



## 2010 SOFTBALL AUSTRALIA RULES EXAM

(updated to 2010-2013 rulebook)

- PLEASE NOTE:**
1. This examination is based on the Australian Rule Book - as revised 2006-2009 - 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 leadoff batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.

For substitutes: S1 is the first substitute player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer strictly according to SAL 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 through the scrutineer. 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.

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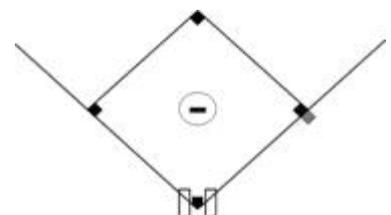
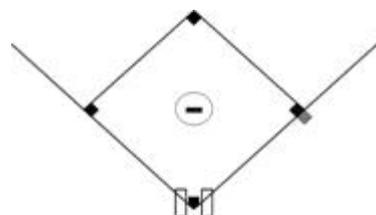
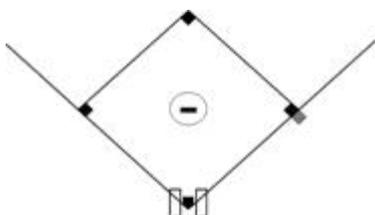
5. **Please indicate your answer by completely filling in the circle for the correct answer.**

T/Y F/N

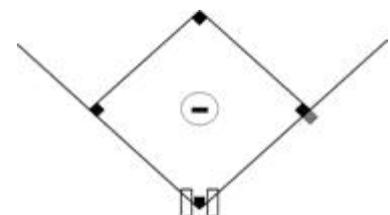
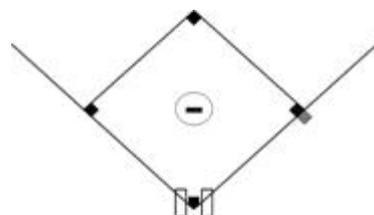
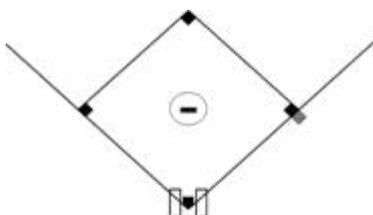
e.g. A TRUE or YES answer would be   on the Answer Sheet provided.

- \* **Please insert your name and current level in the space provided on the answer sheet.**
- \* **Please do not make markings or make comments on the answer sheets.**
- \* **You will notice there is a provision on the EXAM paper next to the question number to put your answer; this may aid you in transferring answers to the answer sheet and minimize mistakes.**
- \* **Please use Black Pen where possible.**
- \* **Please do not cross, put dashes or tick circles for correct answers. If you make a mistake you may use correction tape on your incorrect answer.**

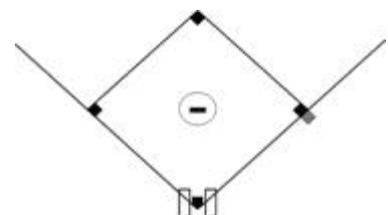
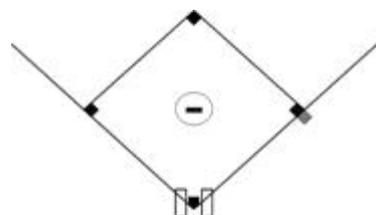
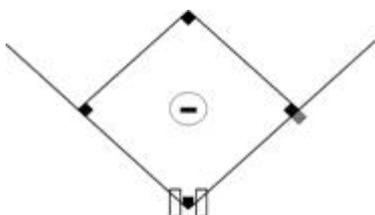
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ A fielder must be in the infield when making an appeal.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Both metal and wooden angular bats are permitted
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ While the ball is alive, the pitcher may legally remove himself from the pitching position by stepping backwards, or sideways, off the pitcher's plate prior to separating the hands.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ All adult catchers must wear shin guards that offer protection to the kneecap.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ If an unreported substitute is involved in a re-entry violation; both associated penalties would be in effect.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Continued use, after a warning, of illegal warm-up equipment by On-Deck Batters, shall result in ejection of the coach or manager of that team.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ A coach is considered to have taken a defensive conference when he calls for "Time", steps in front of the dugout and yells instructions to the pitcher.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ When the physical structure of a legal bat has been changed, the bat is considered to be an Illegal Bat.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ F8 catches a fair batted fly ball in his cap. All runners, including the batter-runner, are entitled to three (3) bases from the time of the pitch.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter drops the bat and the ball rolls against the stationary bat in fair territory. Is the ball declared dead, even if the umpire considers there was no intention to interfere with the course of the ball?
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ An unreported substitute takes his place in the batter's box to start a new innings. Before a pitch has been thrown the opposition appeals the violation. Should the umpire impose a penalty for a violation of the substitution rule?
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Can the foul portion of the double base be green in colour?
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 3rd and R2 on 1st, with none out.  
B3 has a Strike 2 count, when he swings at and misses the next pitch, as R2 steals 2nd.  
In stepping out of the batter's box on his way to the 1st base dugout, B3 pauses in front of F2, thereby denying him the opportunity to make a throw to 2nd.  
RULING: B3 is out on 3 strikes; R1 is out on the interference and R2 returns to 1st.
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ There is one out with R3 on 3rd and R4 on 2nd. R4 leads off on the pitch as B5 hits a fly ball to F8. R3 scores. F8 throws to F4 and plays 2nd before R4 can return. If the out is made at 2nd is the out considered to be a force out?



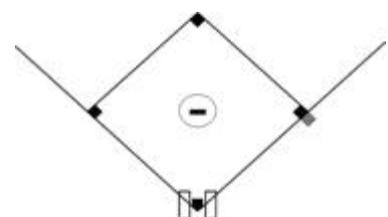
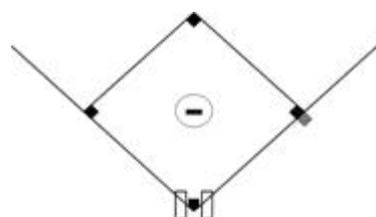
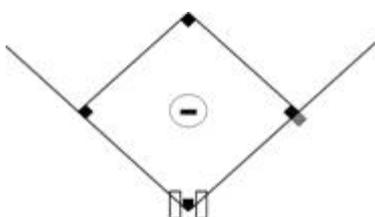
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ B1 hits a ground ball to F5, who fields and throws to F3. The ball bounces, forcing F3 to scramble for the ball. He controls the ball in his bare hand and then dives for the base, touching it with his glove before B1 reaches the base.  
RULING: B1 is out.
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ A Delayed Dead Ball is a game situation in which the ball remains alive until the conclusion of a play.
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ The ball remains alive, when a thrown ball strikes an umpire.
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ R3 on 3rd with one out. R3 attempts to steal home on F2's return throw to F1. The ball is returned to F2 and B4 accidentally interferes with F2's attempt to tag R3 at the plate.  
RULING: B4 is out and R3 must return to 3rd.
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_ A spectator standing in the official playing area stops a thrown ball from going into the out-of-play area.  
RULING: This is considered a blocked ball.
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 1st when B2 hits a fair fly ball deep down the left field line. F7 touches the ball, which is over fair territory, above the fence level and close to the foul pole. The ball then deflects from the glove and goes over the fence in foul territory.  
RULING: This is a home run, so R1 is entitled to advance to the home plate.
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_ In the case of injury, "Time" shall not be called until all plays in progress have been completed, or runners have been held at their bases, unless the umpire considers the injury serious enough to put the player in danger.
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ When a runner is physically assisted by anyone other than another runner on a fly ball not caught, the ball becomes dead.
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_ The batter-runner shall be awarded two bases when a fair-batted ball first contacts the fence, deflects off a fielder and then goes over the fence.
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_ When catcher obstruction is declared, the offensive team coach has the option of (a) taking the result of the play, or (b) having the batter bat again, even if the batter and each runner advanced at least one base on the batted ball.
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ Any player may be substituted from the game at any time while the ball is dead.
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ The umpire does not need to be notified when a Withdrawn Player returns to the game.
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.



- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ A defensive conference should not be charged when a coach reports a pitching change to the umpire before or after crossing the foul line to talk to the pitcher.
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ A starting player listed on the line-up card becomes ill or injured, while warming up. RULING: A substitute can be inserted for the injured player at the pre-game meeting with the umpires. This substitute cannot re-enter, if later removed from the game.
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_ A runner may run behind, or in front of, a fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball, in order to avoid causing interference.
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Can home plate be made of any material other than rubber?
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ Any umpire can remove or eject a player, coach or team member from the game for violation of the rules.
- 33 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter is an offensive player who enters the batter's box with the intention of aiding his team to obtain runs. He continues to be a batter until he is either declared out by the umpire or he reaches first base after putting the ball into play.
- 34 \_\_\_\_\_ Physical contact between a fielder and a runner is not necessary for interference to be called.
- 35 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 3rd, S2, an unreported substitute, on 2nd and R3 on 1st.  
B4 hits a double, scoring all three runners.  
Before the next pitch, the defensive team informs the umpire that S2 was an illegal substitute.  
RULING: The umpire should allow all 3 runs to score, remove S2 from the game and declare him an Ineligible Player
- 36 \_\_\_\_\_ When, after a warning by an umpire, any one of the rules of the game is wilfully violated, the plate umpire shall declare a forfeit in favour of the team not at fault.
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ A starting player (batting in the number 2 position on the line-up) has been substituted from the game but is still eligible to re-enter.  
He is entered into the line-up as a Replacement Player in the number 8 position.  
RULING: This should be treated as an Illegal Re-entry.
- 38 \_\_\_\_\_ Is the line that forms the pitcher's circle considered to be within the circle?
- 39 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter-runner interferes with a play at home plate in an attempt to prevent an obvious out on a runner advancing towards the plate.  
RULING: The runner should be called out, along with the batter-runner, with other runners returning to the last base held at the time of the pitch.
- 40 \_\_\_\_\_ Is a player that has been removed from the game permitted to participate further in the game as a base coach?
- 41 \_\_\_\_\_ An umpire notices that a pitcher has tape on a finger of the pitching hand.  
RULING: The umpire should remove the pitcher from the game.



- 42 \_\_\_\_\_ An Infield Fly is a legally batted ball, including a line drive.
- 43 \_\_\_\_\_ When a runner physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been called out the ball remains alive.
- 44 \_\_\_\_\_ Is it considered to be a substitution when the FLEX replaces the Designated Player in the batting order?
- 45 \_\_\_\_\_ The batter is not out if his foot is touching home plate when he hits the ball, as long as part of his foot is also touching the line of the batter's box.
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ A listed substitute who has not yet been in the game may not be used as a Replacement Player.
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ With the scores tied, the umpire decides there is insufficient light to continue play, so declares a regulation tied game. Both coaches consider the light good enough to continue playing, so lodge a protest. Will this protest be considered?
- 48 \_\_\_\_\_ R2 on 2nd attempts to steal 3rd. F5 stands in front of his base (between the base and home plate) and slightly toward second base. After having received the throw from F2, R2, who is not sliding, crashes into him. This results in F5 dropping the ball, allowing R2 to reach 3rd safely.  
RULING: R2 is called out.
- 49 \_\_\_\_\_ R2 on 1st base, B3 hits a long fly ball to F9. F9 is running in to make the catch when he comes into contact with a grounds man filling in a hole in the outfield.  
RULING: The umpire believes that F9 would have made the catch, so B3 is out on the catch and R2 returns to 1st base.
- 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 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) beyond 1st, and then appeals for an out. B2 did not make an attempt to go to 2nd.  
RULING: The umpire should rule B2 safe.
- 51 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 3rd and B2 at bat with a Ball 3 count. R1 leads off with the next pitch, which is Ball 4. R1, who is about 3 metres (10 ft) off base, stops and watches as F1, in the pitcher's circle, receives the ball from F2. B2 rounds 1st and stops. F1 ignores both runners. On seeing this, B2 slowly continues toward 2nd. R1, stops looks at F1 and after several seconds delay, then returns to 3rd.  
RULING: The umpire should call R1 out and return B2 to 1st.
- 52 \_\_\_\_\_ Is a batter who takes a called strike required to remain in the batter's box while taking a signal prior to the next pitch?



53 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

54 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 3rd and R2 on 2nd with one out. B4 mishits a slow ground ball along the 1st base line and all runners advance. F3 fields the ball and runs toward B4 who stops about one metre (3 ft) in front of F3. R1 crosses the plate. B4 then steps back toward home plate, as R2 rounds 3rd and continues on toward home. On seeing this, F3 ignores B4 and throws to F2, who tags R2 sliding to the plate.  
RULING: B4 is out, R1 returns to 3rd and R2 returns to 2nd.

55 \_\_\_\_\_ When a fielder catches a line drive and throws the ball out of play when 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.

56 \_\_\_\_\_ Can an umpire declare a forfeit if an ejected person remains on the bench?

57 \_\_\_\_\_ All players must wear shoes at all times.

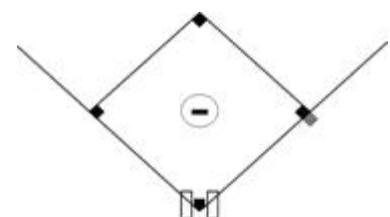
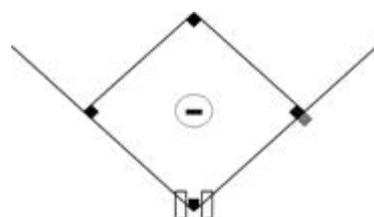
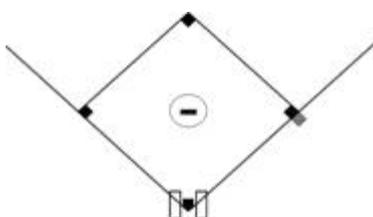
58 \_\_\_\_\_ A pitched ball curves through the strike zone as B1 moves his body in an attempt to avoid being hit. However, the ball contacts B1's hands, which are in the strike zone and the ball falls in fair territory.  
RULING: B1 is awarded 1st and the ball is dead.

59 \_\_\_\_\_ Once the third out has been obtained, an appeal in order to remove a run cannot be lodged.

60 \_\_\_\_\_ B2 hits a slow ground ball down the 3rd base line. F5 fields the ball on the run and throws towards 1st. F3 has to come off the base and towards home plate, in an effort to make the catch. When this occurs, F3 collides with B2, who is running outside the 0.91m (3 ft) line and in fair territory.  
RULING: The umpire should declare obstruction and award B2 safe at 1st.

61 \_\_\_\_\_ R5 on 1st with one out, when B6 hits a long ground ball to F7. R5 advances to and rounds 2nd on the hit and continues on to 3rd. B6 rounds 1st and is obstructed by F3, so continues on and stops at 2nd, the base he would have made had the obstruction not occurred. F7 then fumbles the ball, so B6 runs to 3rd but is tagged out. R5 is advancing toward home at the time of the tag.  
RULING: R5 should be awarded home and B6 should be awarded 3rd, because of the obstruction.

62 \_\_\_\_\_ When a change of number is required because a uniform shirt is replaced due to being blood soiled, the umpire should be notified of the new number.



63 \_\_\_\_\_ A fair-batted ball strikes a groundsman assigned to the game, while he is repairing a broken sprinkler in deep centre field. Does the ball become dead?

64 \_\_\_\_\_ A fair fly ball shall be judged by the position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, not the fielder's position.

65 \_\_\_\_\_ A run shall not be scored if the third and/or last out of the inning is the result of the batter-runner being put out before legally touching first base.

66 \_\_\_\_\_ A Strike will be awarded to the batter when the coach elects not to take the result of the play after an Illegal Pitch has been put into play.

67 \_\_\_\_\_ The On-Deck Batter may leave the on-deck circle to direct runners advancing from 3rd to home plate.

68 \_\_\_\_\_ Bottom of 7th inning, with R1 on 3rd. The score is Red 6 Blue 6.  
The next Blue batter has already hit 2 home runs, so F1, in an attempt to prevent the batter hitting the pitch, rolls the ball along the ground.  
RULING: This is an Illegal Pitch. Blue wins the game 7-6.

69 \_\_\_\_\_ Red Team, batting first, leads Blue Team 17-2 after 2 complete innings.  
Neither team scores in the 3rd inning.  
RULING: The umpire should enforce the Run Ahead Rule and declare Red Team the winner.

70 \_\_\_\_\_ The plate umpire shall not declare interference when F2 recovers a wild pitch and hits the umpire with the thrown ball while attempting to retire a runner.

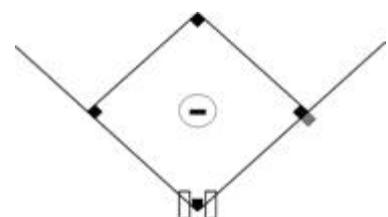
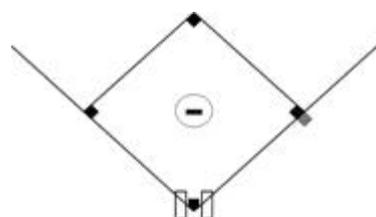
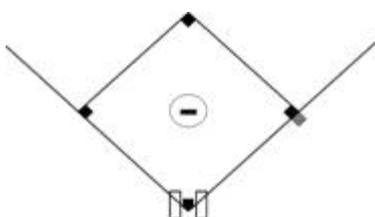
71 \_\_\_\_\_ The game is into extra innings and the tiebreaker rule is in effect.  
An improper runner (not an illegal substitute) goes to 2nd base to start the inning.  
The correct batter comes to bat and takes one pitch.  
The defence now appeal that an incorrect runner is on base and want the inning started over with the correct runner on base.  
RULING: There is no penalty, provided the runner is a player already in the line-up.  
This runner should be replaced by the correct runner and the game continued.

72 \_\_\_\_\_ The ball is in play, when a base is dislodged while runners are progressing around the bases.

73 \_\_\_\_\_ The runner is not out when he is struck with a fair untouched batted ball over foul territory and, in the judgement of the umpire, no fielder had a chance to make an out.

74 \_\_\_\_\_ When the pitcher pitches the ball, before a runner retouches his base after a foul ball, it is a No Pitch.

75 \_\_\_\_\_ B1 hits a line drive over the head of F6, who leaps in an attempt to catch the ball. The force of the ball knocks the glove from F6's hand and the glove lands on the ground, with the ball inside.  
F6 then retrieves the glove and ball and claims a catch.  
RULING: B1 is not out, as this is not a legal catch.



76 \_\_\_\_\_ To have a regulation game a full seven innings need not be played, if the team second at bat scores more runs in five, six or before the third out in the bottom of the seventh inning.

77 \_\_\_\_\_ Should a runner be declared out if he is not given sufficient time to return to his base after a pitch not hit, and he is still off base when the pitcher delivers the next pitch?

78 \_\_\_\_\_ The ball is alive, when a declared foul ball is legally batted.

79 \_\_\_\_\_ A batter enters the batter's box and proceeds to deliberately erase the lines of the box. The penalty for this action is the umpire shall call a strike on the batter, even though no pitch has been thrown, and the ball becomes dead.

80 \_\_\_\_\_ Should a batter who is detected using an illegal bat be ejected from the game?

81 \_\_\_\_\_ With R1 on 2nd, B2 hits a high foul fly ball towards 1st. F3, in attempting to catch the ball, has to deviate around the coach, who makes no attempt to move out of the way. The ball tips F3's glove and falls to the ground. RULING: B2 is out on the coach's interference.

82 \_\_\_\_\_ A pitch hits B1 and the umpire awards him 1st. B1 goes to the dugout for treatment before advancing to the base. Can he legally do this without being declared out for not proceeding directly to the awarded base?

83 \_\_\_\_\_ The batting order is B1, B2 and B3 etc. With none out, B1 leads off and hits safely. B3 comes to bat and is retired at 1st, as B1 advances safely to 2nd. The defence now appeal for B3 batting out-of-order. RULING: B2, the batter who should have batted, is out. B3 is also declared out; B1 returns to 1st and the next batter will be B4.

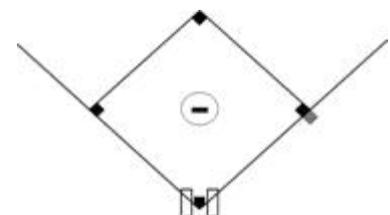
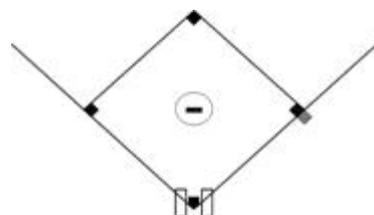
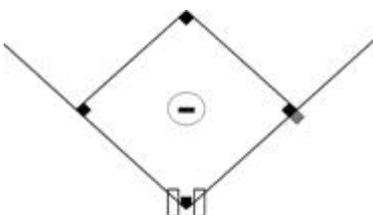
84 \_\_\_\_\_ A starting player, who has been legally substituted on two (2) occasions, may return to the game as a base coach.

85 \_\_\_\_\_ The batter-runner is always out when a fielder completes a successful play on a batted ball but is detected using an illegal glove.

86 \_\_\_\_\_ With one out, failure of a preceding runner to touch a base, or to leave a base legally on a caught fly ball, and who is declared out, does not affect the status of a succeeding runner who touches bases in proper order.

87 \_\_\_\_\_ The pitcher's mound should be removed when using a baseball field for a softball game.

88 \_\_\_\_\_ When the FLEX re-enters a game in the Designated Player's position in the batting order he will bat but not play on defence.



- 89 \_\_\_\_\_ With R1 on 1st, F1 delivers an Illegal Pitch that gets away from F2. R1 reaches 2nd and on seeing F2 has not yet recovered the ball, attempts to advance to 3rd. Is R1 given any protection if he is eventually tagged out sliding into 3rd?
- 90 \_\_\_\_\_ R1 on 1st. B2 hits a fair ground ball to F5 who, in the act of fielding, accidentally kicks the ball into the dugout. At the time of the ball being declared dead, R1 has rounded 2nd. RULING: R1 is awarded home.
- 91 \_\_\_\_\_ The batter takes running steps (within the batter's box) toward the pitcher and hits the ball without driving the ball into the ground with a quick, short swing or punching of the ball over the infield. This is a slap hit.
- 92 \_\_\_\_\_ A legally batted ball that settles, untouched, on home plate should be called a foul ball by the plate umpire.
- 93 \_\_\_\_\_ The white covered red stitch 30.5cm (12 in) ball, with a COR of .47, may be used in all divisions of Fast Pitch play.
- 94 \_\_\_\_\_ Can a runner advance on a Foul Tip?
- 95 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
- 96 \_\_\_\_\_ An Illegal Re-Entry occurs when a starting player returns to the game a second time, after twice being substituted.
- 97 \_\_\_\_\_ When a runner is called out for interference, all other runners must return to the last base legally touched by them at the time of the pitch, unless forced to advance.
- 98 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
- 99 \_\_\_\_\_ Displaying a player's name on the back of their uniform shirt is optional.
- 100 \_\_\_\_\_ Before commencing the pitch, the pitcher must have both feet on the ground within the 61.0cm (24 inch) length of the pitcher's plate.

