



2009 Umpire Exam

Published and Distributed by the Amateur Softball Association • USA Softball

The examination consists of 50 questions based on Rules 1-10 and the Mechanics section of the ASA Official Rule Book. Three sections questions are offered should the test administrator desire to split the exam. Questions are true or false and multiple choice. Answers should be put on the answer sheet and returned to the grader or test committee. THE ANSWER SHEET SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE ASA NATIONAL OFFICE.

The abbreviations used in the questions follow the following: B (N) = Batter; R1 = runner closest to home; R2 is the succeeding runner; R3 is the runner on first base when the bases are full; S (N) = substitutes; CR (N) = courtesy runner(s); PC (N) = physically challenged player; and F (N) = fielder by number. F1 is pitcher; F2 is catcher; F3 is first baseman; F4 is second baseman; F5 is third baseman; F6 is shortstop; F7 is left fielder; F8 is center fielder; and F9 is right fielder. If F10 is used it would be the extra fielder in the slow pitch game.

This examination may be given to all ASA registered umpires under one of the following methods to be determined by your local state/metro ASA commissioner, local umpires association, local parks and recreation department, or military sports officer:

- 1) Under supervision without the use of the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 2) Under supervision using the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 3) With no supervision and using the ASA Official Rule Book.

Retain the question portion of this examination for further study. Use care in marking your answer sheet. PLEASE COMPLETE THE EXAM BEFORE _____

(Date)

After completing, mail or return the ANSWER SHEET ONLY to:

GRADER _____ STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



2009 ASA UMPIRE NATIONAL EXAMINATION

PART I – TRUE/FALSE

Final

- 1) The batter is delaying getting in the batter's box. After ten seconds, the umpire orders the pitcher to pitch and calls the pitch either a ball or strike, depending on the location of the pitch
- 2) A runner can never be called out when hit by a batted ball while in contact with a base.
- 3) With one out and R1 is on First Base, B3 hits a long fly ball to left field. R1 is between Second and Third Base when the ball is caught. R1 returns to First Base but misses Second Base along the way. The ball is overthrown at First Base allowing R1 to now advance to Second Base. The defense appeals that R1 should be out for missing Second Base on the way back to First Base even though R1 is now standing on Second Base. The umpire rules R1 out on the appeal.
- 4) A rubber or plastic "cone" or "flare" on a bat makes it an altered bat.
- 5) An appeal may be made during a live ball by any fielder in possession of the ball touching the base missed or left too soon on a caught fly ball, or by tagging the runner committing the violation if the runner is still on the playing field.
- 6) B1 steps into the batter's box with a bat that has an ASA certification mark but this bat appears on the Non-Approved Bat List. This is legal equipment.
- 7) When a live ball becomes lodged in a defensive player's equipment, the ball is dead and all runners are awarded one base.
- 8) (SP Only) The catcher in Slow Pitch must remain in the catcher's box until the pitch is released.
- 9) (SP Only) The pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball, or after the umpire indicates "play ball."
- 10) A Fourth Out Appeal can only be made on a runner who has scored.
- 11) (SP Only) The pitcher may make a motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- 12) If a ball ricochets off one defensive player and another player has the opportunity to make a play, the runner shall be out only if they intentionally interfere with the second defensive player.
- 13) With no outs, R1 on Second Base, and R2 on First Base, a fair batted ball deflects off F7 and goes over the fence in foul territory. Both R1 and R2 were between Second Base and Third Base when the ball goes out of play. This is a Two Base Award with R1 and R2 scoring and B3 on Second Base.
- 14) If during the bat inspection a bat is found to have visible dents, the bat can be used if the bat ring cleanly fits over the bat.
- 15) (SP Only) Stealing is permitted in all Adult Male divisions of play only.
- 16) When obstruction is called by the umpire, it is a delayed dead ball and at the end of all playing action the obstructed runner is always awarded at least one base beyond the point where the obstruction occurred.
- 17) Any player may re-enter the game one time in the same position in the batting order.
- 18) A foul tip is defined as a foul ball caught by the catcher which never went higher than the batter's head.
- 19) The base path is a line directly between a base and a runner's position at the time a defensive player is attempting to tag that runner.
- 20) F1 is replaced by a substitute. While the umpire records the change, F1 throws an extra warm-up pitch to F2. The umpires should allow this.

Alternate Questions T/F Fast Pitch

- 8FP) The term “Flex” refers to a player who is initially listed in the tenth position in the line-up and may play any defensive position, and may enter the game on offense only in the DP’s batting position.
- 9FP) With two outs and R1 on First Base, B4 swings and misses the pitch for strike three. F2 does not catch the ball. The umpire rules B4 out.
- 11FP) A runner may not be called out for a violation of the Look Back Rule until the pitcher has control of the ball in the circle and the batter-runner has touched First Base.
- 15FP) The pitcher may step on the pitcher’s plate with their hands together as long as they separate them to take a signal before starting the pitch.

Multiple Choice

- 21) A fair batted ball strikes the base runner after deflecting off the pitcher’s glove.
- The ball is dead and the runner is out.
 - The ball is dead, that base runner and all other base runners return to the last base touched at the time of the pitch.
 - The ball remains live.
 - The ball is dead, the runner is out and the batter-runner is awarded first base.
- 22) (SP Only) An illegal pitch is called when:
- A pitch is higher than 12 feet from the ground.
 - The pitcher delivers the ball during a suspension of play.
 - The ball slips from the pitcher’s hand during the delivery.
 - All the above.
- 23) With no outs and R1 on Third Base, B2 hits a fly ball to left field. While the ball is in flight, the coach pushes R1 back toward Third Base. F7 then makes the catch for the first out.
- B2 is out on the catch and R1 is out for being aided by the coach. The ball remains live.
 - B2 is out on the catch and the ball is dead when the coach aided R1. R1 must return to Third Base.
 - The ball is dead, R1 is out for the coach aiding R1 and B2 is awarded First Base.
 - The ball is dead and B2 is out with R1 awarded Home.
- 24) B1 misses First Base, touches Second Base and half way to Third Base F6 throws the ball into the dug-out attempting to make a play on B1. B1 seeing the ball thrown into the dugout, returns to First Base retouching Second Base along the way. B1 is awarded
- Second Base
 - Third Base
 - Home
 - None of the above
- 25) With R1 on First Base, B2 hits the ball past F3 untouched and it strikes R1 who is advancing to Second Base behind F3. In the umpire’s judgment, no other fielder had a chance to make an out. The umpire rules:
- The ball dead, R1 is out for interference and B2 returns to the plate to bat again with the same count prior to the batted ball.
 - No infraction. The ball remains live.
 - A delayed dead ball and obstruction.
 - A dead ball. R1 is out for interference and B2 is awarded First Base.
- 26) (SP Only) In a Men’s Class D Slow Pitch game, B1 hits an over the fence Home Run for their third Home Run of the Game. The umpire should rule:
- A Home Run.
 - B1 out and the half inning over regardless of the number of outs.
 - B1 out for exceeding the Home Run limit for Class D Slow Pitch.
 - None of the above.

- 27) (SP Only) When the pitcher makes a pitching motion while in contact with pitcher's plate prior to the stop:
- "Dead ball" should be called, an illegal pitch ruled and a warning issued to the pitcher.
 - An "illegal pitch" is called.
 - This is legal.
 - "Dead ball" should be called and a warning is issued to the pitcher.
- 28) An obstructed runner may not be called out between the two bases where obstruction occurred except if the obstructed runner:
- Commits an act of interference
 - Passes another runner
 - Misses a base
 - All of the above
- 29) A team starts a game using the Shorthanded Player Rule. Two players show up at the top of the 2nd inning.
- Neither player may enter the game.
 - One player may enter the game.
 - Both players may only be used as substitutes for those players who are already playing in the lineup.
 - One player must enter the game.
- 30) (SP Only) After a warning, the pitcher again delivers a pitch with excessive speed. The umpire should:
- Eject the pitcher.
 - Give the pitcher another warning and on the next violation, eject the pitcher.
 - Disqualify the pitcher from the game.
 - Remove the pitcher from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- 31) B1 hits a ground ball to F6, an illegal player, who fields the ball and throws B1 out at First Base. Before a pitch to B2, the offense protests the illegal player. The umpire should rule:
- B1 has the option of batting again and F6 is ejected and replaced with a legal substitute.
 - No penalty since F6 is in the game and a pitch was thrown, they are considered a reported substitute.
 - B1 is out and F6 is ejected and replaced with a legal substitute.
 - The offensive coach has the option of taking the result of the play or having B1 bat again assuming the same count and F6 is now considered officially in the game..
- 32) After the visiting team has batted in the top of the first inning, the home team's pitcher complains that the pitching distance is wrong and notifies the umpires. The umpire:
- Must start the game over after the pitching distance is corrected.
 - Must finish the game at the incorrect distance, since the visiting team started at the incorrect distance.
 - Must correct the distance with no penalty to either team and continue the game.
 - Should let the coaches decide.
- 33) B1 is scheduled to lead off the inning but instead B2 comes to bat and flies out to F7. B1 now comes to bat, and before the next pitch is thrown, the defensive team properly appeals that B2 batted out of order.
- B1 is declared out and the correct batter is now B2.
 - B1 is declared out, B2's out also stands, and the correct batter is now B3
 - B1 is declared out, the time at bat for B2 is nullified, and the correct batter is now B3.
 - There are no out's declared because B2 had established a new batting order.
- 34) B1 hits a fly ball to F9 who catches it for the first out of the inning. While B1 was leaving the plate area and moving toward first base, F2 tripped B1 causing B1 to fall to the ground. The umpire should:
- Signal a delayed dead ball, verbalize obstruction, and award the runner First Base.
 - Give no signal or verbal call and wait until the result of the play to declare obstruction.
 - Give a dead ball signal as soon as the runner is tripped, and declare obstruction on F2.
 - Signal a delayed dead ball, verbalize obstruction, then ignore the obstruction when the ball is caught and declare B1 out.

- 35) On a pitched ball that gets away from the catcher and is retrieved with detached equipment, there is no penalty if:
- The runner(s) are not advancing.
 - No apparent play is possible.
 - No advantage is gained.
 - All the above.
- 36) (16" SP Only) With R1 on First Base, F1 hesitates for the second time. F1 sees R1 break for Second Base and steps off the pitching plate and attempts to tag R1 on the way to Second Base. What is the correct call?
- R1 is out.
 - The umpire should call "time" and place R1 back on First Base.
 - The umpire should declare a dead ball and award R1 Second Base
 - The umpire should declare a dead ball and an illegal pitch.
- 37) The ball remains live when:
- Obstruction occurs.
 - The offense commits interference.
 - A batted or thrown ball leaves the playing field.
 - A batter is hit by a pitched ball.
- 38) B1 gets a hit with an illegal bat and reaches First Base safely. B2 steps into the batter's box and uses the same bat. After a pitch to B2 the defense brings the illegal bat to the attention of the umpire. The umpire should rule:
- B1 out and remove the bat from the game. B2 will resumes batting with a different bat.
 - B2 out and remove the bat from the game.
 - B1 and B2 both out and remove the bat from the game.
 - Neither B1 or B2 out. The umpire should remove the bat from the game and resume play.
- 39) The following classes in Men's Slow Pitch have a half inning ending out for an over-the-fence Home Run:
- Class B
 - Class E/REC
 - Class C
 - Class D
- 40) The official bat shall be:
- Of one piece construction.
 - Multi-piece permanently assembled construction.
 - Two-piece interchangeable construction.
 - All of the above.

Multiple Choice Fast Pitch

- 22FP) (FP Only) With one out and R1 and Third Base, R2 on Second Base, B4 hits a ground ball to F6 who is bumped by R2 while advancing to Third Base. R1 has not reached home plate at the time of the contact. The umpire should:
- Call a "Delayed Dead Ball" and see how the play develops and apply the penalty after viewing the play.
 - Call a "Dead Ball" and rule the B4 out and send R1 and R2 back to Second and Third Base.
 - Call a "Dead Ball," rule R2 out, put B4 on First Base and return R1 to Third Base.
 - Call a "Dead Ball," rule R2 out, put B4 on First Base and award R1 Home.
- 26FP) (FP Only) The Designated Player is listed properly in the fourth spot in the batting order and the FLEX is properly listed in the tenth spot. In the third inning it is reported to the Plate Umpire that the DP will now play defense for the FLEX. Which is a true statement?
- This is not legal and cannot be done.
 - This is a legal change and the FLEX is considered to have left the game.
 - This is a legal change, but can only be done one time per game.
 - This is not a legal change because the DP is not allowed to play offense and defense at the same time.

- 27FP) An illegal pitch is called when:
- A pitcher is penalized for an excessive warm-up pitch.
 - A pitcher delivers a quick return pitch while the batter is off balance.
 - The pitcher pushes off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate.
 - The ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery.
- 30FP) In the Women's game the maximum fence distance is:
- 250 feet
 - 240 feet
 - 200 feet
 - 175 feet
- 36FP) In Fast Pitch pitching, when the pitcher takes more than 20 seconds to release the pitch after receiving the ball, it is a/an:
- Illegal pitch.
 - Ball on the batter.
 - Award of First Base to the batter.
 - None of the above.

Mechanics Questions

- 41) (SP Only) In the 2 umpire system and a runner on 3B the base umpire should start behind the short stop.
- 42) The previous half inning ends with a close play at the Plate which goes against the team in the First Base dugout. This team continues to complain as they take the field for defense. The Umpire Manual states that the Plate Umpire shall assume a position on the First Base line extended, facing the dugout of the team coming to bat. The Plate Umpire has no option other than to stand on the First Base line extended and take the heat.
- 43) In Slow Pitch or Fast Pitch the plate stance is the same with only a difference in the height of the head.
- 44) In the Two-Umpire System with no runners on base, B1 gets a base hit to left field. Since everything is in front of the base umpire, it is permissible for that umpire to stay outside the diamond instead of automatically moving into the diamond and executing a buttonhook.
- 45) In the Two Umpire System when the Plate Umpire rotates to Third Base for a play and the ball gets away from the fielder allowing the runner to advance to the Plate, the 1B Umpire should cover Home Plate.
- 46) In the Three Umpire System when starting in a counter-rotated position, the 1B umpire should "go out" on fly balls hit to
- Left Center Field
 - Center Field
 - Right Center Field
 - All of the above
- 47) Tracking the pitch is the act of watching the ball from the pitcher's hand to the catcher's glove:
- Using a slight movement of the head guided by the nose with your eyes locked on the ball.
 - With no movement of the head or eyes.
 - With an exaggerated head movement and eyes locked on the ball.
 - While keeping your head as still as possible and moving the eyes only.
- 48) In a Two Umpire System with the Base Umpire not "going out" on the fly ball, the following play occurs: With one out and R1 on Second Base, B3 hits a fly ball to F8 who catches the ball. R1 tags up and goes to Third Base. The following coverage should take place:
- The Base Umpire should button-hook inside the diamond; take the tag-up at Second Base, while the Plate Umpire takes the catch in center field and the play into Third Base.
 - The Base Umpire should button-hook inside the diamond; take the tag-up at Second Base and the play at Third Base, while the Plate Umpire takes the catch in center field.
 - The Base Umpire should button-hook inside the diamond; take the catch in center field and the tag-up Second Base, while the Plate Umpire takes the play into Third Base.
 - The Base Umpire should stay outside the diamond for a better look at the tag, while the Plate Umpire takes the catch in center field and the play into Third Base.

- 49) With a runner on Third Base, B2 hits a short fly ball to left field that looks like a base hit. To obtain the best position for a close play at the Plate, the Plate Umpire should:
- a) Take a position 10 – 12 feet beyond Home Plate on the Third Base line extended and adjust to see the play as the throw arrives.
 - b) Take a position directly in front of Home Plate and adjust as needed to allow the ball to take them to the play.
 - c) Take a position 10 – 12 feet beyond Home Plate on the First Base line extended and adjust to see the play as needed.
 - d) Take a position in foul ground, 90 degrees to the path of the runner just outside the deepest corner of the RH batter's box.
- 50) For a tag play, assume a position 90 degrees to the path of the runner, just short of the base they are trying to reach and about:
- a) 18 – 21 feet from the play.
 - b) 15 – 18 feet from the play.
 - c) 12 – 15 feet from the play.
 - d) 10 – 12 feet from the play.

Alternate Question for Fast Pitch: True/False

- 41) (Fast Pitch Only) In the Two Umpire System with a runner on second base and third base the base umpire should be behind the short stop shading the runner on third base.

Benefits of an ASA Umpire



1 **\$5,000,000 per occurrence of LIABILITY INSURANCE**— This policy covers you in the event you are sued, and adjudged by a court of law for bodily injury, personal injury or property damage to others while officiating at ASA sanctioned activities, games, leagues and tournaments involving ASA registered teams. Coverage is also provided for defense costs to include legal fees, court costs and investigative costs.

2 **EXCESS ACCIDENT MEDICAL EXPENSE INSURANCE**— Accidental injury arising out of the amateur softball activities of the umpire is covered. These include ASA sanctioned activities, games, leagues and tournaments involving ASA registered teams, practices, clinics, including direct and uninterrupted travel to and from the site of the activity. The medical expense coverage is provided on an excess basis. This means that this insurance comes into play only after other group or individual medical insurance or any other health plan has paid out its benefits. Payments are limited to the usual and customary charges for reasonable and necessary medical services. The policy contains a surgical schedule which sets forth dollar maximums for specific surgical procedures. Thus, some medical expenses may not be covered in full.

Excess Medical Expense Benefit	
Deductible	Maximum Benefit
\$100	\$100,000
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	
Accidental Death Benefit	Accidental Dismemberment Benefit
\$2,000	\$4,000

3 **INSURANCE COVERAGE WHILE OFFICIATING OTHER SPORTS**
ASA umpire associations, ASA Commissioners, or UIC's can now purchase accident and liability coverage, as well as game fee reimbursement as a result of injury, for their umpires who officiate other sports. Game Fee Reimbursement would also apply to ASA softball games. Coverage is only \$22, but must be purchased with a minimum of 10 umpires. (Premium is \$220 minimum).

4 As part of the registration fee, each umpire receives insurance coverage, The Official Rules of Softball Umpire Edition and the pre-season issue of *Balls and Strikes Softball Magazine*.

5 Because an umpire is registered with the ASA, they can obtain rule interpretations, attend ASA rule clinics and the regular and advanced National Umpire Schools.

6 An umpire uniform and leisure wear program is available to each registered umpire. Included are clothing, souvenirs and publications. Request the new catalog today.

7 Only ASA registered umpires are selected to officiate in metro, state, regional and national championships. There are now more than 100 ASA national championships.

8 Only ASA registered umpires are eligible to apply for ISF (International Softball Federation) certification which offers the opportunity to umpire in world championships, including the Pan American Games and Olympics.

9 ASA Umpires can qualify to umpire in ISF Events held at beautiful ISF Headquarters in Plant City, FL.

10 ASA Umpires are eligible to apply for the medals program available in blue (3 yrs.), bronze (5 yrs.), silver (15 yrs.) and gold (20 yrs.), just for being a registered ASA Umpire. A complete line of leisure wear styles is available, along with trophies, plaques, watches, etc.

11 ASA Umpires are eligible to apply for the National Indicator Fraternity and be recognized for their umpiring experience in a registry in the ASA Hall of Fame, Umpire Manual and Case Book

12 Qualified ASA Umpires can apply for Elite Umpire status within the ASA. Those qualified individuals will receive a lapel pin, a navy ASA/USA "Elite" cap, membership card, framed certificate and their name listed in a registry in the ASA Hall of Fame.

13 Only through the ASA program are training aides available for umpires and umpire organizations. These aides include an animated mechanics DVD, Clinic guide, Power Point presentations, instructional video cassettes, the umpire examination, meeting quizzes and the case book on CD.