and contacts F5. The fly foul drops cleanly to the ground. What is the ruling?

- A. The on-deck batter was in a protected area in the on-deck circle. A foul ball is declared.
- B. The on-deck batter moved to allow the catcher to be able to make the play, but the catcher didn't make the catch, so a foul ball is declared.
- C. Both A. and B. are correct
- D. Batter B2 is Out**

NFHS 7-4-1 **Case Play 7.4.1 SITUATION I. This is offensive Interference. The on-deck circle is not a protection area for the on-deck batter. The on-deck batter interfered with F5's ability to catch the fly.**

Q26 The Sci-Tech HS game is being played at Forest Park's main field #1, which has a Foul Pole in right field but no outfield fence. No mention of this Foul Pole is given during the pre-game conference ground rules. Batter B1 hits a long fly ball that passes just inside the right field Foul Pole and then curves and lands in foul territory.

- A. The umpire should rule this a foul ball.**
- B. The umpire should point a fair ball and let the batter runner proceed to run to as many bases as he can get.
- C. The umpire should point fair ball and signal a Home Run.

This is a duplicate question from our 2024 Exam because it was one of the most-often missed questions. ... Because there is no fence the foul pole has no relevance to determine a Home Run. It wasn't part of the Ground Rules, nor should you allow it to be. Therefore, the Foul Pole at this site is only an alignment tool to help the umpire determine the foul line; and the foul line in this instance extends beyond the Foul Pole. Since the fly ball landed outside the extended foul line in foul territory it is a Foul Ball.

Q27 Batter B1 hits a fair line drive that is touched in flight by the pitcher F1, after which it hits the umpire U1 standing in the infield behind F1. The ball is then caught by F4 before it touches the ground. What is the ruling?

- A. B1 is out on the catch.
- B. The ball is dead when it hits the umpire. B1 is awarded first base.
- C. B1 is not out with F4's catch. The ball remains live. B1 is out if F4 throws to F3 before B1 touches first base.**

NFHS 2-5-1 **Case Play 2.5.1 SITUATION A. ... The ball remains live because it was touched by a defensive player before it hit the umpire. Any batted fly ball that stays in play cannot be caught for an out if it first hits an umpire.**

Q28 B1 hits a short pop-up fly that comes down on foul ground between home and first base, and it then rolls to fair ground where it comes to rest.

- A. The ball is a foul ball.
- B. The ball is a live fair ball.**

NFHS Rule 2-5-1 **Case Play 2.5.1 SITUATION C. ... per the Definition of a Fair Ball**

Q29 The batter hits the ball, drops the bat and it unintentionally hits the ball a second time in fair territory and is either touched by a fielder and/or comes to rest in fair territory. Ruling?

- A. Foul ball and the ball is dead when it hits the bat the second time.

B. The batter is Out because his bat hit the ball a second time in fair territory.

C. The ball is fair and remains Live.

NFHS 2-5-1 **Case Play 2.5.1 SITUATION E – the ball unintentionally contacted the bat in Fair territory and the ball remained in Fair territory.**

Q30 The batter hits the ball, drops the bat and it unintentionally hits the ball a second time in foul territory and is either touched by a fielder and/or comes to rest in fair territory. Ruling?

A. Foul ball and the ball is dead when it hits the bat the second time in foul territory.

B. The batter is Out because his bat hit the ball a second time in foul territory.

C. The ball is fair and remains Live.

NFHS 2-5-1 **Case Play 2.5.1 SITUATION E and Foul Ball definition 2-16-1d ... a batted ball is foul that, while on or over foul territory, touches the person of an umpire or a player or any object foreign to the natural ground. In this case the bat is a foreign object.**

Q31 The batter hits the ball, drops the bat and it unintentionally hits the ball a second time in fair territory and is either touched by a fielder and/or comes to rest in foul territory. Ruling?

A. Foul ball and the ball is dead when it hits the bat the second time in fair territory.

B. The batter is Out because his bat hit the ball a second time in fair territory.

C. The ball is foul.

NFHS 2-5-1 **Case Play 2.5.1 SITUATION E– the ball unintentionally contacted the bat in Fair territory BUT the ball ENDED in Foul territory.**

Q32 With R3 on 3rd base and R1 on 1st base, a ball batted by B3 hits the umpire who is behind the pitcher in the infield but in front of F4. Ruling?

A. The ball is dead when it hits the umpire.

B. The ball is Live if F4 can still make a play.

C. The batter B3 is awarded 1st base.

D. The ball is dead when it hits the umpire, B3 is awarded 1st base, R1 is awarded 2nd base and R3 is awarded Home.

E. R3 remains at 3rd base.

F. A. C. and E. are all correct.

NFHS 5-1-1 and 8-1-2b **Case Play 5.1.1 SITUATION I. Unless the ball touches F1, it becomes dead and each runner is sent to the base occupied or to which each runner is being forced when the ball became dead, i.e., R3 remains at 3rd because he was not forced but R1 goes to 2nd and the batter is given first base. Had the batted ball first touched F1 and then hit the umpire the ball would have remained Live.**

Q33 Batter B1 is crowding the front edge of the batter's box and legally hits the pitch. His stride through with his swing places his front foot on the ground in front of and outside of the batter's box while his back foot remains in the box. The batted ball bounces up and accidentally hits B1's front leg. Ruling?

A. The batter is Out.

B. A foul ball is called.

C. The ball remains Live and in play. B1 can try to reach 1st base.

NFHS 2-16-1f **OBR 5.09a8 is Different In NFHS it is a foul ball because the batter still had a foot in the batter's box. He is not considered out of the box until he is totally out, meaning both feet have touched the ground out of the box. In OBR the batter would be out. The OBR interpretation is that once he is no longer in a legal batting position in the box, he is no longer in the box.**

Q34 Batter B1's batted ball strikes the ground and bounces up to accidentally contact the barrel of B1's bat while the bat is over fair ground. B1, at the time, is still holding his bat and has one foot in the batter's box and the other foot in the air. Ruling?

A. The batter is Out.

B. A foul ball is called.

C. The ball remains Live and in play. B1 can try to reach 1st base.

NFHS 2-16-1g

A foul ball in NFHS (and a foul ball in OBR (OBR 5.09a7)). B1 is still in the batter's box for both sets of rules NFHS and OBR. In NFHS he is in the batter's box as long as one foot is still in the box. In OBR he is still in the box because one foot is in the box and the other is in the air. If the other foot was on the ground out of the box then in OBR he would be considered to be out of the batter's box and he would be declared Out.

Q35 With a runner on 2nd base, one out and a 1-2 count, B3 strikes out swinging on a pitch in the dirt. The ball bounces off the catcher F2 and contacts B3's leg as he starts to run to 1st base incidentally deflecting away from F2. F2 retrieves the ball but drops it trying to throw out B3 going to 1st base and has no play on either R2 advancing or B3.

A. The ball remains Live unless B3 clearly hinders F2's attempt to field the ball.

B. Any time a deflected pitch touches the batter, it is dead.

NFHS 8-4-1a

Q36 B1's bunt rolls up the first base line where it hits B1's bat that was lying on the ground in fair territory. The ball deflects off the bat and settles into foul territory.

A. Batter Interference is called and B1 is declared out.

B. The ball is Fair, and the play remains Live.

C. The ball is Foul provided the bat was not placed there intentionally.

NFHS 2-5-1, 2-8, 2-16-1, and 8-4-1d

Case Play 2.5.1 SITUATION E. This is a duplicate question from our 2024 Exam because it was an often-missed question on our 2024 Exam, and our 2023 Exam. This question is the same concept as question Q31.

Q37 With a runner on 2nd base and one out, Batter B3 fakes a bunt and remains in the batter's box. Catcher F2's return throw to the pitcher hits B3's bat and rolls toward 1st base. After seeing the errant return throw R2 attempts to advance to 3rd but is thrown out.

A. No interference. The ball remains Live and the result of the play stands.

B. No interference, but the ball is dead. R2 returns to 2nd base.

C. Interference. Batter is out and R2 returns to 2nd base.

NFHS 7-3-5

The same would be true (the play stands) even if R2 was safe at 3rd so long as the umpire judges the batter didn't intentionally interfere and just maintained his normal posture in his batter's box during the return throw. The batter did nothing wrong.

Q38 With R1 on 1st base, B7 is the next batter in the batting order, but B8 erroneously takes B7's place. The batting order error is discovered by the opposing coach and reported to the umpire after B8 has been hit by a pitch and before the next batter comes to bat. Ruling?

A. B8 is ruled Out, and B7 is next to bat.

B. B8 is ruled out and B9 is next to bat,

C. B8 remains at 1st base and B7 is out, with B9 next to bat.

- D. B7 is declared Out. B8 is removed from 1st base and B8 returns to bat with a 0-0 count. R1 remains at 2nd base.
- E. **B7 is declared Out. B8 is removed from 1st base and B8 returns to bat again with a 0-0 count. R1 is returned to 1st base.**

NFHS 7-1-1j **Case Play 7.1.1 SITUATION A – in a Batting Out of Order situation the Proper Batter (B7 in this case) is always the player to be called Out. When B7 is called Out, the next proper batter is B8.**

Q39 B7 erroneously comes to bat instead of the proper batter B6. With a count of 3-2 on B7, the opposing coach notifies the umpire that B7 is batting out of order.

- A. The umpire replaces B7 with B6 being at bat with a count of 0-0.
- B. The umpire declares B7 Out and B6 is the next to bat.

C. The umpire places B6 at bat with a count of 3-2.

NFHS 7-1-1 **Case Play 7.1.1 SITUATION B – This is not a Batting Out of Order violation because the appeal was made before batter B7 completed his at-bat.**

Q40 The batting order is ... B1, B2, B3, B4. B3 erroneously bats in place of B1 and reaches 1st base with a single. The batting order infraction is not detected and pitcher F1 attempts to pick off B3 at 1st base before a pitch is thrown to the next batter.

- A. The next legal batter should be B1.
- B. If the coach detects the batting out of order infraction before the first pitch to the next batter B3 should be declared out.
- C. If the coach detects the batting out of order infraction before the first pitch to the next batter B1 should be declared Out and B3 should be removed from 1st base.

D. The next legal batter is B4.

NFHS 7-1-1 **Case Play 7.1.1 SITUATION C – F1's attempted pickoff is a "play", which makes the improper batter B3 become the Proper batter. Therefore, the next proper batter is B4.**

Q41 Pitcher F1 is having a hard time throwing strikes, The offensive coach instructs his batter B4 to assume an exaggerated crouch stance to make it even harder for the pitcher. F1's first pitch to B4 is directly over the plate but approximately chin high, which the umpire calls a strike. The offensive coach requests Time Out and calmly asks the umpire how his strike zone is being interpreted.

- A. The umpire describes his strike zone as the space over home plate half-way between the batter's shoulders and the batter's waistline and to the knees.
- B. The umpire says the batter is using an exaggerated crouch stance so the strike zone is where his natural stance would be.
- C. The umpire says it is his judgment to determine what a natural stance would be.

D. All the above are true.

NFHS 7-2-1 **Case Play 7.2.1 SITUATION A – per 2-35-1 the strike zone is determined by a batter's natural stance.**

Q42 Batter B1 stance appears as though he will attempt to bunt the ball. The pitch is out of the strike zone so B1 does not move the bat toward the ball but does not move the bat backwards either. He merely continues to hold the bat steady over the plate in the strike zone. Ruling?

- A. The umpire should call this a strike because B1 did not remove his bat from over the plate.
- B. The umpire should call this a strike because B1 did not move his bat backwards away from the ball.
- C. The umpire calls the pitch a Ball because he judges the mere holding of the bat in the strike zone is not an attempt to bunt .**

NFHS 10-1-4a **Case Play 7.2.1 SITUATION B – in bunting, any movement of the bat toward the ball when the ball is over or near the plate area, is a strike. The mere holding of the bat in the strike zone is not an attempt to bunt.**

Q43 With R1 on 1st base, B2 has 2 strikes. B2 swings at the next pitch and misses and the ball touches B2 while R1 steals 2nd base.

- A. The ball is dead. B2 is awarded 1st base. R1 stays at 2nd base.
- B. B2 is Out. R1 remains at 2nd base.
- C. B2 is Out and R1 is returned to 1st base.**

NFHS 7-3-4 **Case Play 7.3.4 SITUATION A – R1 is returned because the ball became dead when it touched B2.**

Q44 Batter B1 with a 3-0 count rolls his elbow into the strike zone and a) the pitch hits B1 in the shoulder and would have been a Ball, b) the pitch hits B1 in the elbow and the pitch was in the strike zone.

- A. In both a) and b) the batter is awarded 1st base for a hit-by-pitch.
- B. In both a) and b) the batter stays at bat with a count of 3-1.
- C. In a) B1 is awarded 1st base as it was Ball Four, and in b) B1 is charged with a strike, and remains at bat with a count of 3-1.**

NFHS 7-3-4 **Case Play 7.3.4 SITUATION C – In both a) and in b) the batter permitted the pitch to hit him. The ball is dead, and the pitch is ruled either a Ball or Strike. In a) if the pitch had not been Ball Four, then the batter would remain at bat with a Ball added to his count.**

Q45 With one out and R1 on 1st base, B3 swings and misses contacting the catcher F2 on B3's follow-through. The contact interferes with F2's potential throw to 2nd base to make a play on R1 advancing.

- A. The umpire calls TIME and returns R1 to 1st base. B3 remains at bat.
- B. B3 is Out and R1 is returned to 1st base.**

NFHS 2-21-4, 7-3-5 and 7-3-7 **OBR 6.03a3 COMMENT is Different** **Case Play 7.3.5 SITUATION B – This is Follow-Through Interference by the batter**

Q46 With one out and R2 on 2nd base, B3 hits a ground ball to the shortstop F6, but on his swing follow-through B3 contacts the catcher F2 on his throwing arm and F2 is noticeably injured. F6 fields the ball and throws out batter-runner B3 at 1st base. R2 advances to 3rd base, rounds the base but makes no attempt to try to score.

- A. The umpire calls TIME and returns R2 to 2nd base. B3 comes back to bat.
- B. The umpire calls TIME, calls B3 Out and returns R2 to 2nd base.
- C. The umpire allows the play to stand. B3 is Out on F6's successful put out at 1st base, and R2 is allowed to remain at 3rd base.**

NFHS 2-21-4 **OBR 6.03a3 COMMENT is Different** **This play occurred in one of our high school games last season and Joe V subsequently emailed an MLB YouTube video of a similar MLB play to the entire board a few days prior to our general board meeting. Then, at our general board meeting explained the NFHS ruling and how the NFHS Rule for "Follow Through Interference" is different from the OBR "Backswing Interference". In this NFHS play, it is Not "Follow Through Interference" because the catcher was not hindered in attempting to make a play on any runner or make a play at home plate. Had R2 attempted to score after rounding 3rd base, then the proper call would be "Follow Through Interference" and B3 would be Out and R2 returned to 2nd base. NOTE: In OBR the play would be immediately called dead and B3 returned to bat and R2 returned to 2nd base.**

Q47 With no outs and R2 on 2nd base, B2 bunts and as B2 runs to 1st base he is obviously outside the runner's lane making it extremely difficult for catcher F2 to make a throw to first. F2 fields the bunt and looks toward first but does not throw due to B2's running position. R2 advances to 3rd base.

- A. B2 is safe at 1st base but R2 is returned to 2nd base.
- B. B2 is Out for Interference, but R2 remains at 3rd base.
- C. B2 is Out for Interference, and R2 is returned to 2nd base.
- D. B2 is safe at 1st base and R2 remains at 3rd base.**

NFHS 8-4-1g **An umpire should not speculate as to why the catcher didn't attempt to throw to first base. The catcher just looking toward the runner going to first is not evidence enough to determine why he didn't throw due to the runner's position in the base line. Certainly, an actual throw would have warranted a running lane Interference; perhaps even an attempted throw that obviously was withheld due to the runner's illegal running position could be considered. Rule 8-4-1g states "The batter-runner is out when the batter-runner runs outside the three-foot running lane (during the last half of the distance from home to first base), while the ball is being fielded or thrown to first base." The OBR rule is slightly different. The batter-runner must be interfering with the ability of the fielder (first baseman) to catch the throw.**

Q48-1 With one out, R2 on 2nd base and R1 on 1st base, B4 hits an infield fly. The base runners both believe there are two outs and start running as soon as the ball is hit. F4 fails to catch the infield fly and both runners cross home plate. Ruling?

- A. B4 is safe at 1st base, and both runs count.
- B. B4 is safe at 1st base but both runners are returned to their forced bases R1 to 2nd and R2 to 3rd.
- C. B4 is Out for hitting an infield fly and both runners are returned to their bases R1 to 1st and R2 to 2nd.
- D. B4 is Out for hitting an infield fly, but both runs count.**

NFHS 2-19-1 **Case Play 2.19.1 SITUATION ... Both runs count because runners may advance at their own risk on an Infield Fly Rule.**

Q48-2 With one out, R2 on 2nd base and R1 on 1st base, B4 hits a high fly to 2nd base which could have been caught by F4 with ordinary effort. Neither umpire declares "Infield Fly". F4 intentionally drops the ball but picks it up and tags R1 who is off the base between 1st and 2nd. Ruling?

- A. B4 is safe at 1st base, and both runners are awarded their next forced base. Bases are now loaded.
- B. B4 is safe at 1st base but R1 is Out.
- C. The half inning is over as R1's out is the 3rd out.**

NFHS 2-19-1 and 7-4-1 **Case Play 7.4.1 SITUATION G. B4's infield fly is the second out and R1's out is the 3rd out. The situation of the infield fly determines the out, not the umpires' declaration, or lack thereof. When there is an Infield Fly Rule in effect, it doesn't matter if the fielder intentionally drops the fly because the batter is out and runners advance at their own risk on an Infield Fly Rule; and it is the responsibility of each team to know when a potential Infield Fly Rule is in effect, even if the umpires forget to call "Infield Fly". If the Infield Fly Rule was not in effect, such as, a runner on first base only, then intentionally dropping the fly by F4 would result in R1 being protected against being tagged and a potential double play. The ball would be declared dead, the batter would be declared out and R1 would remain at first.**

Q49 With one out, R2 on 2nd base and R1 on 1st base, the pitcher throws his first pitch and R2 steals 3rd but R1 remains at 1st. B4 hits a high fly on the 2nd pitch to 2nd base which could have been caught by F4 with ordinary effort. The Base umpire erroneously declares "Infield Fly batter is out". F4 subsequently drops the ball. R3 scores from 3rd R1 goes to 2nd and B4 trots toward his dugout believing he has been declared out on the infield fly declaration. Ruling?

- A. B4 is Out for the declared "Infield Fly". The other runners advance at their own risk.
- B. The umpires decided their error caused an unfair issue and they return R3 to 3rd leave R1 at 2nd and put B4 at 1st because F4 dropped the ball and the umpires judge that B4 would have made it safely to 1st.

C. The Play would stand.

NFHS 2-19-1 and 10-2-3

Case Play 10.2.3 SITUATION F The play would stand because both teams have the responsibility to know when conditions exist for an Infield Fly.

Q50 Batter B2 has a 3-2 count with R1 on 1st base with less than two outs. The next pitch is in the dirt and called a Ball with B2 checking his swing. B2 runs to 1st. The catcher F2 throws wildly to the first baseman F3 believing it to be strike three. F3 misses the throw and R1 advances to 3rd and B2 advances to 2nd. The defensive coach appeals to the home plate umpire PU to ask his partner U1 for help on the checked swing.

- A. The Plate umpire denies the coach's appeal and lets the play stand.
- B. The Plate umpire allows the appeal and the base umpire U1 signals the checked swing was a committed strike. B2 is declared out and R1 is allowed to remain at 3rd.
- C. The Plate umpire allows the appeal and the base umpire U1 signals the checked swing was a committed strike. B2 is declared out and R1 is returned to 1st base.

D. Both A. and B. can be the correct calls. PU can deny this appeal if he strongly feels he is correct on his checked swing/Ball call.

NFHS 10-1-4a

OBR is Different for appealed checked swing Answer A. is correct if the plate umpire does not allow the checked swing appeal because the pitch was called a ball making it ball four. Therefore, the batter is entitled to advance to first base. The catcher in throwing the ball to first does so at his own risk. As a result, if no appeal is granted, then the play would stand making answer A. a correct answer. Answer B. is also correct if the plate Umpire allows the appeal of the check swing. Because in NFHS the home plate umpire is not mandated to appeal to his base umpire partner regarding whether a checked swing that he called a Ball was a committed swing strike or not. However, it is probably in the plate umpire's best interest to avoid conflict by allowing the appeal – "pick your battles & this is not a battle worth picking". NOTE: In OBR there is no option. The PU Must allow the checked swing appeal if the pitch was called a Ball.

TOPIC: Baserunning & Awarding Bases

Q51 Runner R2 is attempting to steal 3rd base. In his attempt to throw to 3rd the catcher's hand holding the ball contacts the umpire's chest in his throwing motion but doesn't prevent him from throwing to 3rd. Ruling?

A. The umpire should call umpire's interference but allow the play to proceed.

- B. Because the contact was not very hard, and the catcher was still able to make a throw to 3rd the umpire should avoid calling umpire's interference.
- C. The umpire's interference results in an immediate dead ball.

NFHS 8-3-6

This is a delayed dead ball. The umpire should call umpire's interference when the contact occurs even if it is not considered hard contact, but let the play go until he sees if R2 is out or safe at 3rd. If R2 is out on the throw to 3rd then the interference is ignored and the out stands. If R2 is safe at 3rd at the end of the catcher's initial throw, then TIME is called and R2 is returned to 2nd base.

Q52 With R3 on 3rd, R1 on 1st and one out, B4 with an 0-1 count hits a foul fly ball near a line delineating dead-ball territory. F5 straddles that line with one foot in dead-ball territory and one foot in live-ball territory as he makes the catch. Then, his momentum causes him to step completely into dead-ball territory. Ruling?

- A. The catch is not legal, and a foul ball strike is added to the count for B4. He remains at bat with an 0-2 count.

B. F5 is credited with a legal catch for the second out. R3 is awarded home and R1 is awarded 2nd base.

NFHS 2-9-1, 2-9-1C Comment and 5.1.1P (OBR is different - OBR 5.06b3C, 5.09a1, and 5.12b6) In NFHS a fielder only needs one foot inbounds for a legal catch. In OBR both feet must be inbounds for a legal catch.

Q53 Runner R1 on 1st attempts to steal 2nd. F4 catches the thrown ball on one hop and tries to tag R1 while F4 is on his knees. R1 hurdles F4 and avoids the tag. Ruling?

A. Interference is called and R1 is Out for hurdling.

B. R1 is safe. It is not hurdling because the fielder was on his knees when R1 hurdled.

NFHS 8-4-2b2 PENALTY (OBR is Different) In NFHS jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder if the fielder is lying on the ground. Hurdling a fielder while he is not lying on the ground is illegal. Being on one or both knees is not lying so this play is illegal. Also keep in mind that Diving over a fielder is always illegal even if that fielder is lying on the ground. NOTE: In OBR hurdling and diving is legal, and the play would stand.

Q54 Batter-runner B1 strains his knee sliding into 2nd base on a double. He is not able to continue, and the offensive team does not have a substitute available. Ruling?

A. The game is forfeited to the opposing team.

B. The offensive team must continue the game with eight players. B1 is declared out and every time B1's spot in the batting order comes up he is declared Out.

C. The most recent batter who is not on base is allowed to run for B1, and the offensive team can continue the game with eight players.

NFHS 4-1-3 and 4-4-1f NOTES (OBR is Different)

Q55 With R1 on 1st base and R3 on 3rd base and one out, B4 hits a line drive in the right field gap. R3 holds and R1 runs. The ball is caught. R3 tags up and R1 attempts to run back to 1st. The RF throws the ball to 1st base before R1 can return and after R3 scores. Ruling?

A. R3's scored run counts.

B. R1's force out returning to 1st is the 3rd out, so R3's run does not count.

NFHS 2-29-3 This is not a force out because the runner is not forced to go anywhere due to the batter becoming a runner. The batter was out on the catch. This is a "Time Play" and an appeal play by the defense.

Q56 With runners on first (R1) and third (R3) and two outs, the batter B5 hits a slow ground ball back to the pitcher (F1). F1 fields the ball and throws it to the catcher (F2) but R3 is ruled safe on the tag play at home. F2 then quickly makes a play on the batter runner B5 going to first, and B5 is ruled out. Ruling?

A. Score the run as this is an intervening play.

B. Do not allow the run to be scored.

NFHS 9-1-1 Exception a. This was a duplicate question from our 2024 Exam, 2023 Exam and our 2022 Exam because it was an often-missed question in all three years. A run cannot score when the third out is a Force out. This is not a Timing Play.

Q57 With the bases loaded and two outs, B6 hits a ground ball to F5 who boots the ball. The ball rolls toward 2nd base. R2 sees F5 approach and attempts to avoid F5 who has retrieved the ball and attempts to tag R2 advancing toward 3rd. The umpire calls R2 out for leaving the base path. R3 touches home before R2 is called out. Ruling?

A. The ball became dead at the time R2 violated the base path, but the umpire called him out after R3 scored. This is a "time play" so R3's run counts.

B. The ball remains live and since R2 was called out after R3 scored R3's run counts. This is a "time play".

C. R2 is the 3rd Out. R3's run does not count.

NFHS 9-1-1 Exception a.

A run cannot score when the third out is a force out.

Q58 With runners R1 and R3 on 1st and 3rd bases and two outs, batter B5 checks his swing halfway on the 0-2 pitch, which is called Ball one. F2 throws to 2nd to catch R1 stealing, but R1 stops and gets into a rundown. R3 scores before R1 is tagged out. Then the defensive coach appeals the checked swing, and the base umpire says B5 committed to swing. The plate umpire calls B5 out for strike three. Ruling?

A. Count R3's run scored.

B. R3's run does not count.

NFHS 9-1-1 Exception b

Although R3 scored on what appeared to be a "time play" appeal, the batter made the third out before reaching 1st base. Thus, the appeal and subsequent strike out for the 3rd out negates the run.

Q59 Bases are loaded; R1, R2, and R3 with one out and a 1-2 count on the batter. R3 is attempting to steal home and the pitch hits the sliding R3 while the ball is in the strike zone.

A. The home plate umpire declares the ball dead immediately, calls strike three and declares the batter out.

B. All base runners are awarded one base from where they were at the time of the pitch and R3 scores.

C. Batter is out on strike three and all runners return to the base they had occupied at the time of the pitch.

D. A & B are correct, and C is incorrect.

E. A & C are correct, and B is incorrect.

NFHS 5-1-1a, 6-1-4, 8-1-1 Note, & 9-1-1a

The 2025 Most Missed Question **Per 5-1-1a it is a dead ball when a pitch touches a runner; and 5-1-1a refers you to 8-3-1a which states each runner other than the batter runner is awarded one base when a pitch strikes a runner. In addition, the "Baserunning Awards Table" on pg. 53 under the heading "ONE BASE (runners)" item #7 "Pitch strikes runner" shows the award is one base from Time of Pitch. This play is also exemplified in Case Play 8.3.1 SITUATION A. This was the most missed Question on our 2024 Exam.**

Q60 The bases are loaded when batter B4 hits a bloop single into short left field. The shortstop F6 picks up the ball and throws wildly toward home plate and the ball goes out of play into dead-ball territory. When F6 released the ball for his throw all the runners R1, R2, and R3 had already advanced to their next base, but batter runner B4 had not yet reached first base.

A. Three runs score on the two-base award from the Time-of-Throw, and batter runner B4 is awarded 2nd base.

B. Two runs score on the awarded bases (R3 and R2) and R1 is awarded 3rd base. B4 is awarded 2nd base based on the location of the runners at the Time-of-Pitch.

C. Three runs score on the two-base award from the Time-of-Throw, and batter runner B4 is awarded 3rd base.

NFHS 8-3-3c & 8-3-5

Even though the hit was into the outfield it was the first play by an Infielder, F6. Do not get confused by thinking "first play in the infield". The correct rule language is "first play by an infielder". This was an often-missed question from our 2024 Exam and also our 2023 Exam.

Q61 Runner R1 on 1st, an errant pitch is missed by the catcher and is judged to not be going out of play because of the impetus of the pitch but is subsequently deflected out of play by the catcher.

- A. A pitch inadvertently deflected into dead-ball territory is a one-base award to the runner from the Time-Of-Pitch.
- B. A pitch intentionally deflected into dead-ball territory is a two-base award to the runner from the Time-Of-Pitch.
- C. The award is two-bases from the Time-Of-Deflection regardless of whether the deflection was inadvertent or intentional.**
- D. Both A. and B. are correct

NFHS 8-3-3 (OBR is different) **Case Play 8.3.3 SITUATION K** The catcher applied the new force that caused the ball to go out of play. The pitch is therefore considered over so the deflection is handled like a fielder's thrown ball going out of play and results in all runners being awarded two bases from the base occupied at the Time of the Deflection. If the umpire were to judge that the pitch would have gone out of play regardless of the deflection, then one base would be awarded from the Time-Of-Pitch. This was one of the often-missed questions from our 2024 Exam.

Q62 With the bases loaded and two outs, B6 walks on ball four, but R2 is overzealous and overruns 3rd base after tagging 3rd. R2 is tagged out on a throw from F2 before R3 touches home plate. Ruling?

- A. R3's run does not score because the 3rd out is made before he touches home plate.
- B. R3's run scores.**

NFHS 2008 Interpretation (the NFHS in 2008 used OBR Rule 5.06b3B COMMENT for interpretation) This not a "time play". When a run is forced to advance without liability to be put out, the only requirement is the runner advance and touch home.

TOPIC: Obstruction & Interference

Q63 NFHS "Follow Through Interference" is

- A. An immediate dead ball.
- B. A delayed dead ball.
- C. Is subject to the umpire's discretion as to whether the follow through contact was significant.
- D. When any contact of the bat hitting the catcher after the batter has swung at a pitch hinders the catcher's attempt to play on a runner or hinders action at home plate.
- E. Both A. and D. above
- F. Both B. and D. above**

NFHS 2-21-4 & 7-3-5c (OBR is Different) This is a delayed dead ball because if the catcher makes a play on a runner and that runner is Out, the Interference is ignored. The interference is also ignored if the catcher is not normally involved in any play due to the nature of the play (Example: the batter hits a single and the catcher is not involved in any play on any runner). In OBR this is called "Backswing Interference", and it is an immediate dead ball, but with no penalty.

Q64 Runner R1 on 1st, Batter hits a pop-up ball in the fair area of 1st base. R1 interferes with the 1st baseman who subsequently catches the ball. Rule on the play.

- A. Batter and runner are out.
- B. Batter is out, runner is returned to 1st base.
- C. Runner is out, batter is awarded 1st base.**

NFHS 5-1-1e This was an often-missed question from our past three Exams 2024's Exam, 2023's Exam and 2022's Exam. You need to remember that runner Interference is an immediate dead ball, so nothing that occurs afterwards in the play matters, which means the catch by the first baseman doesn't matter.

Q65 Runners at second (R2) and third (R3), with one out. During an attempted suicide squeeze play, R3 attempts to steal home after the batter misses the bunt. R2 holds at second base. During the bunt attempt the catcher interferes with the batter. Ruling?

- A. Batter is awarded 1st, both runners are returned to 2nd and 3rd.
- B. R3 scores, Batter B1 is awarded 1st, R2 is awarded 3rd.

C. R3 scores, B1 is awarded 1st, R2 remains at 2nd.

NFHS 5-1-2b, 8-1-1e1, 8-3-1c

(OBR is different)

In NFHS this is "catcher's obstruction". On catcher's obstruction any runner attempting to advance on a steal or squeeze shall be awarded the base the runner is attempting. If a runner is not attempting to advance on a steal or squeeze the runner shall not be entitled to the next base. This was an often-missed question from 2023's and 2022's Exams. NOTE: OBR refers to this situation as a "catcher's interference with a balk". The answer as to what to do with R2 is different in NFHS. In OBR R2 is awarded 3rd due to the balk, but in NFHS R2 remains at 2nd.

Q66 With less than two outs, R3 attempts to steal home. B2 swings and misses for strike two. On B2's swing follow-through B2's bat strikes the catcher F2 in the facemask.

A. The ball is declared dead for batter interference and R3 is declared out.

- B. The umpire calls time on the inadvertent interference and returns R3 to 3rd base. B2 remains at bat.
- C. Batter B2 is declared Out for his interference and R3 is returned to 3rd base.

NFHS 7-3-5

(OBR is different)

Case Play 7.3.5 SITUATION K In NFHS this is "Follow-Through Interference" and because there were less than two outs R3 is declared Out. If there had already been two outs, then the batter would be declared Out, inning over. NOTE: In OBR this is called "Backswing Interference", and it is an immediate dead ball with no penalty for the interference. B2 would remain at bat and R3 would be returned to 3rd.

Q67 Runner R1 is attempting to steal second base with a 0-1 count on the batter B1. B1 swings and misses the next pitch and hits the catcher's glove in his backswing causing the ball to pop out of the catcher's glove as R1 successfully advances to 2nd base.

- A. The umpire shall call Time, the ball is dead, and the umpire shall declare inadvertent backswing contact and return R1 to first base. B1 remains at bat with a 0-2 count.
- B. The umpire shall call Time, the ball is dead, and the umpire shall declare "Backswing Interference". The batter is out and R1 is returned to first base.
- C. The umpire shall call Time, the ball is dead, and the umpire shall declare "Follow-Through Interference". The batter is out and R1 is returned to first base.
- D. In this play if R1 was not attempting to steal the umpire would call Time, the ball is dead, and B1 would remain at bat with an 0-2 count with no interference.

E. Both C. and D. are correct

NFHS 2-21-4, 2-21-5, 5-1-1n, 5-1-2a1 7-3-5 and 7-3-7

(OBR is different)

Make sure you know the difference between NFHS' definitions of "Backswing Interference" and "Follow-Through Interference" and the proper penalty for "Follow-Through Interference", and the lack of any penalty for "Backswing Interference".

Q68 When Obstruction is called the ball is declared dead immediately if a play is being made on the obstructed runner. But if no play is being made on the obstructed runner the play will remain Live until all action has stopped and subsequently a delayed dead ball will occur.

- A. True
- B. False**

NFHS 2-22, 5-1-2b

(OBR is different)

In NFHS Obstruction is ALWAYS a Delayed dead ball. See Case Play 5.1.2 SITUATION A for the meaning of "Delayed Dead Ball" with more examples of a delayed dead ball. In OBR it is an immediate dead ball if a play is being made on the obstructed runner. But if no play is being made on the runner then it is a delayed dead ball in OBR.

TOPIC: Pitching

Q69 With a runner on 3rd base, the pitcher F1 wants to throw from a Windup but is starting in a position that looks like the Set position, with his pivot foot parallel to the pitcher's plate. He tells the umpires he will be throwing from the Windup. Is this legal?

A. Yes, pitchers can declare they are throwing from the Windup or the Set.

B. No.

NFHS 5-1-1k, 8-3-1a

(OBR is different)

In NFHS, the pitcher cannot declare his position. The position of the pivot foot is the only determining factor in determining the Windup or the Set position.

Q70 Team A's starting pitcher walks the first two batters in the 6th inning. The assistant pitching coach uses his first charged conference to speak to the pitcher. After the mound trip, Team B's coach substitutes in a pinch hitter. Team A's head coach comes out to make a second mound trip.

A. Allow the trip and replacing the pitcher is not required.

B. Allow the trip but the pitcher must be replaced.

C. Warn the head coach he cannot make a second trip, and if he continues he is ejected and the pitcher must be replaced after he completes pitching to the pinch hitter.

NFHS 3-4-1

(OBR is different)

Three charged Defensive Conferences are allowed before a pitcher must be replaced. These conferences can be taken at any time, even all three in the same inning and to the same batter can be taken

Q71 Between innings, the current pitcher goes to the mound and begins throwing warmup pitches. The head coach then tells the umpire he is bringing in a relief pitcher to replace the current pitcher, and the relief pitcher is to face the leadoff hitter. The current pitcher is not injured or ill. Ruling?

A. The current pitcher must pitch to the first batter of the inning.

B. This is legal.

NFHS 3-1

(OBR is Different)

Q72 From the Set position after coming set, pitcher F1 wants to change to the Windup position. He breaks his hands, puts both hands to his side, and then steps backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot. Ruling?

A. F1 has Balked.

B. This was a legal move.

NFHS 6-1-3

The pitcher must first step backward off the pitcher's plate before breaking his hands, or request "TIME" before moving his feet or breaking his hands.

Q73 With R1 on 1st base, pitcher F1 slips in his pitch delivery, the ball caroms off his leg and rolls across the foul line between home and 3rd base. Ruling?

A. A balk is called.

B. This is a dead-ball "no pitch" do over. R1 must remain on 1st base.

C. The plate umpire calls a Ball.

NFHS 6-1-4 (OBR 6.02b COMMENT gives the same interpretation as NFHS) If the ball had not crossed the foul line, then a Balk would be called.

TOPIC: Fielding

Q74 A fielder will be considered to have caught a ball in flight when:

- A. Getting secure possession in the hand or glove and firmly holding it and he does not use any other part of his uniform to trap the ball.
- B. The catch is not completed until the continuing action of the catch is completed
- C. The fielder, by action of stopping and attempting to remove the ball from the glove drops the ball.
- D. The fielder, after catching the ball, takes several steps before dropping the ball.
- E. The fielder after firmly securing the ball falls to the ground and then drops the ball.
- F. All the above A. through E. are correct
- G. Only A. through C. are correct**

NFHS 2-9

Q75 B1 hits a foul fly ball near the dugout. The first baseman F3 remains in live-ball territory as he makes the catch, but his momentum would have carried him falling into the dugout and dead-ball territory had a couple of his teammates on the bench not supported him.

A. This is a legal catch and the ball remains Live.

- B. This is a legal catch, but the ball becomes dead.
- C. This is not a catch and the ball is dead.

NFHS 2-9-1 Nothing prohibits players or spectators preventing a fielder from falling or stepping into the dugout or other dead-ball territory. This was a Test question I got from Referee Magazine.

Q76 Batter B1 bunts a slow roller up the first base line. The ball is about 6 inches in foul territory but rolling toward fair territory, when F1 races over and intentionally kicks the ball to keep it foul. Ruling?

A. Illegal, B1 is awarded first base.

B. Foul Ball.

NFHS 2-16-1d There is no rule against a player kicking the ball. A player cannot legally touch a ball in fair territory or a ball in foul territory that has a chance to become fair, with a thrown glove or detached equipment, but kicking is legal.

Q77 Runner R1 is advancing to third base when the batter hits safely to left field. The third baseman F5 receives a throw from F7 and applies a tag on R1 before R1 reaches third base. After the tag is applied the third baseman takes a step and during that step, he juggles the ball but secures it again without the ball dropping to the ground.

- A. Runner R1 is out because the thrown ball was caught by F5 in his glove and the tag was made while the ball was in his glove.
- B. Runner R1 is safe as the umpire rules that the ball was not securely in F5's glove as exhibited by his juggle after the tag before F5 had any voluntary release of the ball from his glove.**

NFHS 8-4-2h

The judgement of a Tag is like the judgement of a Catch. There should be voluntary release of the ball. A juggle is not voluntary during a Tag unless the juggle is part of an attempt for a voluntary release. This was an often-missed question on our 2024 Exam.

Q78 With runner R2 on 2nd base, batter B3 hits a ground ball to F6. F6 attempts to tag R2 but misses, and then throws wildly to first and the ball goes out of play. R2 retreats to 2nd base during the attempted tag. B3 had already touched 1st base at the time of the throw. Which of the following is false?

- A. This is not an attempted play by F6 because he neither tagged nor made a throw to try to get R2.**
- B. The attempted tag was a legitimate attempt.
- C. The attempted tag is considered the first play.
- D. The thrown ball becomes dead, and the umpire will award R2 home, and the batter-runner B3 3rd base.
- E. Both A. and D. are False.

NFHS 8-2 Baserunning Awards Table, and the MiLBUM (version 2021) Interpretation of a *Play or Attempted Play Section 5.18*

Case Play 8.3.5 SITUATION J. The throw by F6 was the second play by an infielder, so the base awards are two bases from where the runners had last touched at the Time of the Throw. B3 had already touched first at the time of the throw so his two bases get him awarded 3rd base, which makes D a true statement, so E is an incorrect answer.

TOPIC: Game Management & Miscellaneous

Q79 Between innings, team A's 3rd base coach walks from his coach's box across the field to the pitcher's mound and proceeds to visit with his incoming pitcher F1 while F1 is warming up with his warmup pitches. The conference ends before the warmups are over, the coach leaves the field and does not delay the start of the inning. The opposing coach asks the umpire if he will be charging a defensive conference for the visit. Ruling?

- A. A passing comment is excusable but a prolonged conversation such as this should have a defensive conference charged.
- B. No defensive conference shall be called because there was no delay in either the time of the warmup nor a delay to start the inning.**

NFHS 2-10-1, 3-4-1

(OBR is different)

Case Play 3.4.1 SITUATION H. In NFHS, this is not a defensive conference. The NFHS rules on conferences are focused heavily on delays of the game. A discussion between innings on the mound would not be a delay so long as the time between innings is not delayed. F1 has one minute in which to complete warmup throws. If the coach delays this time, then the umpire may assess the team a charged defensive conference.

Q80 The ball always becomes dead immediately when:

- A. An Intentional Base on Balls is to be awarded.**
- B. A runner is obstructed.
- C. An infielder intentionally drops a fly ball during an Infield Fly rule.
- D. Follow-Through Interference is called on the batter.
- E. All the above A. through D.
- F. None of the above A. through D.

NFHS 5-1-3

Only A is correct. B. and D. are delayed dead-balls; In C. the ball remains Live.

Q81 Team A's substitute S1, who was not a starter and has already been in and out of the game once, appears in the batter's box in place of B2. The offensive team's head coach (Team A's head coach) realizes the error and

sends B2 back to bat. There is no count on S1, but S1 had already entered the batter's box when the error was discovered.

A. S1 is declared Out for being an illegal substitute.

B. S1 is legally replaced by B2 with no penalty because no pitch was thrown.

C. B2 is declared Out for S1 batting out of order.

NFHS 3-1-1

Case Play 3.1.1 SITUATION C – When S1 stepped into the batter's box he is in the game as an illegal substitute per 3-1-1d. It doesn't matter that his own coach realizes the mistake. The discovery of an illegal substitute can be made by the umpire, or either team; and once an illegal substitute is discovered on offense that player shall be declared Out.

Q82 Team A's Smith is the current catcher, and Jones is the current right fielder as the team leaves the field defensively in the bottom of the 5th inning. Before the top of the 6th starts Team A's coach reports to the plate umpire that Jones and Smith will change defensive positions. Jones will be the catcher, and Smith will be the right fielder. Jones is the leadoff batter in the top of the 6th. Jones safely hit a single. Team A's coach now wants a courtesy runner for Jones. Ruling?

A. The plate umpire allows the courtesy runner because Jones was reported to become the catcher.

B. The plate umpire does not allow the courtesy runner.

NFHS 3-1-1 & Speed-Up Courtesy Runner Rules

Case Play 3.1.1 SITUATION N Umpires should not recognize projected substitutions. Defensive substitutions can only be made when a team is on defense. Smith was the last defensive catcher, so Smith could have a courtesy runner in the top of the 6th, but Jones cannot because Jones has not yet become the catcher until he takes that position in the bottom of the 6th inning.

Q83 The home team's coach has a broken leg. His leg is in a cast, and he must use a cane. He wants to coach 3rd base and asks the umpire during the pre-game conference if he can do so.

A. The umpire says he can coach 3rd base but cannot use his cane in the coach's box.

B. The umpire rules he can coach 3rd base if his cast is padded with at least one-half inch of closed-cell, slow-recovery padding, and he can use his cane as is.

C. The umpire says he must pad his cast and pad his cane before he can coach 3rd base.

NFHS 1-5-8 and 3-2-1

Case Play 3.2.1 SITUATION C - Casts must be padded. The use of a cane is legal. This Case Play reminded me of two separate instances that had been reported to me by umpires on two separate occasions within the past three years. The first instance was reported to have happened in a JV game. An injured player was sent out to coach first base with a cast on his forearm and I was asked if he was legal to coach the bases. The second instance happened in a Babe Ruth game. The coach injured his knee hitting balls during his team's pre-game Infield warmups. At the start of the game the coach went out to coach 3rd base using his fungo bat as a cane. The umpire asked me if that was legal.

Q84 The umpire notices the first base coach is using an iPad to keep score while in the coach's box. Ruling?

A. The coach is told he cannot use his iPad while coaching in the coach's box, but he can use it in the dugout bench area.

B. The umpire allows the iPad use but only for keeping the actual lineup score as a scorebook because it does not give his team any advantage over their opponent.

NFHS 3-3-1h

Case Play 3.3.1 SITUATION R Any individual occupying a coach's box cannot use any electronic device, including a cell phone or smart tablet. We should enforce this in a varsity game. However, I suggest using some common sense in a lower-level JV or Freshman game when the team only has one coach onsite and overlook the use if it is for scorekeeping.

Q85 A starting player re-enters the game a second time (it's his third time in the game) as a) the shortstop F6 on defense or b) as a batter on offense. In a) he is discovered after making two plays for outs while another batter is up with a 1-0 count. In b) he is discovered after stepping into the batter's box.

- A. In a) the fielder shall be immediately removed from the game when discovered and restricted to the bench. Any play(s) he made shall stand.
- B. In b) the batter shall be immediately removed from the game when discovered and restricted to the bench and another player shall bat in his place, like what happens in a Batting-Out-Of-Order situation.
- C. In b) the batter is declared Out and restricted to the bench and the next batter in the batting order will come to bat.
- D. **Both A. and C. are correct**

NFHS 3-1-3

Case Play 3.1.3 SITUATION A - The Batting-Out-Of-Order procedure does not apply. This is an illegal substitute ruling. In a) the offensive coach has a choice to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again, but only if the illegal defensive substitute is discovered before the next pitch to the next batter. Otherwise, any play the illegal defensive substitute made would stand.