

2006

UMPIRE EXAM

- PLEASE NOTE:**
1. This examination is based on the Australian Rule Book - as revised 2002-2005 - and relates to Fast Pitch only.
 2. Defensive Team = Fielding Team
Offensive Team = Batting Team
 3. For the sake of brevity in some questions the following symbols will be used:

For fielders: F1 = Pitcher; F2 = Catcher;
F3 = 1st Base; F4 = 2nd Base;
F5 = 3rd Base; F6 = Shortstop;
F7 = Left Field; F8 = Centre Field;
F9 = Right Field.

For runners: R1 is always the lead runner, followed by R2, R3 etc.
For batters: B1 is the lead off batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.
For substitutes: S1 is the first replacement player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer strictly according to ASF Rule Book, NOT local bylaws and/or ground rules.
 2. Only the answer sheet of this examination is to be returned to the National, State or Association Director of Umpiring. You retain the question portion for further study. Your answer sheet, along with your examination mark will be returned to you after it is marked.
 3. There are 100 questions in total.
 4. All answers are either TRUE/FALSE or YES/NO and are worth (1) mark each, giving a total of 100 marks.
 5. Please indicate your answer by filling in the circle
T/Y F/N
○ or ○
for the correct answer.

e.g. A TRUE or YES answer would be ● ○
on the Answer Sheet provided.

2006 Theory Exam

- 1 Any umpire may forfeit a game.
- 2 F1 is about to deliver a pitch to B5. F3 moves in with the pitch thinking B5 is going to bunt. B5 looks up to see F3 running in, misses the pitch, and is then called out on strike 3. The offensive coach requests "Time" and wants the umpire to rule an illegal pitch, as F3 distracted B5. Should the umpire declare an Illegal Pitch?
- 3 F1 uses his bat to knock in a peg at the pitcher's plate prior to the game starting and this puts several burrs in the barrel of the bat. The umpire notices this so inspects the bat and discovers the burrs.
RULING: The umpire should now declare the bat to be an altered bat.
- 4 The score of a regulation tie game shall be the tie score when the game is terminated. A regulation tie game shall be replayed from the beginning.
- 5 R1 on 1st. He leads off with the pitch, which is hit along the ground to F9. F9 fields and returns the ball directly to F1, who steps onto the pitcher's plate. R1 advances to and rounds 2nd on the hit, and on seeing F9 throw to F1, continues on to 3rd. F1 does not attempt to prevent the advance. The defensive team appeal to the umpire, stating that R1 cannot advance while F1 is on the plate with the ball.
RULING: The umpire should call R1 out.
- 6 Is the ball always dead on a blocked ball?
- 7 F1 has had a ball hit back at him hard causing a cut to his pitching finger, so to control the bleeding he wants a flesh tone bandaid to be applied. He consults with the plate umpire who allows the bandaid for health and blood rule reasons. Is the umpire correct in allowing the bandaid to be applied?
- 8 The Head Coach disputes a close call at third base on a runner sliding into the base. The umpire warns the coach and advises that he is issuing a team warning. In the bottom of the seventh innings the Assistant Coach loudly disputes a low pitch called a strike.
RULING: The umpire removes the Assistant Coach from the game.
- 9 R1 is on third base and R2 on first when B3 hits a deep line drive to F9. R2 misses second base after tripping slightly while coming into the base.
RULING: As soon as the base umpire notices this he should call R2 out.
- 10 The coach's box is 4.57m (15 feet) in length and 2.44m (8 feet) from the base line.
- 11 The on-deck batter is not wearing a batting helmet and is noticed by the umpire. The umpire asks him to put one on, however he refuses.
RULING: The umpire removes the on-deck batter from the game and advises him he cannot participate again except as a coach.
- 12 R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st, with F3 playing behind the baseline. B3 hits a line drive ground ball that contacts R2, who is still on the base, before it passes a fielder other than the pitcher. F3 picks up the ball and tags R2, who is still standing on 1st, then touches the base to force B3 out. R1 stays at 3rd.
RULING: R2 advances to 2nd and B3 is safe at 1st, while R1 remains at 3rd.

- 13 An illegal player is discovered on base as a runner. Should the umpire call the runner out, rule him ineligible and allow a legal substitute, or the original player, to enter the game and assume his position on the base?
- 14 B4 hits a deep fly ball to L/F and on rounding first base he touches the foul portion of the double base and runs wide. He then runs into F3 who is standing deep behind first base.
RULING: The umpire does not call obstruction because the base path is a direct line between first and second base and B4 was running outside the line.
- 15 When a batter is called out for interference, all runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- 16 The plate umpire must wear a body protector and shin guards.
- 17 'In flight' describes any batted, thrown or pitched ball that has not yet touched the ground, and includes a batted ball that has touched a fielder and may be caught.
- 18 Does the ball remain alive when the batter-runner steps back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag by a fielder?
- 19 An official 30.5cm (12 inch) .47 optic yellow softball with white stitching is legal for Fast Pitch games.
- 20 Interference is the term used to describe the action of a catcher that prevents the batter striking at a pitched ball.
- 21 The first batter in each inning shall be the batter in the batting order whose name follows that of the last player called out in the previous inning.
- 22 Ejection is the act of any umpire ordering a player, official or any team member to leave the grounds for a repeated violation of the rules, or for a deliberate or unsportsmanlike act.
- 23 When the ball is in play and is overthrown beyond the boundary line or is blocked, all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the throw.
- 24 Is it a home run if a fair-batted ball first contacts the fence, deflects off a fielder and then goes over the fence?
- 25 In certain cases, a protest can be made on an umpire's judgement call.
- 26 R1 on third base, B2 has a count of two strikes and one ball. B2 turns to bunt as the ball comes way inside; the ball contacts the stationary bat and goes immediately downward onto the batter's foot and rebounds into the diamond.
RULING: The umpire calls a dead ball with the count staying at 2 strikes and one ball and R1 returns to the base he held at the time of the pitch.
- 27 The runner is out when he interferes with a fielder attempting to field a fair-batted ball or intentionally interferes with a thrown ball.
- 28 Does the ball remain alive, when the batter fails to enter the batter's box within ten (10) seconds after the umpire calls Play Ball?
- 29 A batboy who sits on the bench is considered a team member.
- 30 The home run fence distance is 250 feet for men and 225 feet for women.

- 31 R1 on 2nd. B2 hits a fly ball to left-centre field, with both F7 & F8 attempting to catch the ball. The ball tips F8's glove, rebounds and is then caught by F7. R1 leaves 2nd just after the ball tips F8's glove but before being caught by F7. The defence appeals at 2nd, saying R1 left before the ball was caught.
RULING: B2 is out on the catch and R1 is out on the appeal.
- 32 F1 throws to a base, while in contact with the pitcher's plate, during a live ball appeal play. Does this action cancel the appeal?
- 33 One out with R2 on second base and R3 on first base when, B4 hits a slow roller toward F4. R3 removes his helmet while running to second, and F4 throws to F5 for the force out. F5 then throws to F3 for the out on B4.
RULING: The umpire calls R2 "Safe, No Force". By removing his helmet R3 is out, thereby breaking the force, so F5 must make a tag.
- 34 There is one out with R3 on third base and R4 on second base. R4 leads off on the pitch as B5 hits a fly ball to F8. R3 scores. F8 throws to F4 and plays second base before R4 can return. If the out is made at second base, is the out considered to be a force out?
- 35 Prior to the game any coach may sign the line up card.
- 36 Under no circumstances shall an umpire seek to reverse a decision made by his associate, unless asked to do so by him.
- 37 B8 has a count of Ball 3 Strike 2, with two out and R7 on first base. The next pitch is low in the zone when B8 turns to check his swing; F2 drops the ball. F2 asks the plate umpire to check on the swing with the base umpire. He does so and the base umpire replies with "yes he did" and a strike signal.
RULING: B8 is out because it is strike 3 and first base is occupied.
- 38 In the bottom of the third innings the coach makes a pitching change. The new pitcher has 7 warm up pitches while the umpire is advising the change to the official scorer. The offensive coach wants additional balls awarded because the pitcher has had two more warm-ups than allowed under the rules. The umpire does not allow this as he says the pitcher may take additional warm-ups while the umpire is notifying changes.
- 39 The on-deck batter may leave his on-deck circle to direct a runner sliding into home.
- 40 When two runners occupy a base simultaneously, the runner who first legally occupied the base shall be entitled to it, unless forced to advance.
- 41 The original player and his substitute cannot be in the game at the same time.
- 42 When a fielder catches a fair-batted ball in his cap, while the cap is in his hand and not on his head, all runners are awarded 3 bases and the ball is dead.
- 43 An umpire may declare a game a forfeit if, after suspension of play, one side refuses to resume playing within one minute after the umpire has called 'Play Ball'.
- 44 Two out, R2 is on third base, R3 on second and R4 on first. F1 pitches "Ball 2" to B5, R4 leads off a long way on the pitch and before R4 is able to return to first base F1 pitches the next pitch. R4 turns without re-touching first base and advances to second base on a wild pitch, "Ball 3", to

- B5. R2 scores and all base runners advance one base. The defence now claim that R4 did not return to his base prior to the pitch and want R4 called out. Should the umpire call R4 out?
- 45 In the top of the fourth innings Jones slides into first base headfirst; he grazes his elbow and this causes it to bleed. The umpire notices this and allows a Replacement Player to run for him. The Replacement Player bats and fields for Jones until the top of the sixth innings. At this stage Jones still cannot stop the bleeding and the offensive team does not have a legal substitute available.
RULING: The game is forfeited.
- 46 The batter-runner is out when the immediate preceding runner, who is not yet out, intentionally interferes, in the umpire's judgement, with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball.
- 47 The ball is dead, when it slips from the pitcher's hand during the wind-up or back swing.
- 48 The fitness of the ground shall be decided solely by the plate umpire.
- 49 A coach uses an ineligible team roster member and it is brought to the attention of the umpire.
RULING: The umpire should declare a forfeit to the team not at fault.
- 50 Batting order is B1, B2, and B3 etc. B1 hits a triple and is safe on third base. B3 comes into bat and takes the first pitch, called a ball. The next pitch high gets away from F2 and B1 scores. The defence now appeal for batting out of order, and want B2 to resume batting and B1 back at third base, as the pitch is nullified. Is the defence correct?
- 51 R5 on 2nd base, running on the pitch. B2 hits a low line drive to F5, who catches the ball. F5 then throws to F4, attempting to catch R5 off base before he can return to tag-up after the catch. R5 attempts to return to 2nd but is obstructed by F6.
RULING: The umpire considers R5 would not have returned in time, even had the obstruction not occurred, so calls R5 out.
- 52 Batting order is B1, B2 and B3 etc. B1 hits a triple and stands on third; B3 comes up to bat and hits a triple to L/F. The defensive team now appeals for batting out of order.
RULING: The appeal is in time, so B2 is out and the run of B1 is nullified.
- 53 B3 has a Strike 2 count with none out. He swings at and misses the next pitch, which F2 drops. The ball rolls some distance to the right of F2, in foul territory.
In running toward 1st, B3 accidentally deflects the ball away from F2, who is attempting to recover it. He subsequently beats the ensuing throw to 1st.
RULING: As the deflection was not on a batted ball, B3 should be declared safe.
- 54 There shall only be one charged offensive conference per innings; however, the defence may have three charged conferences in one inning.
- 55 When a fielder makes a play on a runner while using an illegal glove, the manager of the offended team has the option of (a) having the entire play nullified, or (b) taking the result of the play.
- 56 F1, a sling shot pitcher, pitches the ball without stepping forward simultaneous with the release of the ball.
RULING: The umpire should call an illegal pitch.
- 57 The notification to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch, or before all players have left fair territory or the umpires have left the field of play except on player eligibility protests.

- 58 B7 has a count of 3 balls and 2 strikes. He turns and bunts the ball close to the fair foul line where it spins for a few seconds. F2 quickly picks up the ball just as it goes foul and he then throws the ball to F3. The offensive coach says it should be ball 4 because F2 must return the ball directly to F1 after a foul ball. Is the coach correct?
- 59 Junior players may wear shoes with plastic, nylon or polyurethane cleats that screw onto the shoe.
- 60 With R5 on third base and R6 on second base and 1 out, B8 hits a high fly ball toward second base. The ball clips the edge of second base and deflects at right angles and goes over the fair foul line before first base without touching any defensive player.
RULING: The plate umpire calls foul ball.
- 61 Should the game be forfeited if a team has less than nine players, or ten players with a DP, available to start or complete a game?
- 62 The on-deck batter at the start of an inning is the lead off batter who must remain in his on-deck circle until called to the batter's box.
- 63 The line-up card is inspected at the pre-game meeting and is approved by the coach and Plate Umpire. Two minutes later and prior to the first pitch of the game, the coach advises he wants to replace one of his players.
RULING: The umpire should allow the change to the original starting line-up. The change is not treated as a substitution.
- 64 The on-deck batter is allowed to warm up with an official warm up bat and an official bat.
- 65 The score is Blue team 5, Red team 6. In the bottom half of the seventh inning Blue team, second at bat, score one run. Does the umpire start the tiebreaker inning commencing in the top of the eighth innings?
- 66 A pitched ball that enters the front of the strike zone over the plate, quickly drops and just tips the back corner of the plate is a strike, providing it was below the arm pits and above the knee of the batter.
- 67 The starting DP must remain in the same position in the line up for the entire game. He can only field for the DEFO who is then considered to have left the game.
- 68 Brown, a starting player, has a fractured forearm. His cast is covered with a soft bandage and the coach puts him at right field where he will be out of the way.
RULING: The umpire says this is ok as long as the cast is covered.
- 69 R3 on 2nd. F2 hinders B4 in his attempt to strike at the ball. However, B4 manages to hit a fly ball to F9, who easily makes the catch.
R3 legally tags up on the catch and advances to 3rd. After "Time" is called, the coach of the offensive team requests that he be given the option of putting B4 on 1st, with R3 returning to 2nd.
RULING: The umpire should allow the request.
- 70 A pitched ball hits B4 and he is awarded 1st base. B4 goes to the dugout as he has a red mark from the ball on his arm and receives treatment before advancing to the base. Should the umpire declare him out for not proceeding directly to the awarded base?

- 71 If a substitution violation is discovered before a pitch is thrown can an illegal substitute be declared legal?
- 72 Before commencing the pitch F1 must hold the ball in both hands in front of the body. This position must be held for not less than 2 seconds.
- 73 B1 hits a ground ball to F6, who fields and throws to F3. B1 just beats the throw but touches only the fair portion of the double base.
RULING: B1 is out, provided the defence makes a legal appeal before B1 returns to the base after over-running it.
- 74 All available substitutes should be in the team area and in uniform and be listed in the designated place on the line up card. A substitute listed on the card and not available, shall cause the coach to be ejected from the game.
- 75 May a batter-runner step back toward home plate to avoid, or delay, being tagged by a fielder without penalty?
- 76 Prior to the game the umpires inspect the bats. One umpire notices a bat's grip that has been wound on spirally with a 6mm (1/4 inch) gap all the way down the grip so a spiral section of the bat is visible.
RULING: The umpires should allow the bat to be in the game.
- 77 B5, a known slap hitter, positions himself in the left hand batter's box. The defensive coach gives a signal and all defensive players except F1 and F2 position themselves in the infield and F9 stands on first base. B5 slaps the ball to F7 standing in front of third base and F7 then throws to F9 for the out. The offensive coach claims it is unfair that all the players are in the infield and F9 cannot play first base. Is the coach correct with his claim?
- 78 The batter-runner is out when a fielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with less than two out and a runner on 1st.
- 79 Question invalid and deleted!
- 80 In the bottom of the 5th innings the defensive coach requests "Time" and informs the umpire he is making a pitching change. While the new pitcher is warming up the coach then goes to R/F and talks to the fielder.
RULING: The umpire should allow this without charging a conference.
- 81 Runners may not legally leave their base until the pitched ball reaches home plate.
- 82 B4 hits a deep fly ball to L/F and the ball goes high and hits the fence on the full. B4, on seeing the ball not caught, now runs hard and turns at first base. However, he only manages to touch the foul portion of the double base. F3 requests "Time" after B4 stands on second base and makes a dead ball appeal on B4. Should the umpire call B4 out for missing first base, because the foul portion of the double base only exists on an infield hit?
- 83 A substitute will be considered in the game when announced to the umpire. However he will only illegally be in the game, as an unannounced substitute, when a pitch, legal or illegal, is thrown.
- 84 A runner, who is caught in a rundown play between 3rd and home plate, will always be awarded home, if he is obstructed while returning to 3rd.

- 85 The position of the ball at the time of interference determines whether the ball is fair or foul, regardless if the ball rolls untouched to fair or foul territory.
- 86 A foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batters shoulders, to the catcher's hands and is legally caught by the catcher.
- 87 Bottom of the seventh innings score 7 all, Blue team batting second has to score a run to win the game. Two out, B4 has 2 strikes and 3 balls on him and R3 is on third base. The third base coach signals to B4 to bunt the next pitch as a squeeze play is on. B4 bunts the ball and takes off for first base. R3 advanced toward home on the pitch and was sliding into home plate as B4 was just leaving the batter's box. The umpire calls R3 safe as F2 fields the ball and throws to F3 for the out on B4.
RULING: Blue team win 8 to 7.
- 88 Communication equipment may never be used between a coach and coaches, players, spectators or the dugout. A coach discovered using communication equipment would be removed from the game immediately.
- 89 R1 on 3rd, R2 on 1st and one out, when B3 hits a ground ball to F7. R1 scores, as R2 falls over just after leaving 1st and obviously cannot continue.
In rounding 1st, B3 runs past R2 and then returns to 1st. F6, who now has the ball, runs over and tags R2, who is still lying on the ground.
RULING: The umpire should call R2 out; allow the run to score and B3 to stay at 1st.
- 90 An Illegal Player is a player who has entered the game without being announced to the umpire.
- 91 B2 is walked on Ball 4. He jogs down to 1st and over-runs, but does not round, the base. The ball is thrown to F3, who tags B2 while he is still 1.52m (5 feet) from 1st, and then appeals for an out. B2 did not make an attempt to go to 2nd.
RULING: The umpire should rule B2 safe.
- 92 In all defensive violations for the substitute rule the illegal player is declared ineligible and ejected from the game.
- 93 When a fielder catches a line drive and throws the ball out of play, attempting to retire a runner going back to 1st, the runner is awarded 3rd. However, he must retouch 1st and then 2nd, before advancing to 3rd.
- 94 Can a ball that is thrown from one fielder to another and that does not go out of play be considered an overthrow?
- 95 A runner forfeits his exemption from liability to be put out if, at any time, he fails to touch a base he is entitled to, before attempting to make the next base.
- 96 The pitch starts with the forward movement and step of the pitcher.
- 97 Can a fair-batted ball that hits a runner, who is still in contact with his base, ever be declared alive?
- 98 Question invalid and deleted!
- 99 A pitched ball not struck at, and not in the strike zone, hits B1's hand and the ball rolls slowly toward F1, who fields and throws to 1st for the out.
RULING: Provided B1 attempted to avoid the pitch, he is awarded 1st base and the ball is dead.

100 Unless appealed to, an umpire will not call a runner out for having missed a base.