

**California Softball Officials Association
Study Guide Questions 2012**

Instructions: There are 100 True/False, Multiple Choice questions. You are to mark your answer(s) to the questions on the enclosed answer sheet. There may be more than one correct answer for the Multiple Choice questions. Be sure to read the complete question before DARKENING the appropriate letter(s). Write the entire rule reference on the line provided.

1. The pitching distance is measured from the rear tip of home plate to the back edge of the pitcher's plate.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. **A circle 16 feet in diameter shall be drawn around the pitcher's plate.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. If space allows, the on-deck circles should be 30 feet from home plate.
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. **Once a game has started, if it is discovered that the pitching distance is incorrect, the correction shall be made immediately.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Bases shall be securely attached to the ground or an anchor system.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. **The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular white slab that is 24 inches by 6 inches.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. Use of treatments or devices that alter the bat specifications or enhance performance render the bat illegal.
 - a. True
 - b. False
8. **Batting helmets must have extended ear flaps that cover both ears and temples.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
9. If worn on the batting helmet, an eye shield must be clear and permit 100 percent allowable light transmission.
 - a. True
 - b. False
10. **A slide is illegal if the runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
11. A strike may be called by the umpire for specific actions by the batter or the offense.
 - a. True
 - b. False
12. **A fielder is considered to be making an initial play if the batted ground ball deflects off the pitcher.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
13. During the pregame conference between umpires, coaches and team captains, no balls may be hit or thrown in live-ball territory.
 - a. True
 - b. False
14. **In establishing the validity of a catch, the fielder must only hold the ball long enough to prove she has control.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
15. An on-deck batter may use either the circle nearest her own dugout or the circle nearest the opponent's dugout.
 - a. True
 - b. False
16. A runner's path is always defined as a direct line between two bases and three feet on either side of that line.
 - a. True
 - b. False

17. The number on the back of each player's jersey must be of a solid color and contrasting with the color of the shirt.
 - a. True
 - b. False
18. **A team may use the DP/FLEX option provided it is made known prior to the start of the game.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
19. After the DP/FLEX option is declared at the pregame conference with the submission/verification of the lineup card, a team may go down to nine players before the first pitch is thrown.
 - a. True
 - b. False
20. **The FLEX is placed in the 10th position in the lineup.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
21. A team's lineup card must include each starting player's first initial, last name, jersey number, position and batting order.
 - a. True
 - b. False
22. **If the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX has left the game.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
23. Any adult coach may attend the pregame conference with the umpire(s) and verify that the team is in compliance with all NFHS rules.
 - a. True
 - b. False
24. **A team's second unreported substitution results in the offender and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
25. A strike is called on the batter who deliberately removes a chalk line of the batter's box.
 - a. True
 - b. False
26. **The offensive team charged conference rule is effective when the ball first becomes live at the start of each half inning.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
27. The ball becomes dead immediately when a pitch touches a batter or her clothing.
 - a. True
 - b. False
28. **A delayed dead-ball situation occurs when the umpire interferes with the catcher who is attempting to throw a non-batted ball.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
29. After a dead ball situation, the ball becomes live when it is held by the pitcher within the 16-foot circle and the umpire signals "play ball."
 - a. True
 - b. False
30. **A delayed dead-ball situation occurs when the ball comes in contact with the bat a second time.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
31. The ball becomes dead immediately when a batted ball, while on or over foul ground, first touches the catcher's glove or hand.
 - a. True
 - b. False
32. **The pitcher has her choice of balls at the start of each half-inning unless both balls do not get put into play in the first half of the first inning.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
33. An illegal pitch call always results in the batter being awarded a ball and all runners awarded one base without the liability to be put out.
 - a. True
 - b. False

34. **Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch, she has 20 seconds to release the pitch.**
a. True
b. False
35. When the pitcher fails to deliver the pitch within the required timeframe, a ball is called on the batter and runners are advanced one base.
a. True
b. False
36. **A pitcher may not exceed 1 1/2 revolutions of the arm in the windmill motion.**
a. True
b. False
37. The pitcher may legally remove herself from the pitcher's plate before or after the hands come together by stepping back from the plate with both feet.
a. True
b. False
38. **An improper batter is considered to be at bat as soon as she enters the batter's box and one pitch has been thrown.**
a. True
b. False
39. When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, all outs on the play stand if the defensive team properly appeals.
a. True
b. False
40. **Following batter's interference with the catcher, the penalty enforcement will be based on the number of outs.**
a. True
b. False
41. With a runner on first base and less than two outs, F2 must catch the third strike in flight for the batter to be out.
a. True
b. False
42. **The batter is declared out if the offensive team's coach interferes with F5's attempt to field a foul fly ball.**
a. True
b. False
43. The batter is out if, while in the batter's box with the bat in her hand, the bat accidentally hits the ball a second time.
a. True
b. False
44. **The batter is out when she throws her bat and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.**
a. True
b. False
45. The batter will be called out when R1 interferes with F5's attempt to field a foul fly ball.
a. True
b. False
46. When a double first base is used, the white or colored base may be used when tagging up on a fly ball.
a. True
b. False
47. If a courtesy runner fails to report, she is considered an illegal substitute.
a. True
b. False
48. **While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field and turns right is committed to second base and must attempt to advance non-stop to second base.**
a. True
b. False
49. While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, once the runner stops at a base for any reason, she will be declared out if she leaves the base.
a. True
b. False
50. **A runner is out for interference if she accidentally contacts a fielder attempting to throw the ball.**
a. True
b. False

51. A dead ball is called if an obstructed runner is tagged out between the two bases where the obstruction occurred.
- True
 - False
52. **Awarded bases need not be touched.**
- True
 - False
53. A runner who misses a base while advancing may not return to touch the missed base after a following runner has scored.
- True
 - False
54. **A batter must attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch in order to be awarded first base.**
- True
 - False
55. A foul ball is called on the batter if R1 interferes with F3's unsuccessful attempt to field a fly foul ball.
- True
 - False
56. **The scorebook of the home team shall be the official scorebook, unless the umpire-in-chief rules otherwise.**
- True
 - False
57. Score the run if the runner advances to home when the third out is made by the batter-runner before touching first base.
- True
 - False
58. **The umpire-in-chief has the final authority when determining if advancement is by hit or error.**
- True
 - False
59. Score the run if the runner advances to home before the third out is made by the batter-runner being tagged out at second base attempting a double.
- True
 - False
60. **Umpires working the plate are required to wear a mask, throat protector and chest protector.**
- True
 - False
61. The plate umpire may rectify any situation in which an umpire's decision that was reversed has placed either team in jeopardy.
- True
 - False
62. **The plate umpire shall make all decisions except those commonly reserved for the field umpire.**
- True
 - False

Multiple Response

Identify one or more choices that best complete the statement or answer the question.

63. In the second inning with team B at bat and one out, it is discovered that the pitching distance is incorrect. What's your call(s)?
- The distance will be corrected at the start of the next full inning
 - The pitching distance will be corrected immediately and the game will continue
 - Once a game has been started, there will be no penalty if an incorrect pitching distance is discovered
 - The game will be forfeited to the visiting team
 - The game will continue with the incorrect distance
64. **B1 steps into the batter's box with a Little League baseball bat. What's your call(s)?**
- The bat is illegal**
 - The bat is legal**
 - The bat is removed from the game**
 - B1 is declared out**
 - B1 is ejected from the game**

65. An infield fly can sometimes occur:
- When a fly ball is caught by an outfielder
 - On a batted ball in flight in the infield with a perceptible arc
 - When a ball is bunted high in the air
 - When there are two outs
 - When there is one out
 - When runners occupy 1st, 2nd and 3rd
 - When there are no outs
 - When runners occupy 1st and 2nd
66. **B1 swings and contacts the ball that goes directly to F2's glove. What's your call(s)?**
- That is a foul tip when caught if the ball never rises on its way from the bat to the catcher's glove**
 - That is a foul tip when caught unless the ball rises above the catcher's head**
 - The ball is live if legally caught by F2**
 - The ball is dead on a foul tip**
67. R2 is on 2nd base with two outs when B4 hits safely to center field. F8 throws to F2, who misses the tag on R2 at the plate, but R2 slides past the plate without touching it. F2 then immediately throws to second base to play on B4. What's your call(s)?
- R2 is immediately out if F2 inadvertently steps on home plate while throwing to 2nd base
 - The plate umpire should hesitate slightly and then call the runner safe
 - The plate umpire should signal R2 safe and call, "no tag"
 - The plate umpire should give the safe signal with no verbal call
 - The defensive team may make a legal appeal that R2 missed home plate
68. **B1 draws a base on balls and overruns 1st base after touching the bag. F2 throws to F3 who tags B1 before she returns to 1st base. What's your call(s)?**
- B1 is out and the ball is dead**
 - B1 is out and the ball is live and in play**
 - The ball is delayed dead and B1 is out when tagged**
 - B1 is not out**
 - B1 has the same rights as a batter who has batted a fair ball**
69. B1 hits a properly declared infield fly near the 3rd base foul line. What's your call(s)?
- The proper verbal call is, "Infield fly. If fair, the batter is out"
 - If the ball falls untouched to the ground on foul territory and bounces fair between home and 3rd, it is not an infield fly
 - It is a dead ball if the third baseman intentionally drops a fair fly ball
 - The runner is out if any fielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball
 - The batter is out if a fair fly ball is not caught
 - The ball is foul if it settles untouched on foul territory before 1st or 3rd base
70. **B1 holds her bat motionless in the strike zone as F1's pitch passes high and out of the strike zone. What's your call(s)?**
- B1 is charged with a strike**
 - A ball is added to B1's count**
 - To avoid having a strike called, B1 must withdraw her bat and pull it away from the ball**
 - B1 will be warned about her action and another such violation will result with her being restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game**
 - B1's act is considered unsporting**
 - B1 is charged with two strikes; an automatic strike and a penalty strike**
71. R1 is on 3rd base with one out when B3 hits a fly ball to center field. R1 advances to and touches home before F8 catches the fly ball. The third-base coach directs R1 to return to 3rd base. R1 fails to retouch home during her safe return to 3rd base. What's your call(s)?
- R1 is out if properly appealed by the defensive team
 - R1 is always called out automatically by the umpire when the play is over
 - R1's run counts
 - If properly appealed, R1's run does not count

72. **R1 is on 3rd base and R2 is on 1st with two outs when B5 hits a ground ball that is misplayed by F4 with the ball rolling into short right field. B5 advances to 2nd and R2 misses 2nd while advancing to 3rd. After F4 recovers the ball, she runs across the diamond and tags R2 standing on 3rd base. What's your call(s)?**
- That's a proper appeal and R2 is out**
 - The appeal must be verbal and made only at the base R2 missed**
 - It is a force out if R2 is declared out and R1's run does not count**
 - R1's run counts**
 - Because playing action had ceased, the defensive team must have F1 stand on the pitcher's plate with the ball to make the ball live**
 - Because playing action had ceased, F4 must call time before making the appeal**
73. With R1 on 1st base, B2 hits safely to right field. While running to 3rd base, R1 deliberately removes her helmet before she slides safely into 3rd base. What's your call(s)?
- The umpire will call R1 out immediately
 - The ball remains live
 - There is no penalty
 - A team warning is issued to the head coach
 - The next offender and head coach will be restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game
 - The next offender is ejected but is confined to the dugout/bench area
74. **It is legal for a player to wear...**
- Shoes with metal baseball like spikes**
 - Shoes with soft rubber cleats**
 - Shoes with hard rubber cleats**
 - Shoes with metal track spikes**
 - Shoes with metal golf spikes**
 - No shoes**
75. R2 is attempting to score on a hit by B3 to right field. F2 receives the throw from F9 about 5 feet up the 3rd base line and is waiting to make a tag. R2 remains on her feet and deliberately crashes into F2, dislodging the ball. What's your call(s)?
- The ball is dead
 - R2 is declared out
 - R2 is automatically ejected from the game
 - R2 is ejected if you judge her act to be flagrant or malicious
 - That is incidental contact since F2 was in the baseline
76. **R1 is on 2nd base and R2 is on 1st base with no outs. B3 hits a pop-up in front of F3. The umpire properly declares an infield fly. F3 misjudges the ball and the ball falls untouched in fair territory about 12 feet in front of 1st base. The ball then bounces and strikes B3 in fair territory. R1 advances to 3rd base and R2 advances to 2nd base. What's your call(s)?**
- B3 is out on the infield fly**
 - B3 is out for interference**
 - The ball is dead when it strikes B3**
 - R1 is returned to 2nd base**
 - R2 is returned to 1st base**
77. After the pitcher's hands come together, she drops the ball at the start of her delivery. What's your call(s)?
- That is a no pitch
 - A ball is awarded to the batter
 - The ball is dead
 - The ball is live
 - Base runners may advance with the liability to be put out
 - Baserunners may not advance
78. **F1 re-plants her pivot foot completely in front of the pitching plate and again pushes off toward home plate before releasing the pitch. What's your call(s)?**
- The ball is immediately dead**
 - It is an illegal pitch**
 - That technique is known as a crow hop**
 - The pitch is legal if the pivot foot remains on the ground when the second push off is made**
 - The pitch is illegal only in the women's and girls' divisions**

79. R1 is on first base with no outs. When R1 attempts to steal second, B1 swings and misses but stumbles over the plate and complicates F2's throw to second. R1 is safe at second. What's your call(s)?
- B1's actions are considered inadvertent and no infraction has occurred
 - The ball is delayed dead
 - The ball is immediately dead
 - B1 is declared out
 - R1 is declared out
 - Catcher's interference has occurred
 - The offensive team is offered an option to take the result of the play or have the batter bat again
 - R1 is returned to first
80. **It is B1's turn to bat, but B3 bats and hits a double. B1 then comes to bat and strikes out. B2 follows B1 and also strikes out. It is now B3's turn to bat, however, B3 is on 2nd base when the defensive team appeals batting out of order. What's your call(s)?**
- Declare B3 out**
 - Remove B3 from 2nd base**
 - Allow B4 to bat**
 - Direct B3 to bat**
 - Send B2 in to run for B3**
 - Allow B3 to remain on 2nd base**
81. The ball is dead immediately when:
- While running to 1st, B1 stops to delay or avoid a tag
 - The batter interferes with the catcher by stepping out of the batter's box
 - A runner in a rundown is obstructed
 - A runner passes another runner
 - An illegal pitch is declared
 - A batter is struck by a pitch she strikes at
 - A runner interferes with a fielder who is in the act of fielding a batted ball
 - The batter, in the batter's box, intentionally interferes with the catcher who is attempting a play
82. **No run can score on the third out of an inning:**
- when any continuous action double play occurs**
 - when a following runner is called out while returning to re-touch a base left before a caught fly ball was first touched by a fielder**
 - when any runner is out on a force play**
 - when made by the batter-runner before touching 1st base**
 - when made by a preceding runner for failing to touch a base**
 - when any offensive interference occurs**
 - when made by a proper batter who is declared out for batting out of order**
83. R2 is on 2nd base with one out and a 1-2 count on B3. B3 swings and misses the next pitch, but B3 is struck by the pitch. R2 advances safely to 3rd and B3 arrives at 1st. What's your call(s)?
- B3 remains at 1st base
 - R2 remains at 3rd base
 - B3 is out on strikes
 - The ball is dead
 - R2 is returned to 2nd base
 - The ball is live and in play
84. **With two outs, B1 swings and misses for strike three. However, F2 drops the ball. The infielders have crossed the foul line when B1, still in live ball territory, bolts for and reaches first base. What's your call(s)?**
- B1 is not out. B1 can attempt to run for 1st base any time before she leaves the field of play**
 - B1 is out since she did not attempt to reach 1st base before the infielders left the diamond**

85. Several runners for the visiting runners have been running out of the three-foot lane in fair territory the last half of the distance to 1st base. Preparing yourself for a possible call you realize that:
- There cannot be three-foot lane interference unless the throw strikes the runner while she is out of the lane
 - It's not three-foot lane interference if the fielder holds the ball and does not make a throw to 1st base
 - The three-foot lane rules does not apply if a runner is struck by a throw to the plate while running in fair territory
 - There is no penalty if a runner is struck by a throw while running in foul territory to the right of the three-foot lane
 - The plate umpire is usually in the best position to make that call
 - The ball is dead immediately when three-foot lane interference occurs
 - If a runner is called out for running outside of the three-foot lane, the ball remains live and in play
86. **R1 is on 3rd base with no outs. B2 draws a walk and the ball is returned to F1 in the pitcher's circle. What's your call(s)?**
- B2 may attempt to advance to 2nd base**
 - B2 may not attempt to advance if the ball is returned to F1 in the circle before B2 reaches 1st base.**
 - The look-back rules does not take affect until B2 reaches 1st base**
 - R1 is out if she leaves 3rd while F1 is holding the ball in the circle and not making a play before B2 reaches 1st base**
 - R1 is out if she leaves 3rd while F1 is holding the ball in the circle and not making a play after B2 reaches 1st base**
 - The ball is immediately dead if R1 or B2 violates the circle rule**
 - The ball is live when R1 or B2 violates the circle rule**
87. With R1 on 3rd and R3 on 1st and two outs, B5 hits a ground ball to F4. R3 runs directly back toward 1st when F4 attempts to tag her. What's your call(s)?
- The ball is live
 - Any out made on R3 is a force out
 - The ball is dead immediately
 - R3 is out
 - A tag play can never be a force out
 - R3 is in jeopardy of being put out
 - R3 may reverse direction to avoid a tag
88. **R1 is on 3rd base and R2 is on 2nd base when B4 hits a ground ball to F6. While running to 3rd, R2 inadvertently hinders F6 who is fielding the ball. At the time of the hindrance, R1 had not reached the plate. What's your call(?)**
- The ball is dead**
 - The ball is delayed-dead**
 - The ball is live**
 - R2 is out**
 - B4 is out**
 - R1 is returned to 3rd base**
 - B4 is awarded 1st base**
89. F2's mitt nicks B1's bat as B1 swings at a pitch. What's your call(s)?
- The correct term is catcher's interference
 - The correct term is catcher's obstruction
 - The infraction is ignored if B1 hits safely
 - The ball is dead immediately
 - The delayed-dead ball signal should be given
 - B1 may elect to bat over with the count she had prior to the infraction

90. **As R2 races for the plate on a base hit, she is impeded by F2 as F2 is about to receive a thrown ball. What's your call(s)?**
- F2 may be stationed in the base path of R2 if she is about to receive a thrown ball**
 - That's obstruction on F2**
 - The plate umpire should signal delayed-dead ball and call, "that's obstruction."**
 - R2 may flagrantly and maliciously crash into F2 providing F2 is in her way without the ball**
 - R2 may flagrantly and maliciously crash into F2 providing F2 is in her way with possession of the ball**
 - F2 must first catch the ball before taking a position in the path of R2**
91. B2 hits a hard ground ball that deflects off F1 and strikes R1, who is running for 2nd base. R1 is unable to avoid the ball and F4 is in position to field it. What's your call(s)?
- R1 is not out since she could not avoid being struck.
 - R1 is out since F4 had a play on the ball.
 - The ball is dead when it struck R1.
 - The remains live and in play,
92. **R1 is on 1st base with one out when B3 hits a line drive that is caught by F6. F6 throws the ball into the dead ball area while R1 is standing on 1st base. What's your call(s)?**
- The ball is live unless a fielder falls down in the dead ball area.**
 - The ball is dead immediately**
 - R1 is awarded 2nd and 3rd base.**
 - R1 is awarded 2nd base only.**
93. R1 occupies 3rd base and R3 1st while F1 holds the ball within the pitcher's circle. F1 then places her glove with the ball inside between her legs and R1 leads off 3rd base. Seeing R1's actions, R3 leaves 1st base. What's your call(s)
- The ball is dead immediately
 - The ball remains live
 - R1 is out
 - R1 is in jeopardy of being put out
 - R3 is out
 - R3 is in jeopardy of being put out
 - No baserunning violations have occurred
 - The umpire will call an umpire's time out and send R1 back to 3rd
94. **R1 is on 1st base with no outs. B2 hits a ground ball to F3. F3's throw to the plate strikes B2 who is running completely in fair territory about 20 feet from 1st base.**
- The ball is dead**
 - The ball is delayed-dead**
 - The ball is live**
 - R1 is out**
 - R1 is considered to have run out of the baseline**
 - R1 is out and B2 is also out if she was prevented from being put out by the actions of R1**
 - R1 has not violated any rule**
 - R1 can be called out on appeal**
95. R1 is on 3rd base with no outs when B2 hits a high fly ball to right field. R1 takes a position several steps behind 3rd base and takes a running start toward home plate. What's your call(s)?
- The ball is immediately dead
 - That is an appeal play
 - R1 is immediately out
 - The delayed dead ball signal should be given
 - The ball is live and in play
96. **R3 scores on a play before the third out is made. No run can score when the third out is the result of:**
- Any continuous action double play**
 - The batter-runner being retired before touching 1st base**
 - A force play**
 - Any runner being declared out for missing a base**
 - Any runner being declared out for any baserunning infraction**
 - Any appeal play**

97. Bases loaded with two outs. With a 3-2 count on B6, the runners break with the pitch. B6 walks as overzealous R2 from 2nd base slides past 3rd base and is tagged out when F2 throws the ball to F5 before R3 touches home plate. What's your call(s)?
- R1's run scores
 - R1 is awarded home
 - It is a timing play
 - R3's run does not count
98. **B1 bats with a two strike count and starts her swing but tries to stop it as the pitch is low and in the dirt. What's your call?**
- The plate umpire must ask for help on the swing if the catcher requests it**
 - The plate umpire should ask for help on the swing if the catcher requests it**
 - The plate umpire may ask the base umpire for help on the swing without a request from the catcher**
 - The batter may ask the plate umpire to ask for help in reversing a strike call**
 - The ball is live and in play on a checked swing**
 - The base umpires should automatically signal a strike to the plate umpire on obvious swings**
 - The base umpires should always agree with the plate umpire on checked swing appeals**
99. R2 is on 2nd base with one out and a 2-2 count on B3. As F1 begins her delivery to B3, she replants her pivot foot in front of the pitching plate before releasing the ball. The pitch strikes B3. What's your call(s)?
- Illegal pitch on F1
 - R2 is advanced to 3rd base.
 - B3 remains at bat with a count of two balls and two strikes.
 - B3 remains at bat with a count of three balls and two strikes.
 - B3 is awarded 1st base.
 - The ball is dead when the pitch strikes B3.
100. **B1 attempts to reach first base on a dropped third strike by F2. What's your call(s)?**
- B1 is out if F2 withholds her throw fearing that she will strike B1 who is running outside the three-foot-lane**
 - B1 cannot be called out for a three-foot-lane violation providing she is running completely in foul territory**
 - A three-foot-lane violation results in a delayed-dead ball**
 - A three-foot-lane violation can occur even if B1 is not struck by a thrown ball**
 - B1 is always out if she is struck by a throw while running completely out of the three foot lane**
 - Most three-foot-lane violations occur when the throw originates from behind B1**
 - A three-foot-lane violation causes the ball to become dead**
 - The ball remains live on a three-foot-lane violation**