

2010 NMUA UMPIRE TEST

Note that these rules pertain to high school federation rules, except where indicated. When working a game though, please refer to NMUA.net for links to local house league rules that may supercede any of these rules mentioned below.

1. First base, second base, third base and home plate are all completely in fair territory.
TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: NFHS 2-5 all batted balls that touch the base or plate are fair balls.

Note, per 1-9 if the field has a double first base, then the orange base is considered to be in foul territory.

2. The foul lines and the foul poles are in foul territory.
TRUE or FALSE

FALSE: NFHS 8-3 If the ball hits the foul pole it is a fair batted ball. Also 1-2 states that the lines on the field in are fair ground

3. The batter swings and misses a pitched ball on the third strike but is struck in the chest by the pitched ball. The batter should be called out.
TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: 8-2-1d, if the pitch is a strike, then the fact that the batter was hit is irrelevant except for the fact that the ball is dead. Batter is out.

4. A ball bunted foul by the batter on the third strike is an out.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: 7-4-1d confirms.

5. A base runner is out and the ball is dead if the base runner is hit by a fair batted ball before a fielder has a chance to field the ball.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: 8-4k Note that the pitcher is not considered a fielder for purposes of this play.

6. According to the INFIELD FLY RULE, the batter is automatically out when any fair pop fly is hit to an infielder.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE: NFHS 2-19 Must be less than 2 outs and runners on first and second or bases loaded. Additionally, the ball must be caught with ordinary effort. Remember that this is not applicable on bunts or line drives.

7. When a runner is attempting to score from third base, the catcher may block home plate while he/she waits for the throw.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE 2-22-3 says that a fielder cannot block access to the base without possession of the ball.

8. When the pitcher is in contact with the pitching rubber with the ball and the catches in the catcher's box ready to receive the ball, the base runners can not leave the bases until the pitched ball reaches the batter. **(Little League rule) Also 10/11 AL & NL**

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE (don't have a citing, but I believe this is true)

9. A batted ball that lands in fair territory but rolls into foul territory after it has passed third base is a foul ball.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE: 2-5-c is on fair ground when bounding over first or third base.

10. A batted fly ball that first lands on the foul line between first base and the home plate is a fair ball if it does not go into foul area.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: 1-2 states that the lines are part of fair territory

11. A base runner may tag up and advance after a foul fly ball is caught.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: See rule 8-2-4 which states that if a fair or foul ball is caught, the runner must touch his occupied base prior to advancing.

12. Any legal pitch that passes over the white portion of home plate prior to hitting the ground and between the top of the knees and the armpits of the batter while the batter is in his normal stance is a strike.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE: According to rule 2-35 the top of the strikezone is the halfway point between the shoulders and waist of the batter, which is slightly lower than the armpits.

13. If a legally batted fair ball is deflected over the home run fence by a defensive player prior to the ball touching the ground it shall be ruled a double.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE: Rule 8-3, it's a four base award when a batted ball goes over the fence prior to hitting the ground due to play equipment.

14. Any runner is out when he/she does not slide OR attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball AND is waiting to make a tag. **(Little League rule) Others avoid contact**

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE. No NFHS citing but pretty sure that this is the little league rule.

15. Any runner is out when he/she slides head first into the bag or home plate while attempting to advance. **(Little League rule)**

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE. A runner is only allowed to slide head first when they are retreating to a bag. Otherwise, it must be a feet first slide.

16. The batter-runner must always turn to his/her right after over-running first base to avoid being called out.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE – Rule 8-4-2-h1 says that a runner must attempt or feint towards second base when overrunning first. Turning towards second (to the left) doesn't necessarily mean an attempt or feint towards the bag. This is a judgment call by the umpire. Note that this rule differs dramatically under pro rules.

17. If a legally batted ball hits home plate it is AUTOMATICALLY a foul ball.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE---refer to rule 2-5 which states that all bases and home plate are part of fair territory

18. The ball is dead on a foul tip to the catcher if he catches it

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE foul tips are live balls (2-16-2) and runners can advance at their own risk. As the umpire, be sure not to verbalize a foul tip, rather call it with the appropriate hand signal.

19. Runners can advance on a foul tip.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: See rationale in above question

20. The batter is automatically out if his/her foot touches home plate while swinging at a pitch. **(Little League rule) and others too**

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE – According to 7-3-2 the batter must actually make contact with the pitch (either fair or foul) in order to be out while in contact with home plate. Also keep in mind that contact with home plate is any part of the foot. When determining criteria for being out of the batter's box, the entire foot must be out of the box PRIOR to contact with the ball being made by the batter.

21. A pitch that first bounces on the ground prior to reaching home plate cannot be legally hit by the batter.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE - you can swing at a pitch in the dirt or that bounces. No citing found though that supports this claim

22. If a pitched ball strikes the ground first and then strikes the batter, the batter is awarded first base if he/she does not swing at the pitch.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: Rule 5-1-1a says that the ball is dead when a pitch touches the batter and the penalty is award one base. Nowhere in the rules is a pitch no longer a pitch when it touches the ground.

23. If the fielder's feet are in FOUL territory when a batted ball is first touched by that fielder, it is AUTOMATICALLY a foul ball.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE; Only matters where the ball is, not the fielder. All rules pertaining to fair/foul always mention "the ball" not "the fielder"

24. The use of an approved helmet by the batter, all base runners, and youth base coaches is mandatory. **(Little League rule)**

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: This is also true for NFHS rules covered by section 1-5-1. Note that any game played under pro rules will require ALL base coaches to wear approved helmets, regardless of age.

25. The catcher's mask must have a dangling type throat protector attached so that when the catcher looks up the protector will cover the front of the throat.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE: Covered by rule 1-5-3. Note that the throat protector can be dangling or it can be manufactured as part of the mask. Either is acceptable.

26. Immediately after catching a fly ball, the outfielder collides with another fielder and drops the ball as a result of the collision. The umpire should rule this an out.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE – Rule 2-9 specifically says that a fielder who catches a ball and runs into a wall or another player and drops the ball has NOT made a catch.

27. The batter hits a pitch directly into the mask of the catcher. After hitting the mask, the ball falls directly into the catcher's mitt. The umpire should rule this a foul tip.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE: 2-16-2, the ball has to go directly into his hands in order to qualify as a foul tip. Once it hits a mask or any other equipment of the catcher, it becomes a foul ball.

28. With a runner on first base, the batter hits a fair ground ball to the first baseman who steps on first base to get the batter out. The first baseman then throws the ball to the shortstop at

second in an attempt to get the advancing runner out. In this situation, the shortstop must actually tag the advancing runner prior to the runner reaching second base to record the out.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE per the definition of a force play covered in 2-29-3

29. With a runner on third base and two outs, the batter hits a fair ground ball to the shortstop who in turn throws the ball to first for the third out, however, prior to the ball reaching first base, the runner on third crosses home plate. The run should be allowed to score.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE – confirmed by 9-1a exception. A run does not count when the batter-runner fails to safely reach first base.

Interesting case play from last season: Runner on third, two outs, 1-2 count on the batter. The batter swings and misses at a pitch in the dirt and does not run to first. The catcher chases the ball and makes a play at the plate with the pitcher covering. The runner is called safe. However, now the batter realizes he needs to run to first and does so. The pitcher throws to first to easily retire the runner. The runner previously called safe does NOT score on this play.

30. When swinging at a pitch, the batter misses the ball but strikes the catcher's glove. The batter should be awarded first base for catcher obstruction.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE confirmed by 8-1-e

31. A fair batted ball bounces on the ground and over the home run fence without being touched by a fielder. The batter should be awarded a home run.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE: It's a two base award when a fair batted ball bounces over a fence per rule 8-3-3-c

32. At the Major level, only the first up batter of the inning is allowed to have a bat in his/her hands and be out of the dugout. Otherwise, no on deck batters are allowed at any level.

(Little League rule)

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE - I seem to recall there being no on deck batters in any little league game

33. It is acceptable to wear shorts and caps with logo on it or have my shin guards on the outside of my pants when umpiring a game

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE (a million times false) Refer to rule 10-1-9 which states umpires should wear grey slacks and a navy pullover shirt.

34. ANY player acting as a catcher at any time must wear an appropriate catcher's mask.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE – confirmed by 1-5-4 which requires any player or non-adult coach to be wearing a catcher’s mask.

35. The plate umpire’s protective equipment includes a mask with throat protector, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE confirmed by 10-2-1. Additionally, proper plate shoes with steel toes are appropriate for higher level of play.

36. When indicating the count on the batter, the plate umpire should indicate balls with the left hand and strikes with the right hand.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE confirmed by hand signal “J” of the official NFHS baseball signals.

37. It not necessary to indicate the count after every pitch.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE - not covered by a rule but it is definitely not necessary to give the count after each pitch.

38. With no runners on base, the base umpire should be located approximately 12’-15’ behind first base and in foul territory prior to the pitch.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE according to most mechanics books. Also foul territory should literally be right off the line.

39. In reference to the home plate umpire, “In the slot” refers to the area between the batter and home plate.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE according to most mechanics books.

40. The base umpire is responsible for determining whether a batted ball is fair or foul.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE. Most mechanics books determine that the plate umpire determines fair/foul up to the bag, and the base ump determines fair/foul beyond the bag. When the base umpire is positioned in the middle of the diamond, then they are never responsible for fair/foul calls.

41. When indicating a batted ball is fair, the home plate umpire should straddle the foul line, point to fair territory and yell “fair ball!” .

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE according to most mechanics books. Foul ball is verbalized and signaled, fair ball is simply signaled.

42. With a runner on first base only, the base umpire should be located in the same position as if bases were unoccupied.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE – When working 75-90 foot bases, the base umpire should be in the “A” position to the left of the pitcher’s mound as referenced in most mechanics books.

43. The proper way to make a call at a base or plate is first to obtain the proper angle so as to have a good view of the play; come to a complete stop and place hands on the knees with head still; eyes should be slightly ahead of the ball focused on the bag or plate; make the call!

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE---the key here is come to a complete stop. As an umpire, you never want to make a call “on the run”

44. When setting up behind the catcher, the plate umpire’s chin should not be below the level of the top of the catcher’s head.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE as per most mechanics books.

45. With a runner on second base, the base umpire’s APPROXIMATE location to set up prior to the pitch should be at the edge of the infield and outfield about halfway between the shortstop and second base with a clear view of home plate. **(Little League rule)**

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE. In little league two-man mechanics, the base umpire should never be positioned on the left side of the diamond. Under most situations, with a short field, the plate umpire will handle virtually all plays at third base.

46. When judging whether a ball is fair or foul, the home plate umpire should judge the location of the ball in relation to the foul line rather than the location of the fielder when he/she touches the ball.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE refer to question 23 regarding fair/foul calls

47. The home plate umpire has SOLE discretion to decide whether a batter swung at a pitch in a check swing situation.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE. 10-4-a permits asking the base umpire for assistance on check-swing.

48. “Time” is called by an umpire by holding both arms extended above the head with palms facing forward and yelling, “TIME!”.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE per the NFHS official hand signals “C”

49. Any umpire’s decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE per rule 10-1-4.

50. I understand that if I am late to a game without calling Chuck first, I will be docked ½ pay and if I miss a game will be docked a full game. I also understand that if this happens a lot I will be dismissed as an umpire.

TRUE or TRUE

This is obviously TRUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

51. When there is a safety base the fielder can touch it for an out

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE per the suggested NFHS double first base rules, the fielder should use the white base. However, if a fielder is "drawn to" the orange base, then they can use it.

52. When a runner leaves early you call time and make them go back **(Little League rule)**

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE - If they leave early while the pitch is in flight, let the play continue and warn after the play (I think)

53. Breaking balls are allowed in Little League **(Little League rule)**

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE---breaking balls are NOT allowed in little league.

54. There is a runner on first and he's stealing on the pitch. A ground ball is hit to the shortstop who throws wildly to first base into the stands. The runner who was stealing should score and the batter gets second

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE. Base awards when the play is the first play in the infield is two bases from the time of the *pitch*. The fact that the runner was stealing is irrelevant. He would get third and the batter gets second. (8-3 table #5 under two bases indicate pitch)

55. There is a runner on first base and the batter hits a ball into right-center field. The baserunner rounds second as the ball is picked up and his headed towards third. The right fielder throws to third and the ball ends up in the dugout. The runner on first should score and the batter gets second.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE. In this case, the dead ball penalty is enforced from the time of the throw. (8-3 table #6 under two bases)

56. There is a runner on first base, and the pitcher steps off the mound and attempts a legal pick off. The ball ends up in the stands. The runner should be awarded third base.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE. When a pitcher disengages from the rubber he becomes an infielder (6-1-5) so the penalty would be two bases (8-3 table #6)

57. Runners on first and second and the before the pitch is thrown, the coach complains that the shortstop is playing "in the baseline" and wants obstruction. The umpire should award the runners an extra base

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE - Obstruction actually has to hinder a runner during a play (2-22-1)

58. With a runner on second and a ground ball hit to shortstop, the runner dances in front of the shortstop while he's trying to field the ball. The ball should be declared dead, that runner is out and the batter is awarded first base

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE – This is under the definition of interference (2-21-1) and the ball is dead under (5-1-1-e) and the runner is out (8-4-1)

59. With a runner on second base who is stealing third, catcher's obstruction is called. The runner needs to return to second.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE per 8-1-e when a runner is stealing and catcher's obstruction is called and enforced, that runner is entitled to advanced even if not forced.

60. On a dropped third strike, the batter-runner walks halfway to the dugout and then realizes he can run to first. He should be called out for abandoning an attempt to advance

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE. Under NFHS 8-4-1i, the runner is not out until he enters the bench or dugout area (dead ball area), when the drop third strike rule is applicable. This differs from PRO rules where the batter is out once he abandons the area around home plate.

61. A balk is called on a pitcher but he delivers anyway. The batter hits a home run. The balk can be ignored.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE. In NFHS, rule 5-1-1-k indicates that a balk is always a dead ball immediately upon it being called.

62. A batter hits a pop up in the infield. As the third baseman is camped under the ball, someone from the offensive teams dugout screams "DROP IT!!!!!" which distracts the fielder causing the ball to fall to the ground. This is legal and the runner should stay on first base.

TRUE or FALSE

FALSE. Rule 2-21 prohibits any type of verbal interference from a player on the field or in the dugout.