

# SUNCOAST UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## BASEBALL EXAM REVIEW 2004

### UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

#### ABOUT UNIFORMS

1. Any player whose uniform is significantly different from the majority of his teammates shall not be permitted to play.1-4-1
2. A manufacturer's logo shall not exceed 1-1/2 inches by 1-1/2 inches on team uniforms.1-4-4
3. A pitcher may wear exposed white or gray undershirt sleeves if his teammates are wearing the same.1-4-2
4. Team jerseys must be numbered on the front and back.1-4-3

#### 5. ABOUT OBJECTIONABLE MARKINGS

6. Players in the game are prohibited from wearing objectionable markings that are visible.
7. Any piece of equipment that has a word, slogan or marking that is objectionable is prohibited.
8. Body paint, excluding anti-sun glare products, is illegal. After a team warning has been given, a subsequent violation of the rule concerning objectionable markings shall result in the offender being ejected.

#### 9. ABOUT EQUIPMENT

10. A throat protector shall be part of or attached to the catcher's mask.1-4-7
11. Only baseballs that are approved by the National Federation are legal.1-3-1
12. The NOCSAE standard for batting helmets also applies to catcher's helmets.1-4-8
13. The umpire-in-chief has the authority to determine the legality of equipment.1-5-7
14. There shall be no devices, attachments, or wrappings that cause the handle of the bat to become flush with the knob.1-3-2
15. Molded grips on bats are legal.1-3-2
16. If loose equipment interferes with play, the umpire may call an out (s), award bases, or return runners based on his judgment and the circumstances concerning the play.1-5-4
17. A foul fly caught by an illegal glove/mitt shall be nullified and treated as a foul ball, unless the team at bat elects to take the result of the play.1-5-3
18. Painted bats are illegal.
19. All bats must have a safety grip of 10-18 inches.1-3-3
20. A 33" bat which weighs 27 ounces is legal.1-3-4
21. While in a crouch position, any non-adult warming up the pitcher must wear a head protector.1-4-8
22. A bat weighing 27 ounces cannot be longer than 30 inches.1-3-4

#### 23. ABOUT A PLAYER WARMING UP THE PITCHER

24. The only protective equipment a player warming up the pitcher is required to wear is a mask with throat protector and a protective helmet.1-4-8
25. The rule requiring certain protective equipment to be worn by a player warming up the pitcher shall be enforced by the umpire inside and outside the confines of the field.1-4-8
26. A player warming up the pitcher who refuses to wear certain protective equipment shall be ejected.1-4-8
27. The rule requiring certain protective equipment to be worn by a player warming up the pitcher shall be enforced once an umpire arrives at the field.10-1-2

#### 28. ABOUT EQUIPMENT AND THE FIELD

29. Any equipment judged by the umpire to be unreasonably dangerous is illegal.1-5-6
30. Failure by a player to wear proper equipment after being so ordered by the umpire, shall result in ejection.1-4-8
31. Media shall be prohibited from being in live ball area.5-1-1
32. At the time of the pitch, all fielders shall be on fair ground.1-1-4
33. A pitcher's glove can be multi-colored as long as it does not have substantial amounts of white or gray in it.1-3-7
34. The use of an illegal glove on a batted ball causes the ball to be dead immediately.1-5-3
35. A minimum of four umpire approved baseballs shall be provided to start the game.1-3-1
36. It is mandatory for each on-deck batter, batter, catcher, runner, retired runners and players/students in the coaches boxes to wear a batting helmet that meets the NOCSAE standard.1-4-5
37. The batting helmet shall have extended ear flaps that cover both ears and temples and also display the NOCSAE stamp and the exterior warning statement.1-4-5
38. The name and shirt number of each eligible substitute shall be included on the team lineup card presented to the umpire-in-chief by the captain.1-1-2

39. Lineups become official after they have been exchanged, verified and then accepted by the umpire during the pre-game conference.1-1-2
40. Even if the mitt meets specifications, an outfielder cannot use a first baseman's mitt.1-3-7
41. The warning statement shall be affixed to the batting helmet in sticker form.1-4-5
42. **SUBSTITUTING-CHARGED CONFERENCES -BENCH/FIELD CONDUCT-COACHING**
43. ABOUT SUBSTITUTING
44. If there is no announcement of substitutions, a substitute has entered the game when the ball is live and a batter takes his place in the batter's box.3-1-1
45. For discovery of an illegal player by an umpire or the opposing team, that player shall be ejected.3-1-1
46. If an illegal player on defense is involved in a play, and the infraction is discovered by an umpire or the opposing team prior to the first pitch to the next batter of either team, the team on offense has the option to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again.3-1-1
47. A player may be removed as pitcher and returned as pitcher only once per inning, provided the return as pitcher does not violate either the pitching, substitution, or charged conference rule.3-1-2
48. A player who has been rendered unconscious during a game may participate in the second game of a scheduled doubleheader without any written authorization from a physician.3-1-5
49. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual participates again.3-1-6, CDP
50. If an illegal substitute is discovered at bat before a pitch has been thrown, the illegal substitute may be replaced without penalty.3-1-1
51. When discovered, the batting out of order rule may also be applied to an illegal substitute, resulting in two outs being called in the same position in the batting order.3-1-1
52. If an illegal substitute scores and is detected before the next pitch, the illegal substitute is out and ejected, but the run counts.3-1-1
53. If S1 (an illegal substitute) appears at bat for B3 when it is B2's turn to bat, both S1 and B2 shall be declared out when the infraction is properly discovered by the defensive team and it shall be B3's turn to bat.3-1-1
54. If an illegal substitute is playing shortstop and fields a batted ball and throws the batter out at first, the illegal substitute will be restricted to the dugout for the duration of the game and the batter awarded first base, provided the illegal substitute is discovered before the next pitch.3-1-1
55. If a player fails to report and enters the game, the player he replaces is considered to have been out of the inning.
56. Any of the starting players may withdraw and reenter once, including the player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup.
57. A starting defensive player may be listed as the designated hitter in the starting line-up.
58. If the starting pitcher is injured before facing a batter and is not able to continue at that time, he may return later in the game and pitch.
59. If a pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter.
60. If an illegal substitute bats and singles home a runner, the run will stand, even if before another pitch is thrown, the defensive team appeals the illegal substitution to the umpire.
61. ABOUT LISTING SUBSTITUTES
62. An eligible substitute may be added to the official lineup card at any time during the game.
63. All eligible substitutes shall be listed on the official lineup card before the game, but there is no penalty if they are not.1-1-2
64. Only those substitutes that are at the field when the lineups are submitted need to be listed.1-1-2
65. ABOUT THE DESIGNATED HITTER
66. If the DH enters the game on defense while the player for whom he is batting is on defense, the DH shall be considered an illegal substitute.3-1-4
67. If a pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter.3-1-4
68. If the defensive player for whom the DH is batting runs for the DH, the role of DH is terminated for the remainder of the game.3-1-4
69. If a DH is to be used, the DH must be identified before the game begins.3-1-4
70. The designated hitter and the defensive player for whom he bats may each be in the lineup defensively simultaneously.3-1-4
71. The starting designated hitter and the player for whom the DH is batting may re-enter the game once.3-1-4

72. The designated hitter may only bat for the pitcher.3-1-4
73. If a substitute pinch hits for the DH, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game.3-1-4
74. If the home team uses a DH, the visitors must also use a DH.
75. ABOUT CHARGED CONFERENCES
76. After three charged conferences in a seven-inning game, the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game.3-4-1
77. The number of defensive charged conferences permitted is cumulative for an extra inning game.3-4-1
78. An offensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or team representative initially starts to return to the coach's box or dugout.3-4-4
79. A defensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or non-playing representative crosses the foul line, if the conference was in fair territory.3-4-3
80. If a team has only used two defensive conferences in seven innings, they have two defensive conferences available for the 8th inning.3-4-1
81. Each team while on offense, may be granted not more than one charged conference per batter.3-4-2
82. Two defensive conferences will be charged when a coach leaves the dirt area of the mound and then returns to continue talking to the pitcher.3-4-3
83. When the coach of the team at bat is granted an offensive conference and the coach of the defensive team walks to the mound to talk to his pitcher, both teams are charged with a conference.3-4-5
84. In an extra-inning game, each team receives one defensive conference per inning plus any unused conferences from the first seven innings.3-4-1
85. If the coach of the defensive team desires to meet with his catcher, a conference shall be charged.3-4-1
86. If a coach of the defensive team talks to his pitcher at the mound before the ball is live and less than one minute has elapsed since the third out of the previous inning, his team will be charged with a defensive conference.
87. If a coach of the defensive team delays the game by talking to his pitcher at the mound during warm up pitches, he will be charged with a defensive conference.
88. A CHARGED CONFERENCE ENDS WHEN
89. The umpire-in-chief informs the coach that the conference is completed.
90. The coach confers with the shortstop and returns toward his dugout, but does not cross the foul lines.
91. The batter, upon having a conference with the coach, initially starts to return to the plate.
92. The coach, upon holding a defensive conference in foul territory, leaves to talk to another fielder at a different location.
93. ABOUT A DEFENSIVE CHARGED CONFERENCE
94. Each team is entitled to three charged conferences during a seven-inning game without penalty.
95. Prior to accumulating three charged conferences in seven innings, a conference is not charged if the pitcher is removed as pitcher.
96. The pitcher does not have to be replaced as pitcher during the first charged conference in extra innings.
97. It is not a charged defensive conference if the offensive team has a charged conference and the defensive coach talks to his pitcher during that time, which causes no additional delay.
98. After three charged conferences in a seven-inning game, the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game.
99. If a team has only used two defensive conferences in seven innings, they have two defensive conferences available for the 8th inning.
- 100.Each team while on offense may be granted not more than one charged conference per batter.
- 101.ABOUT TOBACCO PRODUCTS
- 102.Players and coaches are prohibited from using tobacco products within the confines of the field.3-3-1
- 103.Anytime a player is detected by the umpire violating the tobacco rule, that player shall be ejected.3-3-1
- 104.As soon as the game is over, umpires may use tobacco or tobacco like products.10-1-8
- 105.Any player or coach who, while on he field, is detected in possession of a tobacco product shall receive a team warning.3-3-1
- 106.A TEAM WARNING IS ISSUED TO THE HEAD COACH AND THE NEXT OFFENDER ON THAT TEAM IS EJECTED WHEN
107. A batter deliberately throws a helmet in disgust after a called third strike.
108. A non-adult ball boy/girl removes his/her helmet in live ball territory while the ball is alive.

109. A player loosens up to bat next to home plate while the substitute pitcher is warming up.
110. A player fakes a tag.
111. A female team attendant (trainer, bat girl, etc.) wears a bandanna to control excessively long hair.
112. A player deliberately removes his helmet while the ball is dead.
- 113. ABOUT BENCH-FIELD CONDUCT**
114. If a runner is obstructed going to third base and subsequently makes malicious contact with the catcher before reaching the plate, the runner is declared out, ejected and the obstruction is ignored.
115. A coach or other bench personnel shall not be outside the designated dugout (bench) or bullpen area, or the coach's box.
116. Players may wear body paint (excluding anti-sun glare products) as long as it is not objectionable to either umpire.
- 117. ABOUT DELIBERATELY REMOVING THE BATTING HELMUT**
118. Deliberately removing the batting helmet by a player is a delayed dead ball situation.
119. Any player who is put out on a play may remove his helmet without being subject to a team warning or ejection.
- 120. ABOUT UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**
121. A coach can be ejected immediately if the umpire feels the offense was major.
122. The exchange of insulting remarks between teams is permitted, as long as profanity is not used.
123. A coach who is ejected cannot return to attend to an ill or injured player.
124. A coach who is ejected cannot call on a cell phone and give instructions to his coaches or players while they are on the field.
- 125. STARTING AND ENDING A GAME**
- 126. ABOUT A PRE - GAME CONFERENCE**
127. During the pre-game conference, umpires shall ask the head coaches of the two opposing teams if their players are legally and properly equipped.
128. Umpires have authority to perform certain duties, such as checking equipment, before the pre-game conference.
129. The umpires' jurisdiction begins when the pre-game conference starts.
- 130. ABOUT THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS**
131. When a team has to play with eight players because of an ejection and there are no eligible substitutes the game shall be terminated. 4-4-1
132. A team must have nine players to start a game. 4-4-1
133. A team that has to play with eight players can later play with nine if the team is able to locate an eligible player. 4-4-1
134. A team may continue with seven players if, because of injuries, they are unable to play with eight. 4-4-1
- 135. DEAD BALL SUSPENSION OF PLAY**
- 136. IT IS A DELAYED DEAD BALL WHEN**
137. The Umpire accidentally handles a live ball.
138. The pitcher, with a runner on base, pitches from a set position without a stop and the batter hits the ball.
- 139. ABOUT THE DESIGNATED MEDIA AREA**
140. If a ball enters the designated media area, the ball is dead. 5-1-1
141. If a ball touches within a designated media area, the ball is dead. 5-1-1
142. A catch is allowed in a designated media area. 5-1-1
143. The umpire may award an out, if a member of the media while in the designated media area, interferes with a fielder outside the media area, attempting to catch a fly ball.
144. A fielder, while in live ball area, may reach into the designated media area to make a catch.
145. If a thrown ball hits a photographer who is partially in the designated media area, the ball remains alive. 5-1-1
146. A thrown ball passes through the media area and does not touch any individuals, their equipment, or the ground.
- 147. A BATTED BALL BECOMES DEAD WHEN**
148. While on or over foul ground it touches any object other than the ground or any person other than a fielder.
149. It goes directly from the bat to the catcher's glove or hand and then caroms directly to the catcher's protector.
150. It becomes an uncaught foul.
151. It hits a runner on base after being deflected off of a fielder who had a chance to play on the ball.
152. It is intentionally struck a second time with the bat
- 153. THE BALL IS DEAD IMMEDIATELY WHEN**
154. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
155. There is interference by a runner or retired runner.

156.A coach physically assists a runner.

157.A runner dives over a fielder, even if there is not contact or interference.

158.THE BALL ALWAYS REMAIN ALIVE WHEN

159.A thrown ball is intentionally touched by someone other than a player or a coach.

160.The ball lodges under the catcher's chest protector and he is unable to find the ball.

161.A throw hits a runner or in some way causes injury.

162.When obstruction occurs

163.WHEN A FAIR BATTED BALL TOUCHES AN UMPIRE ON THE INFIELD

164.It is a delayed dead ball.

165.All runners are awarded one base.

166.The batter-runner is awarded first base if the ball has not touched or passed a fielder other than the pitcher.

167.The ball is always dead immediately.

168.Runners are awarded one base if forced to advance.

**169.BATTING**

170.A BATTER MAY LEAVE THE BATTER'S BOX WITHOUT PENALTY WHEN

171.The batter attempts a drag bunt.

172.A wild pitch or passed ball occurs.

173.He believes he has either walked or has been called out on strikes.

174.The catcher leaves the dirt area of the plate.

175.The batter may leave the batter's box if the pitch hits the dirt.

176.A batter is considered out of the batter's box when both feet are completely out of the batter's box.

177.If the pitcher, with a runner on base, stops or hesitates in his delivery because the batter steps out of the batter's box with one foot, the umpire shall call "Time" and begin play anew.

178.A BATTED BALL IS FOUL IF

179.It strikes the pitching plate, rebounds and settles on foul ground between home and first.

180.A fly ball passes over the outfield fence in fair territory and curves foul before striking the ground.

181.The fielder, while in fair territory, touches the ball in flight over foul territory.

182.It first lands in foul territory and rebounds untouched into fair territory before passing first or third base.

183.ABOUT BATTING OUT OF ORDER

184.A batter shall be called out on appeal when he fails to bat in his proper turn and another batter completes a turn at bat.

185.If B5 mistakenly bats for B4 and no appeal is made, the next batter should be B6.

186.Only the team on defense may appeal batting out of order.

187.If an improper batter hits safely and two runs score, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire prior to the next pitch, the batter who hit out of turn is declared out, but the runs are allowed to stand.

188.41. An improper batter who is at bat with a 2-2 count may be replaced by the proper batter who assumes the improper batter's count.

189.An improper batter is considered to be at bat as soon as he enters the batter's box, even if the ball is dead.

190.While an improper batter is at bat, if a runner advances because of stolen base, balk, wild pitch or passed ball, such advance is legal.

191.If; with no outs and the bases loaded, batting out of order occurs and the defense turns a home to third double play, the half inning is over, provided the defense appeals batting out of order before the next pitch.

192.It is the time of B1 to bat but B3 erroneously bats and hits safely. B1 erroneously follows and walks. B2 follows and walks. It is now the time of B3 to bat. B3 is left on base and B4 becomes the next batter.

193.A BATTER IS OUT WHEN

194.He is discovered batting out of order.

195.With two outs, he interferes with the catcher's attempt to put out a runner at the plate.

196.He removes his helmet on a home run over the fence.

197.He removes his helmet after his fair batted ball bounces off a fielder and goes into dead ball territory.

198.An offensive player or coach interferes with a fielder who is attempting to field a foul fly ball.

199.He deliberately removes his helmet while the ball is alive.

200.With two strikes, a pitch in the strike zone hits the batter.

201.With at least first base occupied and less than two out, an infielder intentionally drops the batter's fair fly, fair line drive or

fair bunt in flight.

202. With two strikes, the batter bunts foul.

**203. ABOUT THE BALL AND BAT CONTACTING EACH OTHER**

204. If the batter bunts the ball fair, drops his bat and the ball rolls into the stationary bat in fair territory, the batter is out and the ball is dead.

205. After the batter hits the ball, he intentionally drops his bat so that the bat rolls into the stationary ball in fair territory, the ball is dead.

206. If the batter bunts the ball, drops his bat, and the ball rolls into the bat in foul territory, and rebounds into fair territory, the ball remains alive.

207. If the batter hits the ball and it rebounds from the plate directly to the bat while the batter is still holding the bat in the batters box, the ball remains in play if it continues into fair territory.

208. If the bat breaks and is hit by the ball, no interference will be called.

**209. ABOUT BALLS AND STRIKES**

210. A pitched ball that hits in front of the plate and then enters the strike zone is a strike.

211. The coach of the defensive team or the catcher may request an intentional base on balls.

212. The strike zone is that space over home plate, the top of which is halfway between the batter's shoulders and the waistline, and the bottom being the knees, when he assumes his natural batting stance.

213. A batter who fails to take his position in the batter's box within 20 seconds after the ball has been returned to the pitcher shall be charged a strike.

**214. ABOUT THE HALF SWING**

215. The plate umpire must ask help in the half swing when requested by the defense.

216. If the barrel of the bat is carried past the body of the batter, it may be considered a strike

217. An umpire's final decision is based on whether the batter actually struck at the ball.

218. The plate umpire may ask for help on the half swing regardless of whether he has called a ball or strike.

**219. THE BATTER RUNNER IS OUT WHEN**

220. His fair bunt in flight is intentionally dropped by an infielder with at least first base occupied before two are out.

221. After bunting the ball, the batter intentionally hits the ball a second time in fair territory.

222. With two out, on a dropped third strike, he gives up by entering the bench or dugout area.

223. He, as an illegal substitute, enters the game and is discovered.

224. He initiates malicious contact, unless he had already scored.

225. He intentionally deflects a foul ball, which has a chance of becoming fair.

**226. ABOUT BATTING**

227. A batter shall not step from the box on one side of home base to the box on the other side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch.

228. A batter is out when he is an illegal substitute, enters the game and is discovered.

229. A batter must keep at least one foot in the batters box after he fouls off a pitch.

230. A batter must keep at least one foot in the batters box after a wild pitch occurs.

231. If the bat breaks and is hit by the ball, no interference will be called.

232. A batter is out when the batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.

233. A batter must keep at least one foot in the batters box if the catcher catches the pitch.

234. A batter must keep at least one foot in the batters box after every called "ball".

**235. BASERUNNING**

**236. ABOUT AWARDS**

237. With no runners on base, the batter may be awarded one base because of an illegal pitch.

238. The batter is awarded three, if the catcher throws his mitt and it touches a fair bunted ball.

239. On an overthrow into dead ball territory by the shortstop on the initial play of a batted ball, all runners would be awarded two bases depending on their position at the time of the pitch.

240. If a runner is to be awarded the base he would have reached had he not been obstructed, a runner would be awarded first base if obstructed trying to return to first on a pick-off attempt.

241. All runners, including the batter, are awarded one base on a balk.

242. All runners would be awarded three bases if the catcher threw his mitt and it touched a fair bunted ball.

243. On an overthrow into dead ball territory by the shortstop after fielding a batted ball, all runners would be awarded two

bases, depending on their position at the time of the pitch, unless all runners had reached the next base prior to the time of the throw.

244.A runner who is obstructed trying to return to a base is awarded that base.

245.An Award Is From The Base Occupied At The Time Of The Throw Or Time Of Infraction When:

246.An outfielder throws the ball into a dead ball area.

247.A player uses detached player equipment to contact the ball.

248.A catcher, in an attempt to secure a passed ball, accidentally kicks the ball into the dugout.

249.After fielding a ground ball, the shortstop feints a throw to second and then throws the ball into the stands.

250.RUNNER IS AWARDED TWO BASES WHEN

251.The pitcher throws a wild pitch into dead ball territory.

252.A fair batted ball becomes dead because of passing through a fence.

253.A pitcher fields a batted ball and over throws first and the ball goes into dead ball territory.

254.A player throws an illegal glove or mitt at but does not hit, a fair batted ball.

255.ABOUT SLIDING

256.If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground.

257.If a runner slides he must slide within reach of the base with a hand or foot.

258.A slide is illegal if it is pop-up slide into the fielder.

259.A slide is illegal if the runner goes beyond the base and alters the play of the fielder.

260.A runner must always slide when played upon.

261.A runner who slides and makes contact with a fielder is always guilty of interference.

262.For the slide to be legal, a runner must be able to reach the base with either a hand or a foot.

263.A runner who goes beyond the base and makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder is guilty of interference.

264.THE FOLLOWING SLIDES ARE ILLEGAL

265.A head first slide at home

266.A slide to the side of the base that alters the fielder's play, even though the runner can touch the base.

267.A slide where the runner's raised leg is at the fielder's upper thigh.

268.ABOUT BASERUNNING

269.A runner must vacate his base to permit a fielder to catch an infield popup.

270.Each runner shall touch his base after the ball becomes dead.

271.An obstructed runner is awarded a minimum of one base beyond his position on base when the obstruction occurred.

272.With one out, R1 is on second and R2 is on first. Infield fly by B4 touches R2 while he stands on first. Both B4 and R2 are called out.

273.ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN

274.He is passed by a succeeding runner.

275.On a force play at any base the runner, or retired runner, fails to execute a legal slide or attempt to avoid the fielder or the play.

276.He dives head first over a fielder.

277.Runs more than three feet out of the baseline.

278.ABOUT A RUNNER

279.He may run more than three feet away from a direct line between bases except to avoid being tagged.

280.He is out if he passes an unobstructed preceding runner before the preceding runner is out.

281.He is never out if he is touching a base when hit by a batted ball.

282.**PITCHING**

283.A PITCHER IS PROHIBITED FROM

284.Taking his sign from the catcher while straddling the pitcher's plate.

285.Throwing to first base before coming to a complete and discernible stop.

286.Feinting a throw to second or third base.

287.Attempting to deceive a runner by positioning himself within approximately five feet of the pitcher's plate without having the ball.

288.IT IS A BALK WHEN

289.A pitcher fails to step with the non-pivot foot directly toward a base when throwing in an attempt to put out a runner.

290.With a runner on base and the pitcher, while not touching the pitcher's plate makes a pitching motion.

- 291.The pitcher, while in the wind-up position, starts his delivery, and then steps backward off the pitcher' plate with his pivot foot to pick off the runner at third.
- 292.A pitcher, with at least one runner on base, drops the ball during delivery and the ball does not cross a foul line.
- 293.The pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate in the set position and feints a throw toward first base in an effort to keep the runner close to the base.
- 294.The pitcher, while in the wind-up position and with runners on base, hesitates after bringing his hands together to take a signal.
- 295.It is a balk if there is a runner on base, and while the pitcher is touching the pitcher's plate he drops the ball and the ball does not cross a foul line.
- 296.From the set position, a change of direction is considered an acceptable stop.
- 297.A pitcher has committed a balk when (ball is live), he pitches a ball after spitting on it and not wiping it off.
- 298.PITCHING REGULATIONS
- 299.Pitching regulations begin when the pitcher contacts the pitching plate, either intentionally or unintentionally.
- 300.With one out and a 1-ball 2-strike count, as F1 winds up, R1 advances home and is hit by the pitch. If it is a 3rd strike, batter is out, and R1 returns to third base.
- 301.R1 on first, it is a balk if F1 fails to pitch to the batter when the entire non-pivot foot passes behind the perpendicular plane of the front edge of the pitcher's plate except when feinting or throwing to second base in an attempt to put out a runner.
- 302.A pitcher has committed a balk when pitching a live ball while having a bandage on the forefinger of the pitching hand.
- 303.ABOUT THE TIME OF THE PITCH
- 304.The time of the pitch from both the windup position or the set position is when the pitcher releases the ball.
- 305.>From the windup position, the time of the pitch occurs when the pitcher legally steps on the pitching plate.
- 306.>From the set position, the time of the pitch occurs when the pitcher first starts any movement with his arms or legs prior to delivering the pitch.
- 307.Basically, the time of the pitch is when the pitcher has committed himself to delivering the pitch to the batter.
- 308.ABOUT PITCHING FROM THE SET POSITION
- 309.A pitcher may pitch from the set position even if runners are not on base.
- 310.A change in direction is not considered a complete and discernible stop.
- 311.A pitcher does not have to come to a complete and discernible stop before throwing to an occupied base.
- 312.The non-pivot foot must be partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate at the time of the pitch.
- 313.A pitcher may come to a complete stop with the ball in both hands in front of the body at chin level.
- 314.Until the pitcher separates his hands, he may step backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot first.
- 315.ABOUT WARM-UP PITCHES
- 316.The starting pitcher is limited to eight warm-up throws that must be completed in one minute.
- 317.At the beginning of each subsequent inning, the pitcher may warm up by using not more than five throws completed in one minute (timed from the third out of the previous half-Inning)
- 318.An umpire may authorize more than the permitted number of warm-up pitches if weather is inclement. The batter is not permitted in the batter's box while the pitcher is throwing his warm-up pitches.
- 319.When a pitcher is replaced during an inning, the relief pitcher is limited to five warm-up pitches.
- 320.A substitute pitcher who replaces the pitcher during the half-inning is limited to five warm-up pitches.
- 321.PITCHING REGULATIONS
- 322.A pitch dropped during delivery and which crosses the foul line shall be called a ball.
- 323.Turning the shoulders to check runners while in contact with the pitcher's plate is a balk.
- 324.From the windup position, the pitcher is not restricted as to how he shall hold the ball.
- 325.To change from the set position to the windup position, the pitcher must first step clearly backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot first.
- 326.FLORIDA RULES
- 327.The use of the designated hitter is required.
- 328.If the game is called because of darkness with the score V-6, H-6 after six complete innings it is a tie game.
- 329.Either starting a pitcher may pitch up to 14 innings in an extra-inning game.
- 330.The use of speed-up rules is mandatory in all games.
- 331.If a coach is ejected, he shall be removed from the premises.

- 332.The umpire-in-chief is responsible for filing the required report with the FHSAA office if a player or coach is ejected.
- 333.The decision of the officials is final, protests are not allowed.
- 334.A double first base is permitted.
- 335.If the head coaches agree, the second game of a doubleheader may be a five-inning game.
- 336.A pitcher may pitch up to ten innings on any one day.
- 337.If a coach is ejected, he shall be placed in the stands away from his team and he shall not be allowed back unless needed to attend to an injured player.
- 338.If speed-up rules are in use, the team at bat may use a courtesy runner at any time for the pitcher and/or catcher.
- 339.Any umpire who ejects a player or coach is responsible for filing the required report with the FHSAA office.
- 340.A tie game is always played (i.e. finished) on the next mutually available playing date.
- 341.A regulation called game, where a winner cannot be determined, shall count as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost for each team.
- 342.A team will be allowed to complete a game with eight players.
- 343.A team playing with eight players may return to nine players.
- 344.The score of forfeited game is 1-0.
- 345.A game may end any time after five innings, or after 4 1/2 innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.
- 346.A coach who enters the area behind the catcher while the opposing pitcher and catcher are in their positions shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
- 347.If the coach of the home team agrees to use speed-up rules, then the visiting coach must also agree to use speed-up rules.
- 348.If the head coaches agree, ground rules may supersede rulebook rule.
- 349.In order to umpire a varsity game, umpires must score 80 or above on the current FHSAA written examination.

### **350.UMPIRING**

#### **351.DUTIES OF THE UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF**

- 352.Inspect equipment.
- 353.Prohibit a player who has been rendered unconscious during a game from resuming play without written authorization from a physician.
- 354.Record all team warnings.
- 355.Shall have sole authority to forfeit a game.
- 356.Rectify any situation in which an umpire's decision that was reversed has placed either team at a disadvantage.
- 357.The umpire-in-chief shall decide whether the grounds and other conditions are suitable for starting the game.
- 358.Correct a scorekeeping error if brought to an umpire's attention before the umpires leave the field when the game is over.
- 359.Keep a written record of defensive team charged conferences.
- 360.Announce each substitution.

#### **361.ABOUT UMPIRE JURISDICTION**

- 362.Umpire jurisdiction begins as soon as the umpire is within the confines of the field.
- 363.Umpire jurisdiction does not begin until all umpires have arrived at the field.
- 364.An umpire's jurisdiction ends as soon as he leaves the confines of the field.
- 365.Once an umpire leaves the field after the game is completed, his jurisdiction may be reinstated upon returning the field.

#### **366.ABOUT THE FIELD UMPIRE**

- 367.The first base umpire has jurisdiction over any other field umpire.
- 368.He will never rule on a ball being fair or foul.
- 369.He shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the umpire-in-chief in calling time, balks and use of illegal pitches.
- 370.He shall aid the umpire-in-chief in administering the rules.

#### **371.ABOUT UMPIRES**

- 372.Umpire jurisdiction begins upon arriving at the field (within the confines) and ends when the last out is made.
373. Any umpire may use videotape or equipment for the purpose of making calls or rendering decisions in tournament games.
- 374.Any umpire may eject a player or coach if it becomes necessary.
- 375.Any umpire may forfeit the game for prescribed infractions by spectators, coaches, players or attendants.
- 376.Only the base umpire is permitted to give the infield fly signal.
- 377.Any umpire may call a balk or an illegal pitch.

- 378.Only the umpire-in-chief may eject a coach.
- 379.Umpire jurisdiction begins once the lineup cards are exchanged during the pre-game conference.
- 380.If the umpire forgot to record a team warning for removing a batting helmet, he could not eject the next player on that team who removed a helmet while the ball was in play.
- 381.It is umpire interference when the base umpire is slow in moving and is hit by the catcher's throw to second on an attempted steal.
- 382.Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment may be resolved by any umpire.

### **383.SCORING AND RECORD KEEPING**

- 384.When the winning run is scored in the last half inning of a regulation game, as the result of a base on balls with the bases loaded, the umpire shall declare the game over when R1 crosses home plate.
- 385.With R1,R2, and R3 on base and two out, B6 hits a slow ground ball to F6, who throws to second to put out R3. If R1 touched home plate before the out, the run is scored.
- 386.The umpire-in-chief has the final authority when judgment is involved in determining whether a batter-runner's advance to first base is the result of an error or of a base hit, and in similar situations.
- 387.A run-batted-in is credited to the batter when a runner scores because of any putout.
- 388.The scorebook of the home team shall be the official scorebook, unless the umpire-in-chief rules otherwise.
- 389.If a fielder illegally obstructs a runner and is responsible for failure of that runner to reach home base, the umpire has the authority to award home base to such runner.
- 390.With two out, R1 is on second and R2 is on first when the batter hits a home run inside the field R2 fails to touch second and the umpire calls R2 out and both other runs score.
- 391.With two out, R1 is on third base R2 is on first, B5 hits ball to F5. R1 reaches home. After this, R2 is tagged out when he over slides second after touching it. The run by R1 is counted.

#### **392.A RUN DOES NOT SCORE IF**

- 393.With two outs and runners at second and third base, the runner on second does not touch third while advancing, and the batter is thrown out at second on the hit.
- 394.With one out, the runner on third tags and scores on a catch by the centerfielder, but the runner at second is called out for leaving too soon.
- 395.The third out is made by another runner being forced out.
- 396.With two outs, the runner on third steals home and the batter-runner is thrown out at first after a dropped third strike.

### **397.TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

#### **398.INTERFERENCE**

##### **399.ABOUT A RUNNER WHO INTENTIONALLY INTERFERES WITH A THROW**

- 400.The runner is out and the ball is dead immediately.
- 401.The runner is out and ejected from the game.
- 402.If, in the umpire's judgment, the interference obviously prevented a double play, the umpire shall call two out.
- 403.The runner is out and other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- 404.If a runner is not attempting to advance when catcher's obstruction occurs, the runner would not be entitled to the next base, unless he was forced to advance because of the batter being awarded first base.
- 405.The penalty is never ignored
- 406.The runner is out and the ball is dead immediately.
- 407.Runners return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch.
- 408.Whether runners return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch depends on whether the interference occurred on the first play by a fielder.
- 409.Runners return to the bases occupied at the time of interference.
- 410.If interference occurs after a runner touches the plate, the run counts, provided the interference does not result in a force out for the third out.

411.

##### **412.INTERFERENCE SHALL ALWAYS BE CALLED WHEN**

- 413.The catcher's throw, while playing on a runner at third base, hits the batter, who is standing in the batter's box.
- 414.The batter-runner inadvertently steps on the ball as the catcher attempts to field the ball after a dropped strike.
- 415.The batter moves his bat up and down over home plate during the pitch as a runner attempts to steal.
- 416.A runner runs in front of a fielder attempting to field a ground ball.

#### 417.OBSTRUCTION

418.A fake tag is considered obstruction.

419.Obstruction is an act (intentional or unintentional, as well as physical or verbal) by a fielder, any member of the defensive team or it's team personnel that hinders a runner or changes the pattern of play.

420.When obstruction occurs, the ball becomes dead at the end of playing action. At which time the umpire has authority also determine which base or bases shall be awarded the runners according to the rule violated.

#### 421.ABOUT CATCHER'S OBSTRUCTION

422.When catcher's obstruction occurs, the ball becomes dead immediately.

423.With no one on base, if the obstructed batter singles and is subsequently thrown out at second, the out will stand.

#### 424.ABOUT SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE

425.A spectator who interferes with a batted or thrown ball is subject to being removed from the ballpark.

426.If a spectator reaches into the field of play and prevents a fielder from making a catch of a foul ball, the umpire may rule the batter out, provided the interference, in the umpire's judgment, prevented another out from being made.

427.A spectator who hinders a fielder' attempt to field a batted or thrown ball in the field of play is guilty of spectator interference.

428.Spectator interference is a delayed dead ball situation.

429.It is not spectator interference if a spectator interferes with a fielder who reaches into the stands or other dead ball areas to make a catch.

#### 430.ABOUT A CATCH

431.A fielder who secures control of a pop-up between his chest and forearm has completed a catch.

432.It is a catch when a running outfielder gains control of the ball in his hands and immediately runs into the fence, dropping the ball.

433.It is a catch when a thrown ball in the grasp of the fielder is touching the ground.

434.It is a catch if the pitcher deflects a line drive, strikes R1 in flight, and is caught by F4 before hitting the ground.

#### 435.ABOUT AN INFIELD FLY

436.In some cases, the infield fly rule could be called with two outs.

437.Except for catcher's obstruction, the batter is always out.

438.A line drive or bunt is not an infield fly.

439.The infield fly rule is in effect with less than two outs and at least first base and second base occupied.

440.An infield fly is always a fair fly ball.

441.The ball is declared dead by the umpire if a fielder intentionally drops an infield fly.

442.A bunt that is popped up is not an infield fly.

#### 443.OTHER TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

444.The defensive team may give an intentional base on balls by having its captain request the umpire to award the batter first base.

445.A ground ball, which strikes the pitcher's plate and rebounds to foul ground between home and third before touching anyone is a foul ball.

446.The batter is awarded first base if a fair line drive in flight strikes the umpire behind the pitcher before being caught by a fielder.

447.When the fielder, by his action or stopping, removing the ball from his glove, etc., signifies the initial action is completed, he has made a catch.

448.A catch is the act of a fielder getting secure possession, in his hand or glove, of a live ball in flight and firmly holding it, provided he does not use his cap, protector, mask, pocket or other part of his uniform to trap the ball.

449.It is not considered a catch if a fielder catches a fair or foul ball and then falls into a dugout.

450.A batted or thrown ball is in flight until it has touched the ground or some object other than a fielder.

451.The lines are not part of the batter's box.

452.A slide is illegal if the runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with the fielder.

453.For the windup position, the "time of the pitch" occurs the instant the pitcher separates his hands from the ball in front of his body prior to delivering the pitch.

454.If when stealing second and while B2 receives a fourth ball, R1 over slides second base and is tagged by F5, he is not out since the ball becomes dead on the fourth ball.

455.A charged conference is one, which involves the coach or his non-playing representative and a player or players of the

team.

456.It is a foul tip if a batted ball goes directly to the catcher's hand (s) and is legally caught by the pitcher.

457.A foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly to the catcher's hand (s) and is legally caught by him.