

# 2013 USSSA Fastpitch Umpire's Test

## Questions - True or False

### Equipment

- 1 A throat protector is not required on a catcher's hockey style mask.
- 2 The ball may be optic yellow or white.
- 3 14U players are allowed to wear metal cleats.
- 4 In age groups that do not allow Metal Cleat, the Penalty for wearing metal cleats is ejection.
- 5 Unadorned bobby pins less than 2" in length are legal.
- 6 The pitcher may wear a first baseman's mitt.
- 7 Optic Yellow manufacturer's logo on the pitcher's glove is legal.
- 8 The new bat standards will go into effect January 1, 2014.
- 9 Use of an altered bat by a Youth player can lead to suspension of the parents.
- 10 It is legal to warm up with one bat with a donut securely attached.

### Fair/Foul

- 11 The third baseman reaches across the foul line and drops a fly ball which is completely in foul territory. She has both feet in fair territory. This is a fair ball.
- 12 A fly ball which is in foul territory when a base runner in foul territory interferes with a defensive player's attempt to field. Dead Ball; Runner out; Foul ball.
- 13 With the batter up in the box, the batter bunts the ball and it hits her foot in the batter's box completely in fair territory, it is a foul ball.
- 14 A batted ball hits in the infield; bounces over third base and hits in foul territory. This is a fair ball.
- 15 A batted ball hits in the outfield in fair territory and bounces over the outfield fence to the foul side of the foul pole. This is a foul ball.

### Playing Shorthanded

- 16 After a team warning, a player is wearing jewelry. The team is playing with nine players. The team may continue and play short.
- 17 A player deliberately throws her bat. The team is playing with nine players. The team may continue and play short.
- 18 With two outs, the defensive may walk the batter preceding the absent player to record an automatic out.
- 19 A team may begin with 8 players and an automatic out in the ninth position.
- 20 If a team is playing short and an eligible substitute arrive, she must immediately enter the game.

### DP/FLEX

- 21 The FLEX player must be listed in the 10<sup>th</sup> spot (or 11th/12th spot if using AP) on the lineup card.
- 22 If the FLEX player has re-entered and is out of the game again, the FLEX position cannot be re-established.
- 23 If the FLEX player bats, the role of the DP is suspended but can be re-established.
- 24 The DP can play defense for any of the other players in the lineup. So both the DP and the FLEX can be on defense at the same time.
- 25 The FLEX can play offense for any of the other players in the lineup. So both the DP and the FLEX can be on offense at the same time.

### Lineup – Batting order: Amy #1, Beth #2, Cory #3

- 26 At start of the 8th inning, Amy is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and Cory leads off. After one pitch, the defensive coach addresses the umpire saying that an improper player has been placed on 2nd. Amy is replaced with Beth with no penalty.
- 27 A player shows up late and is not listed as a starter or substitute on the line-up card. She is ineligible to play in that game.
- 28 Cory comes to bat and is wearing #8. The number can be corrected in the lineup with no warning or penalty.
- 29 Amy strikes out. Beth is knocked unconscious by a wild pitch. Since the team has no eligible substitutions, Amy can replace Beth during this at bat.
- 30 Despite the lineup card, Amy is wearing #2 and Beth is wearing #1. Amy should be the first batter of the game.

### Pitching

- 31 The pitcher is on the pitcher's plate, looks to the dugout and gets the signal from her coach. She then simulates taking a signal from the catcher. This is illegal.
- 32 A step backward in the pitching motion is legal if it begins before the hands come together.
- 33 If a pitcher does not release the pitch within 20 seconds from the time of receiving the ball, an illegal pitch is called.
- 34 A pitcher's finger may be taped for injury.
- 35 After hitting an illegal pitch, the batter is thrown out at second base; the coach has the option of accepting the illegal pitch penalty.

### Batting – Batting Order: Amy #1, Beth #2, Cory #3

- 36 Amy strikes out; Cory comes up and has a 3-2 count when the defensive coach appeals for batting out of order. Cory is replaced by Beth with a 3-2 count and no penalty.
- 37 Amy strikes out; Cory hits into a ground out. The defensive coach appeals for batting out of order. Beth is declared out. Cory bats.
- 38 The batter may not have any part of her foot touching any part of the lines of the batter's box.
- 39 A batter must take her position in the batter's box within 10 seconds of the pitcher having the ball in the pitching circle.
- 40 If the batter intentionally moves to get hit by a pitch entirely in the batter's box, it is a dead ball and a ball on the batter.

### The look back rule is in effect

- 41 If the pitcher has both feet on the line (part inside & part outside the pitcher's circle), she is considered to be in the pitcher's circle.
- 42 The pitcher places the ball between her legs to adjust her hair. She is not considered to have possession of the ball.
- 43 On a walk, the look back rule goes into effect as soon as the pitcher receives the ball in the circle.
- 44 The pitcher does not have to look at runner or recognize the runner is off base.
- 45 A batter-runner who overruns first and delays in her attempt to advance to second is required to return to first base and stop.

### Courtesy Runner - Pam is one of five substitutes who have not participated at all in the game.

- 46 In the first inning, Pam is used as a courtesy runner for the pitcher. In the fourth inning, Pam is used as a courtesy runner for the catcher. This is legal.
- 47 The team fails to report Pam as a courtesy runner. Pam becomes an illegal substitute.
- 48 A courtesy runner may not be used for the DP.
- 49 Pam courtesy runs for the pitcher in the sixth inning and scores. In the same inning, Pam is allowed to pinch run for the shortstop but can no longer be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the game.
- 50 A team is playing with only nine players. The pitcher walks. The last batted out may be used as a courtesy runner.

### Obstruction - With a runner on second base, the batter hits a fair ground ball.

- 51 A batted ball bounds off the pitcher's glove and goes to the shortstop, standing in the baseline trying to field the deflected ball, and hinders the runner going from second to third. Obstruction has occurred.
- 52 A batted ball bounds off the third baseman's glove and goes to the shortstop, standing in the baseline attempting to field the deflection and hinders the runner going from second to third. Obstruction has occurred.
- 53 A batted ball goes to the shortstop. She fumbles the ball and the ball goes behind her. She takes a step and starts to pick up the ball when she hinders the runner going from second to third. Obstruction has occurred.
- 54 The third baseman turns to watch the ball in left field and blocks R2 before she gets to third base. Obstruction is called and R2 is thrown out at home plate. The umpire states that the runner could not have made home plate regardless of the obstruction. R2 is returned to third base without an out being
- 55 The third baseman obstructs R2 after she touches third base and the umpire who called obstruction does not think R2 would have scored regardless of the obstruction. R2 is thrown out at home plate. R2 is returned to third base without an out being recorded.

### Base Runner

- 56 If the Batter Runner moves backward toward Home Plate for any reasons, the ball is dead
- 57 When a coach physically assists a runner during playing action, a dead ball occurs
- 58 If during a live ball, a runner deliberately removes her helmet, it results in a dead ball.
- 59 It is not obstruction if the fielder is about to receive a thrown ball.
- 60 If a runner is thrown out when a batter committed interference with the catcher making a throw, the interference is ignored.

### Base Awards

- 61 A batter-runner who is running legally is hit by a thrown ball and incapacitated, she is awarded First
- 62 A batter swings and the ball hits the batter's hand, she is awarded First Base.
- 63 With no outs, Amy is stealing second when the batter lines out to the shortstop. Amy is returning to first as the shortstop throws to the first baseman. The throw goes out of play. Amy is awarded second base.
- 64 With Amy on First, Beth hits a ground ball to the outfield. Amy has not reached second and Beth has past first when the right fielder throws the ball. The throw goes out of play. Beth is awarded third base moving Amy Home.

### Double First Base - The game is being played with a double first base. The white base is in fair territory and the orange base is in foul territory

- 65 The batter has to make an effort to avoid being hit by a pitched ball to be awarded first base.
- 66 If a play is being made on the batter-runner at first base and the batter-runner touches only the white portion of the base, the runner is out.
- 67 The defense can use either portion of the double first base when an errant throw pulls the defense to foul territory.
- 68 If the batter-runner touches only the white portion and collides with the first baseman, it is interference
- 69 The shortstop fields a ground ball and throws directly to first base. The first baseman catches the throw in fair territory and touches only the orange base before the batter runner reaches first. The batter runner is out.
- 70 The runner on first is stealing second. After catching a line drive, the shortstop throws directly to first base. The first baseman catches the throw touching only the orange base before the runner returns to first. The runner is out.

#### Dead ball/delayed ball

- 71 If on deck batter interferes with a thrown ball, the ball is dead. If no play is obvious, no player is out.
- 72 It is a delayed dead ball when an illegal pitch is delivered.
- 73 A batted ball that travels directly from the bat to the catcher's chest protector and is caught before touching the ground is a live ball.
- 74 When a coach physically assists a runner during playing action, a dead ball occurs.
- 75 Any time a pitched ball hits the batter, it is a Dead Ball.

#### USSSA Umpire's uniform

- 76 If a short sleeve shirt is worn under the Umpire shirt, it shall plain and white, black, or match the pullover shirt in color.
- 77 A long sleeve white shirt may be worn under the Red polo shirt.
- 78 The plate umpire is allowed to wear a black cap with no markings on it.
- 79 The plate umpire must wear a ball bag.
- 80 The base umpire may wear a ball bag.

#### Base Umpire's initial position with no runners on base

- 81 Base Umpire should be 18-21 feet beyond first base straddling the foul line.
- 82 The Base Umpire is responsible for taking the batter/runner to second and allowing the Home Plate Umpire to make the call at third base.
- 83 On a fly ball, turn, watch the catch, signal the out, and let the plate umpire watch the batter/runner touch first base.

#### Fly ball tag-up responsibilities in Two Umpire System

- 84 The Plate Umpire has all runners at third base.
- 85 The Base Umpire always has tags at second base.
- 86 The Base Umpire has all tags at first base.

#### Base Umpire Initial Position

- 87 The Base Umpire should be two or three steps behind and to the right of the shortstop when there is a runner at second only.
- 88 The Base umpire should take a position down the third base line when there is a runner at third only.
- 89 The Base Umpire should be two or three steps behind and to the right of the shortstop when there are runners at second and third base.
- 90 The Base Umpire should be two or three steps behind and to the right of the shortstop when there are runners at first and third base.
- 91 The Base Umpire should be two or three steps behind and to the right of the second baseman with runners at first and second.
- 92 The Base Umpire should be two or three steps behind and to the right of the shortstop when the bases are reloaded.

#### Plate Mechanics

- 93 With No Runners On and a ground ball to the infield, come out to the left of the catcher and move toward the pitcher's plate to help your partner.
- 94 With a runner on second base only, if the first play is at first base, and there is a throw to third, the Plate Umpire has the call at third.
- 95 With runners on first and second base on a base hit, you are responsible for the lead runner at third base and at home. Move toward third base in foul ground. If the lead runner comes home and there is no play made on her, drift toward third base but watch the runner touch the plate.
- 96 On a base hit with runners at first and third base move toward third base. If the lead runner comes home and there is no play made on her, drift toward third but watch the runner touch home plate. If there is a play at home, move back to a position in the rear and left side of the right-handed batter's box.
- 97 When the bases are loaded and a play at first base, watch the lead runner touch home plate, then go to third for a possible play on the second runner.
- 98 Plate always gives a signal of two fists above the head and a verbal "full count" when there are three balls and two strikes.
- 99 A Plate Umpire should always give the count at least every other pitch.
- 100 A Plate Umpire should change balls whenever requested by the pitcher to keep her happy and not cause a confrontation.