

Due to the possible confusion regarding the enforcement of Rule 12.20, this rule is listed first and then the rest of the interpretations follow in the order in which the rule reference appears in the rulebook.

| DATE | RULE | SITUATION | AT THE CONCLUSION OF PLAY, THE CREW CONFERS AND, WITH POSSIBLE INPUT FROM THE OFFENSIVE COACH, PRESENTS THE DEFENSIVE COACH WITH THE FINAL TWO OPTIONS. The first is the apparent result of the play; the second is the standard penalty for leaving early. <i>Comments in blue italics</i> |
|---------|----------------|--|--|
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 10.8 | <u>Coaches/Designees</u> Regarding an option play such as a base runner leaving early or illegal pitch, in the first, the rule says the defensive coach has the choice of the penalty and in the second, it says the coach of the offensive team may choose. May any coach of the team choose or is it only the head coach? | The rule book is not specific however, in general, the head coach should be asked by the umpire crew to attend the meeting to determine the desired result. The head coach can designate someone else to take his/her place but at least has been given the opportunity to determine who will be making the choice on behalf of the team. In any case, the coach may briefly consult his/her staff regarding the team's options. <i>Head coaches will usually be the decision makers however there may be circumstances when they choose to delegate that to another member of their staff.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Batted Ball</u> Base runner on first base leaves early, the batter hits into a double play. | 1) Double play, both offensive players are out; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner is out for leaving early. <i>Only the defensive coach has an option which should be pretty easy and quick.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Batted Ball</u> Base runner on first base leaves early, the batter grounds out. | 1) Base runner safe at second base, batter is out; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner is out for leaving early. <i>Seems easy BUT if the base runner is very slow, the batter is a huge home run threat, and the on-deck batter is a slapper, the decision might surprisingly be to take the result of the play. Note-whenver the base runner is not put out by playing action but the batter is, the offensive coach will choose which out to accept and that will determine who the next legal batter is.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 | <u>Base Runner Leaves Early, Batted Ball, Out</u> Base runner on first base leaves early, batter arrives safely at second base on a hit, base runner is thrown out at the plate. | 1) Base runner is out, batter on second base; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner is out for leaving early. <i>Again, seems obvious but depending on the score and quality of the base runner and/or batter, there might be a situation where option one is attractive to the defensive coach.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 12.19 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Interference</u> Base runner on first base leaves early and interferes with the second baseman fielding the ground ball and prevents her from making any throw. | 1) Immediate dead ball at the time of interference. The base runner is out and the batter is award first base on a fielder's choice; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner is out for leaving early. <i>Two mistakes by an offensive player still results in a choice by the defensive coach.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 10.8 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Illegal Pitch, No Batted Ball</u> Base runner on first base leaves early and successfully obtains second base, illegal pitch swung at and missed by batter. | 1) Offensive coach picks between result of the play (runner safe at second base, strike on batter) or standard effect for IP (base runner advanced to second base, ball on batter) and that input becomes option one; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner is out for leaving early. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------|--|--|
| | | | <i>The crew will need input from the offensive coach as to what the apparent result of the play would have been had the runner not left early, then that becomes option one. Note in most cases involving leaving early and an illegal pitch, the offensive coach has a decision to make that will likely be made irrelevant as the defensive coach will choose the option of the traditional penalty for leaving early. But the offensive coach is still asked for his/her choice on the illegal pitch penalty and that decision is then presented as option one for the defensive coach's decision for the final outcome of the situation.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 10.13 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Illegal Pitch, Batted Ball</u> Pitcher receives signal with the ball in her glove, licks her fingers and begins her pitch, base runner on first base leaves early and arrives safely at third base, batter hits a double. First offense for the pitcher. | 1) Offensive coach picks between result of the play (runner safe at third base, batter safe at second base) or standard effect for IP (base runner advanced to second base, ball on batter) and that input becomes option one; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner is out for leaving early. <i>It does not matter if the illegal pitch happens before or after leaving early. Ignore leaving early when you determine option one.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 11.22 10.8 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Illegal Pitch, Interference</u> Base runner on first base leaves early, illegal pitch. Batter swings and misses the pitch, then interferes with catcher's throw to second base attempting to put the base runner (who has not yet reached second base) out. | 1) Immediate dead ball at the time of batter interference. The offensive coach picks between result of the play (batter is out, base runner returned to first base) or standard effect for IP (base runner advanced to second base, ball on batter) and that input becomes option one; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner is out for leaving early. <i>Again, get the input from the offensive coach regarding his/her choice due to the illegal pitch and that becomes option one. Even though it is unlikely that it will be the option chosen by the defensive coach, by rule, the offensive coach chooses between the apparent result of the play and the effect for an illegal pitch.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 9.4.2 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Obstruction, Batted Ball</u> Base runner on second base, base runner on first base leaves early, batted ball hit up the middle. Shortstop does not move to field the ball and obstructs the lead runner who takes one step to avoid a collision. At the end of the play, there are runners on third, second and first bases. | 1) Result of the play is bases loaded; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner who left early is out, lead runner returns to second base. <i>There is no obstruction option since everyone reached the bases they would have had there not been obstruction.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 9.4.2 | <u>Runner Leaves Early, Collision/Obstruction</u> Base runner on second base, base runner on first base leaves early, batted ball hit up the middle. Shortstop does not move to field the ball and obstructs the lead runner who gets tangled up in a collision. At the end of the play, there are runners on third, second and first bases. | 1) Lead runner is awarded home since the umpire judges that's where she would have been had there not been a collision from obstruction, trailing runners on second and first base respectively or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner who left early is out, lead runner returns to second base. <i>Unlike the scenario above, the lead runner involved in the collision is awarded a base for obstruction.</i> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|-------|---|--|
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 | Runner Leaves Early, Illegal Pitch, Missed Base, No Appeal Runners on first and second bases. Illegal pitch. The batter hits a ground ball to right field but is thrown out at first base. Runner from first base leaves early on a hit and run but holds up at second base. Runner from second base misses third base but scores. No appeal for missed base. | 1) Offensive coach picks between results of the play (batter is out on the force play, base runner on second base, one run scores) or the standard effect for illegal pitch (base runners advanced to second and third bases respectively, ball on the batter); or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner from second base returns there, base runner from first base is out for leaving early. <i>This is the first of three outcomes from the same play with a variation on an appeal.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 | Runner Leaves Early, Illegal Pitch, Missed Base, Live Ball Appeal Runners on first and second bases. Illegal pitch. The batter hits a ground ball to right field but is thrown out at first base. Runner from first base leaves early on a hit and run but holds up at second base. Runner from second base misses third base but scores. The defense immediately throws the ball to third base and appeals the missed base. | 1) Offensive coach picks between the results of the play (batter is out on the force play, base runner on second base, base runner from second base is out on appeal) or the standard effect for illegal pitch (base runners advanced to second and third bases respectively, ball on the batter); or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner from second base returns there, base runner from first base is out for leaving early. <i>In this case, the appeal is made before the play concludes so it is already a part of the result of the play.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 | Runner Leaves Early, Illegal Pitch, Missed Base, Dead Ball Appeal Runners on first and second bases. Illegal pitch. The batter hits a ground ball to right field but is thrown out at first base. Runner from first base leaves early on a hit and run but holds up at second base. Runner from second base misses third base but scores. Defense appeals the missed base before the offensive coach's selection. | 1) Offensive coach picks between the results of the play (batter is out on the force play, base runner on second base, one run scores) or the standard effect for illegal pitch (base runners advanced to second and third bases respectively, ball on the batter); BUT BEFORE THE OFFENSIVE COACH CHOOSES, the defensive coach appeals the missed base. The umpires rule on the appeal, calling the runner from second base out which changes the result of the play to batter is out on the force play, base runner on second base, base runner who missed third base is out on the appeal. The offensive coach's choice is this amended result of the play or the standard effect for illegal pitch; or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner from second base returns there, base runner from first base is out for leaving early. <i>If the defensive coach has an appeal (whether for missing a base, batting out of order, unreported player...) it is also appropriate to make a dead ball appeal.</i> |
| 1-25-12 | 12.20 | Runner Leaves Early, Illegal Pitch, Missed Base, Dead Ball Appeal After Selection by Offensive Coach Runners on first and second bases. Illegal pitch. The batter hits a ground ball to right field but is thrown out at first base. Runner from first base leaves early on a hit and run but holds up at second base. Runner from second base misses third base but scores. Defense appeals the missed base after the offensive coach's selection. | 1) Offensive coach picks between the results of the play (batter is out on the force play, base runner on second base, one run scores) or the standard effect for illegal pitch (base runners advanced to second and third bases respectively, ball on the batter); or 2) "No Pitch", batter returned to batter's box, base runner from second base returns there, base runner from first base is out for leaving early. AFTER THE DEFENSIVE COACH CHOOSES, the defensive coach appeals the base runner from second base missing third base. The base runner is subsequently called out. <i>A dead ball appeal may be made up until the next pitch.</i> |

Interpretations are listed below sorted by playing rule. If you are looking for new postings, scan the far left column which indicates interpretations rendered during the current season.

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|--|--|
| | Conduct B | <p>Coaches' Equipment Responsibility Why can't umpires hold coaches responsible for making sure all of their bats are legal? Coaches should be aware if one of their players is using an illegal bat and they should be held accountable. Make the penalty more severe if an illegal bat is discovered in a game.</p> | <p>Coaches are responsible for legally equipping and properly attiring their team and umpires are no longer responsible for verifying the legality of all the equipment which does not provide a competitive advantage or possible risk to an opponent....for example batting helmets. Hopefully they are 100% legal but if not, their players are the ones at risk.</p> <p>On the contrary, a team with inappropriate bats puts the opposing team at risk so that's why the third party (umpires) verifies the coach's decisions. This provides a safety net or double check on the most important piece of equipment which could provide an unfair advantage to one team over another or pose a safety risk.</p> |
| | 1.1 | <p>Markings/Painting on Bat Is it legal to use paint or a sharpie-marker to put numbers/ names or sayings on the bat other than on the knob?</p> | <p>No. Numerous types of paint available have metallic content in them that could improve performance. The rules do not allow repainting of any bat on the barrel for the simple reason that we cannot control performance if we allow it. Can you imagine if players could airbrush their favorite sayings or names on their bats with metallic, glow in the dark, or glitter paint? Those are obvious but what about the array of colored titanium paints or car paint with heavy metal ingredients now readily available...both to be brushed on and in pen styles to be written with?</p> <p>The rules committee cannot expect the umpire to discern the content of the paint used and then use their judgment that no advantage is gained on a batted ball. So to protect the integrity of the game and provide some assurance to the opposing team that there is no potential for an unfair advantage gained by a player who uses a bat with custom markings, the rules are quite clear that the only exception for marking bats is on the knob (1.1) where bat/ball contact is highly unlikely.</p> |
| 12-11 | 1.53 11.16 | <p>Foul Tip With a 1-2 count, the batter swings and contacts the ball which moves sharply and directly to the catcher's glove. It rebounds off the glove, strikes the catcher's helmet and goes straight up into the air. The catcher takes a step to her right and catches the ball. Plate umpire rules "foul tip" and calls the batter out. Is the ruling correct?</p> | <p>The batter is out on the caught foul tip, third strike. The situation you describe meets all the requirements of the definition in 1.53</p> |
| | 1.110 | <p>Natural Batting Stance Please provide a definition for "natural batting stance" as related to where the strike zone is judged.</p> | <p>Natural batting stance refers to once she takes her stance in the batter's box and is settled in preparation to hit a pitch. When she first steps in, she is likely a little taller without her knees slightly bent and may not have her hands up in the "launch position" yet. But once she does, that's her natural stance from which to judge the strike zone.</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--|---|
| | 2.4 | <p><u>Colorful Bases Not Allowed</u> In honor of breast cancer awareness month, can the bases, pitcher's plate and/or home plate be painted pink?</p> | <p>No, those parts of the field and the lines must be white as specified in the rules. The intent is for visibility, safety of the players who need to visually locate the bases/plate to make a play (both offense and defense), and for umpire accuracy (pink is harder than white to see from a distance). Pink banners and bunting in the field area are most often used in addition to uniform recognition but occasionally a grounds crew will take the time to paint a logo in the grass or in foul territory or hand paint the rise (height) of the base pink leaving the top portion entirely white. These options are not precluded by the rules.</p> |
| | 2.8 2.15 | <p><u>Restrictions in Coaches' Boxes</u> Where in the book does it clarify that the coaches' boxes extend? I know the box should actually be drawn with just 2 lines (which of course doesn't really make it a box), but I see nowhere that interprets that to mean extended. I ask because occasionally umpires put us inside that 3' x 15'half-box and I prefer to stand deeper.</p> | <p>The coaches' box only has 2 restraining lines to prevent the coach from being too close to the batter and too close to the foul line. However with no back edges, the coach is free to retreat as much as your comfort level requires. The definition of lines denotes the spaces to which participants are restricted and without those back lines, there is no limitation.</p> |
| | 2.9 | <p><u>Dugout Heaters</u> The home team has heaters in their dugout but the visiting team does not. The questions are: 1) does this create an unfair advantage; 2). does the home team have to provide heaters to the visiting teams.</p> | <p>There is nothing in the playing rule book that requires a home team to provide the same heaters, blankets or warm clothing to their visitors. In 5-1 there are some accommodations for visiting team pregame batting practice equipment and space but other than that coaches are left to their own sense of fair play or possible conference requirements (for example, most conferences have arrangements for a water cooler in not only the home team but also the visiting team dugout).</p> |
| | 2.10 | <p><u>Fence Signage</u> Is it permissible for a stenciled logo or words to be positioned on the homerun fence in straight away centerfield?</p> | <p>There is nothing in the NCAA playing rules to preclude this however there might be limitations by the respective championship committees for their postseason play.</p> |
| | 2.24 | <p><u>Play at Tarp</u> If a player falls on the tarp and catches the ball while both feet are off the ground and she is on the tarp is she not in dead ball territory therefore making this a no-catch? We understand that she cannot put a foot up on the tarp to catch before during or after the catch for safety reasons, but can she use the tarp as an advantage by leaving the ground with both feet and with a knee, knees, or lean up or on the tarp and use it to catch the ball? It seems we interpreted before that if she caught the ball</p> | <p>As to the tarp... unless a team locates it in dead ball territory (ie outside the fence or within a fenced area) essentially a player can do anything EXCEPT put a foot on it...she can use it to her advantage to make a catch by bracing or leaning...just can't put a foot on it. It is not dead ball territory so she can sprawl on the tarp, make a catch and then get up and throw the ball. If the ball becomes lodged in the tarp, then you do have a dead ball (blocked ball). If you have a catch and then the player puts a foot on the tarp, you have a dead ball (catch and carry).</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|-------|--|--|--|
| | | and then went up on the tarp leaving the ground it was a catch and carry and if she at least kept one foot on the ground and did not put the a foot or feet up on the tarp (for safety and/or to use the tarp to their advantage) that they could catch the ball and the ball would remain live. | |
| 2.24 | | <u>Play at Tarp</u> Please clarify if these are catches: The fielder has one foot on the ground and the other foot completely off the ground with her knee on the tarp. The fielder has both feet off the ground but neither is on the tarp. She makes the catch while her body is being completely supported by the tarp. | In both the cases, the play is ruled a catch because neither foot is on the tarp. Stepping on a tarp has always been discouraged because metal spikes can rip through tarp material and render an expensive tarp useless. |
| 3.1.2 | | <u>Carried Batting Gloves</u> The NCAA says all equipment has to be worn properly. Batting gloves have to be worn and can't be hanging out of the back pockets. No problem. What about players who carry them in their hands as they run the bases? Is this permissible or not? Some believe that is not to be allowed and others believe that it helps the players keep their fists clenched when running or stealing, helping to prevent a possible injury to the fingers. | Yes, carrying batting gloves is okay and if you want to use elastic logic that umpires love so much, you can use gloves are made for the hands so naturally holding them in the hands is okay! Lots of coaches, even in major league baseball, teach carrying them for injury prevention so you will see it quite a bit more I think. |
| 3.1.2 | | <u>Pocketed Batting Gloves</u> Batting gloves hanging out of pockets. I've noticed that there is a lot more leeway given in enforcing this rule. It's most notable with defensive players. Since, defensively, the intent of the rule is a moot point, what difference does it make if the gloves hang out? | As to the batting gloves, if you are seeing it as a trend, reminding coaches in the pre-game conference to have them tucked into those pockets would help. Batting gloves are included because we had several situations where a ball deflected off a batting glove...whether a gloved dropped by a runner who was holding it in her hand and dropped it or a glove falling out of a pocket of an infielder. The penalty is to enforce the appropriate blocked ball effect but rather than deal with that, the committee tried to avoid an umpire having to rule on it (or a tag on a floppy glove on a head first slide). Anyway, if you remind them to tuck them in whether on offense or defense, maybe it would help avoid having to make those base awards! |
| 3.1.2 | | <u>Sunglasses</u> Aren't sunglasses designed to be worn on the face shielding the eyes? | Sunglasses are a bit of a stretch but here's the problem. On a partly cloudy day, the furthest outfielder from the dugout has her glasses in place during the bright sunshine but then when the clouds roll in, she needs to run to the dugout to remove them so she can safely see in the outfield. Before the next pitch, the sun peaks out again so she calls time to get her glasses. She makes it back to her position and on the next pitch, needs another trip to the dugout. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|----------------|---|--|
| | | | For safety reasons, there's nowhere on her body to safely store the sunglasses without possibility of breaking them when diving. So either we allow the game to be indefinitely delayed for strict application of the rule or we liberally allow them on the head where they can be safely worn yet accessible without game delay. We've opted for the liberal interpretation but I admit it is not perfect. |
| 1-13-12 | 3.1.2 3.7.2 | Glove Attachment Is the Kanga glove attachment legal on a fielder and/or pitcher's glove to provide warmth to the player's throwing hand? | The first is rule 3.1.2 which says "Uniforms, accessories and equipment must be worn properly and as designed." So this is an addition to the design of the glove manufacturer which renders it illegal. In addition the rule on gloves (rule 3.7.2) says "The use of any treatment or device that fundamentally changes the specifications of gloves is prohibited and renders the equipment altered and unsuitable for play." This glove attachment would change the glove specs and be the second rule the kanga glove violates. |
| 12-11 | 3.2.2 | Rubbing Up Game Balls The host team is responsible for providing game balls rubbed up so the manufacturer's gloss is removed. May the team use Gorilla Gold or Turface to rub up the balls or are they considered foreign substances? | These substances may be used to rub up the game balls prior to being given to the plate umpire. The prohibition on foreign substances applies to in game use. |
| 11-11 | 3.3.1 | Bat Identification During bat integrity checks, we found one of the teams had flat opaque disks, smaller than the knob, securely fastened to the flat end of the knob of each bat that had their team logo, player name and number on it. They don't seem to violate the altered bat criteria specifically, but they do cover the bat length and weight sticker which we use to verify approved bats. Should this be any concern? | No the stickers you describe are not only used for bat identification for players but also for bats passing Barrel Compression Testing. As long as you can still match the model number on the bat with the model number on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, you need not match lengths and weights that might be covered by the sticker. |
| | 3.3.1.8 | Bat Grip Is the diamond style taping allowed on a bat handle? | Yes, rule 3.3.1.8.3 specifically allows for a taped continuous spiral but it need not be a solid layer. The idea of a continuous spiral is to have one single piece of tape and not multiple pieces that will fray and peel off. But the single piece can spiral with the bat handle showing between turns as in the diamond style or as in open turns. |
| | 3.3.1.8 | Bat Grip A legal bat has some type of material under the tape on the handle, other than a safety grip. It seems to be a rope or something that is spiraled around the handle under the tape that aids in gripping the bat. Logic would say that if it helps with the grip it could be a good safety | You can have a bat with a grip but that's it. You cannot tape a pad, rope or the contoured fingers under the grip. That said, you can have a continuous spiral (not solid layer) of tape that is "x"ed along the grip (ends up looking like diamonds on the bat handle) and then a second layer of continuous spiral, solid layer on top. That might create the illusion of rope but I suspect you can feel the difference because the tape would have "give" that the rope would not. So bottom line is that the bat should not be |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|--|---|
| | | feature but other coaches say that it enhances the players' ability to grip the bat giving them an unfair advantage. | allowed if there is a substance under the allowable grip but if it is the tape itself (and not more than 2 layers), it would be okay. |
| | 3.3.1.8 11.8.1 | <u>Advance Altered Bat</u> If the batter takes an altered bat into the batter's box and a base runner advances on a wild pitch but then a pitch later, the altered bat is detected, must the base runners return? | No. The only advance nullified is on the pitch immediately prior to the discovery of the altered bat. Advance on any previous pitch not contacted shall be legal. |
| | 3.3.1.8 | <u>Altered Bat Challenge</u> Following a two RBI double, the opposing coach challenges the validity of the bat used. However the on-deck batter tossed the bat out of the way of the advancing base runners and it landed in the on-deck circle where two identical bats were left by the on-deck batter. On request, the umpires examine the three bats and determine that one is altered. | An appeal that an altered bat has been used must be made before the identification of the bat that was actually used becomes questionable. If a suspect bat has been removed to the vicinity of other identical or similar bats and the umpires are not absolutely positive which bat was used, the effect for 3.3.1 cannot be enforced except that the bat shall be removed from play and an incident report shall be filed by the plate umpire. |
| | 3.3.1.8 | <u>Non Approved Bat</u> The leadoff batter hits a mammoth out-of-the-park homerun. Before the opposing coach can get the attention of the plate umpire to question the appropriateness of the bat, the on-deck batter picks up the bat and steps into the batter's box. The coach then, prior to a pitch, gets the umpire's attention and points out that the bat is not on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. What is the effect? | Once the umpire verifies that the bat is not on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, the bat is removed from play, the leadoff batter is declared out, ejected and the run does not stand. In addition, the on-deck batter who also brought the bat into the batter's box is declared out and ejected. The plate umpire is responsible for filing an incident report. |
| 10-11 | 3.3.1.8.2 1.1 | <u>Knob Attachment</u> There are some grips that can be purchased and added to the bat. One type clearly creates a taper at the knob of the bat, and is probably prohibited. Another type is just a rubber ring added to the knob of the bat. The purpose is to stop/absorb the vibration. It does not create a taper on the bat, it simply is a rubber ring that fits around the knob of the bat. Is adding that to the bat legal? | The cone, flare styles are not legal because they compromise the 90 degree angle intended between the knob and handle. But the second one was originally marketed as a way to identify a particular bat and later marketed as absorbing shock to the bottom hand. Those types are specifically allowed in 1.1 as markings on the knob. |
| 1-30-12 | 3.3.2 6.20 6.19 | <u>No NCAA Approved Bat List</u> If a team does not present an NCAA Approved Bat List, how long do they have from the scheduled start of the | The list is required by rule and no competition shall be played without one. If a team does not have one on site, every effort should be made by them to obtain one. In the unlikely event one cannot be obtained, the umpires, in consultation with the on-site |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|----------------|---|---|
| | | game to obtain one? If it is unreasonable to get one, may we play the game anyway? If not, what is the status of the game...a forfeit? ...no contest? | administrator, shall declare the game "no contest". |
| 1-31-12 | 3.3.2 | Differing NCAA Approved Bat Lists If the opposing teams have two different bat lists, what is the correct resolution. | Although we wish this is not possible, since the list is posted on the SUP ArbiterSports site, ncaa.org/playingrules and the NFCA site, there is the possibility that one or more will not have the most current list. We will make every effort to prevent it but should it happen, the more current list should be used and the team with the older list should be allowed to mark their bats on the more current list. |
| 1-12-12 | 3.3.2 | NCAA Approved Bat List Regarding the NCAA Approved Bat List and changes made to the list...Under the "Strike" column, if the word "Add" is on the list, then the bat is approved for use; "1" or "2" is listed, the bat is still being tested and could be removed; and "Del" the bat is not approved and removed from the approved bat list. Is that right? | If you look under the manufacturer of the bats you have, that's where the strikes are assessed and can show you what is available for use. The summary pages at the end show the changes made during each new edition of the list. So if you want to know when a particular model was added/deleted, you can look for it under the dates and see when it was added/deleted. That summary also shows when strikes have been or are assessed. So if a model has one strike on the January edition of the list and then, through testing, gains a second one by March, there will be a 2 in the strike column by the model and on the back page, it will show that there was a change in the number of strikes in March. Note- coaches do NOT have to print the summary pages for presentation to the umpires for the pregame bat check. |
| 1-26-12 | 3.3.2 3.3.4 | Bats in Team Area May a team have a non-approved bat in its possession on the field in pregame warm-ups or in its dugout without penalty? | No, the intent of these two rules ("...In addition, the coach shall have entered the number of bats of each model that will be on the field or in a team area." and "Bats deemed inappropriate (altered, illegal or non-approved) (pregame or during play) shall be removed from the team's possession...") is to minimize the risk of an inappropriate bat accidentally getting onto the field. Therefore, only warm-up bats that are one piece, wooden baseball or softball bats and suitable bats (that is, those listed on the current NCAA Approved Softball bat List) may be on the field or in team areas. All others, including traditional fungo bats, must be secured outside the confines of the field once the umpires enter the field to begin their pregame responsibilities. |
| 1-23-12 | 3.3.2 | NCAA Approved Bat List Posting The SUP ArbiterSports site has the latest (January 2012) NCAA Approved Bat list but the NCAA site still has the November 2011 posting. Do we have an option to use either list? | No but we are working to solve the problem to make this question moot. The actual list will always be posted on the SUP ArbiterSports site and then the NCAA and NFCA sites will be linked to the SUP ArbiterSports site. Ideally that means there will be no differences however until we get through this glitch, there might be one so please use the SUP ArbiterSports site. |
| 2-1-12 | 3.3.2 | Editing NCAA Approved Bat List Can a coach cut and paste pages of the bat list so the list presented to the umpire is only one page rather than wasting all that paper? | No coaches cannot edit the list however if they only have Anderson and DeMarini bats, they need not print the pages beyond the Demarini bats. Allowing a coach to cut and paste makes it impossible for the umpires to know |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|--|--|
| | | | which editions of the list are being combined. So the top of each page must have the date and be intact. |
| 1-29-12 | 3.3.2 | NCAA Approved Bat List Following the pages listing the bats approved for NCAA play, there are summary sheets of changes by date that have "Del", "Add" and numbers. Are those bats not legal for play? | As was the case last year, the summary pages at the end are provided as a reference for coaches to determine the action taken either for a specific model or all the actions taken between lists. "Del" designates bats deleted as of that date, "Add" designates bats added as of that date, and the numbers indicate the number of strikes newly assessed. |
| | 3.3.2 | NCAA Approved Bat List We had an incident at a tournament where a bat was held out due to a color issue. The color of the bat was pink/salmon and the NCAA list said orange. The instruction from SUP was that we should be looking for the bat to be on the NCAA Bat List, manufacturer, model # and model name. Should we be worrying about color? | NO. The intention was that if the model numbers/letters match the bat, it is considered listed. The colors are there to assist in sorting through bats but are not factors for elimination if the model numbers match. Many stencils have 2 to 4 colors and often the manufacturer only lists the predominant one or two. |
| | 3.7.1 7.1.1.2 | Illegal Glove, Missed Base One out, base runner is on second base. Base hit to right field. Base runner misses third base but apparently scores. It's discovered that the right fielder used an illegal glove. Offensive coach's option...takes play since run is scored. THEN, the pitcher toes the pitcher's plate, steps back and appeals to third base for the missed base. Can the offensive coach make a second choice? | First, if the offensive coach is already the beneficiary of a base hit and a scored run, chances are he/she would not bring the illegal glove to the umpire's attention and we know the defensive coach would not alert the umpire so that only leaves the rare circumstance when the umpire notices it first. Point being, hopefully this would be a rare occurrence. BUT if this play happened, the offensive coach would get the option to take the play or nullify it. After that choice, the offensive coach is done. Assuming the choice is that the play stands, then if the defense correctly appeals the missed base, that runner is declared out (second out) and the batter-runner remains on base. The offensive coach is not given a second option. |
| | 3.7.1 10.13.4 | Logo On Glove Does the prohibition of "ball colored logo's" apply to the pitcher's glove or some other item? We are seeing the Wilson glove with optic yellow writing and logo. Is that a legal glove for the pitcher to wear in the circle? | Rule 10.13 is referencing other items. Gloves are specifically covered in 3.7 and within that rule, the committee clarified that the manufacturer's logo is not considered a color and therefore not restricted for the pitcher in this current book. |
| | 3.8.1 | Ice Hockey Helmet We have a request from a coach regarding a player who was injured and would like to wear an ice hockey helmet with a face mask for protection of an injury while she is batting and running the bases. My initial response was that unless the helmet had the NOCSAE seal it would not be allowed. The coach asked me if there was any way to "get a waiver" due to the circumstances of wanting to | There is no provision for anyone to set aside the requirement to wear a NOCSAE approved batting helmet because the legal liability would be astronomical. To substitute a piece of protective equipment which meets the needs of one sport to another could only occur if the manufacturer wanted to submit the equipment to NOCSAE to meet the standards of another sport...and that takes time and money. So in the immediate future, their best bet is to use a NOCSAE approved batting helmet with an approved face guard while on offense and she can wear a face guard, paint ball mask, the same batting helmet or even a hockey mask on defense if she chooses. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | protect the player's injury. Is there any such provision for a waiver? | |
| 3.8.1 | | <u>Substance on Glove</u> Can a glove that has been ruled as having a tacky substance on it by the umpire, be "cleaned up" and be used if the umpire approves it? | Yes, as long as it is no longer tacky, the umpire may allow the fielder to use the glove later in the game. |
| 3.8.4 4.3.1 Note 2 | | <u>Base Coach Helmet</u> If a student-athlete is a base coach and must, therefore, wear a protective helmet, can she wear a baseball style skull cap? | No, since she is a member of the offensive team, she must wear a double-earflap NOCSAE approved batting helmet as detailed in Rule 3.8. |
| 3.8.5 | | <u>Helmet Face Mask</u> Rule 3.8.5 references that a face mask <u>may</u> be worn and states it <u>should</u> meet the NOCSAE standard. Can a mask that is worn offensively meet the NOCSAE standard and not display the NOCSAE approval and if so how would umpires know it was approved? Or does this mean that the mask must display "NOCSAE Approved" on it like in ASA and NFHS? | There really is a rule difference between the codes. The NCAA rule is that the face mask should meet the NOCSAE standard FOR THE MASK AND HELMET COMBINATION. The ASA and NFHS address the helmet and mask separately (but do not address the units combined) and require each to be NOCSAE approved. As much as we would like to say must and not should , it is not reasonable for us to expect the umpires to know which face mask is approved for use with which helmet. For example, Schutt's Pro-Guard 3000 facemask meets the standard when affixed to any Schutt helmet however Schutt's original Pro-Guard only meets the standard when affixed to the Schutt 2788, 2794, 2800 or 2898 models. And some facemasks meet the standard even when affixed to a competitor's helmet so just because a Rawlings mask is on a Mizuno helmet, it should not be eliminated from play...it might indeed be a suitable combination. So for the umpire, it's not realistic to expect them to know all the appropriate combinations HOWEVER for the coach (who also uses the rulebook, albeit sparingly for some) who provides the equipment, they need to know they "should" provide a suitable match either by purchasing the equipment already attached or by reading the instruction sheet on the unattached mask and attaching it to one of the helmet models listed as approved. Making that a "must" is, unfortunately, not enforceable and we try to keep unenforceable rules out of the book. Hope that clears up the difference a little. I am sure it will be less of an issue for umpires since they no longer routinely inspect the helmets but I hope it continues to provide the needed guidance to those purchasing the equipment. |
| 3.10.2 | | <u>Foul Weather Gear</u> Under foul weather wear, the book indicates foul weather garments may be worn. But if the weather is great, does this preclude a pitcher (who prefers keeping her arm | Players, coaches and umpires should be allowed to wear as many layers of allowable clothing as they need to participate comfortably regardless of the weather conditions.. Note-if a batter wears a loose fitting garment that hangs into the strike zone, she should |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|---|---|
| | | sweaty) from wearing a coat while running the bases in warm weather? Can an individual player decide she is cold and wear a sweatshirt if the other players indicate they are warm enough to play without the extra clothing? | be instructed to tuck it in, roll it up or remove it. |
| | 3.10.3 | <u>PreWrap on Hair</u> Several players on the same team are wearing spongy pre-wrap product (often used before taping by athletic trainers) rolled in their hair. Each player is wearing a different color. 1) Is it legal to use this product in this manner since it is not as intended by the manufacturer? 2) Is the product considered to be headgear and therefore must be the same predominant color? | 1) Yes, this product's use is legal and, because it is a safer alternative to almost every other type of headband, it should not be discouraged. 2) No, the wrap is considered a headband which is an accessory no longer addressed in the NCAA softball rules. |
| | 3.10.4 | <u>Flag Patches</u> Can players wear patches depicting the flag of their native country on their jersey either a) in place of the American flag on teammate's jerseys or b) in addition to the American flag (meaning they have two flags)? | 3.10.4 allows for patches as long as all the uniforms are identical so differing flags would not be allowed under this rule. However, there is no similar rule to helmet decals so a player may have a flag of another country on the helmet as long as it does not cover the required NOCSAE identification which must be legible. |
| | 3.10.6 | <u>Kneepads</u> Must kneepads be worn on the knee while at bat, running the bases, or on defense? Would it be improper to wear them on the shins and then pull them up to the knees once on base? | Most kneepads are now marketed as knee/shin pads, designed to protect appendages from bruises or to protect current injuries from intensifying. It appears that volleyball, soccer, football and softball pads have all been combined into protective padding in catalogs so unless you are sure a particular pad was not intended for the use it is getting, I think we should err on the side of player welfare and allow them to protect themselves. |
| | 4.4 13.1 | <u>Acting Head Coach</u> Question about ejection of head coach Rule 13.1 indicates that if a head coach is ejected he/she is to be asked to name an acting head coach. If the coach fails to name an acting head coach, the umpire shall initiate forfeit proceedings. My question -- are there any restrictions on who can be named as an acting head coach? Can a student-athlete be named as an acting head coach if there is no other coach or adult available? | Under the definition of head coach (4.4) it says employed or appointed by the institution. So a student coach could be the acting head coach. A student manager is also given some responsibility by the institution so that too might make them a viable candidate to take the acting head coach position but student-athletes are not similarly empowered. |
| 10-11 | 4.4.1 13.1 | <u>Coaches Unavailable</u> What if, two coaches, head and assistant/pitching coach, are both ejected from a game and there are no | If both coaches are ejected, the institution can designate someone else as responsible for the team for the remainder of the game. Unless the ejection also carried a suspension, once the game is over, so are the |

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|--|
| | | other coaches in the dugout. What happens, and what if it is the first game of a double header? | ejections, therefore, game two would start with both coaches. |
| 4.4.1.4 | | <u>Head Coach at Pregame Meeting</u> At the pre-game attended by umpires, both head coaches and an assistant coach, it is my understanding that the head coach is the spokesperson for the team, and that's who is required to speak to the umpire when making changes, substitutions, discussions, etc. There is one spokesperson for the team. Correct? | In NCAA softball, there is not a limit for conversations and business transactions to just the head coach and the plate umpire. If a base coach has a question regarding a call at a base, he/she may indeed be more knowledgeable about the play than a head coach who was in another team area or a significant distance from the action. Under the substitution rule (8.5.1.2), again the rule specifies "the coach making the substitution shall"...not "the head coach shall" which gives the authority to make a substitution to any coach. That said though, the head coach is responsible for all communication with the umpire so the head coach is accountable for the information. If there's a miscommunication regarding what happened and what the head coach wanted to happen, the miscommunication is his/her responsibility. So it is the head coach's responsibility to train the S-As, assistant coaches and staff on how to act, what to say and when because those other participants do have a great deal of latitude to communicate with umpires. |
| 5.2.4 | | <u>Field Grooming</u> At a predetermined half inning, usually between the top and bottom of the fifth inning, the home team wishes to have their grounds crew re-groom (water, drag, line and replace the bases) the infield. The field work is done quickly but 3-5 minutes elapses during which the home team pitcher throws underhand in foul territory before taking the field for her five warm-up pitches from the mound. Is this game delay legal? | It was never the committee's intention to suspend a game to re-groom a field except in the event there is an set-up error (for example, playing at a park district and someone discovers the bases are in the 65 foot sleeves) or if conditions are dangerous (such as adding field amendment to a wet area). While the committee is grateful to the grounds crews which take such pride in their fields, their time on the field during the game should be limited to the repairs mentioned above or redrawing lines, both at the direction of the umpires. |
| 5.6 | | <u>Line-up Card Accuracy</u> On the line-up card, a coach wants to print the name of the player as J.C. Smith. The player prefers to go by the first name of "J.C." instead of her given name of Jacquelyn. Is this contrary to the requirement to list first and last names? | If the player goes by J.C., that satisfies the requirement. The intent is to provide accurate information to media and opponents so if she is listed as J.C. on the school roster and that's what she would answer to if someone called out her name, then that actually meets the intent of the rule better than requiring a given name that she doesn't use and people are not likely to know her as. We have often let Catherines be listed as Cathys and Robertas listed as Bobbies so this is no different and is allowable as long as that's what she prefers to be called and there's no one else on the roster who she could be confused with (like J.C. Smith, meaning Jacquelyn, and another player is named Jane Smith). That said, this does not extend to allowing nonspecific nicknames as first names such as "Speedy" Smith or "Lefty" Jones. If a coach wants those monikers, then the player should be listed as J.C. "Speedy" Smith. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 5.6 | <p><u>Additions to Line-up Card</u> We have a game that was halted in the 3rd inning. The question is – they have players now available for the continuation of the game who were not available on the original date because of academic reasons. Can those players be added to the lineup card as eligible substitutes without penalty?</p> | <p>Unfortunately those players not on the lineup card may not be added...hence it is always best to leave everyone on the card even if they appear to be unable to play for a particular game.</p> |
| 5.6 5.9 | <p><u>In-game Scouting</u> The defensive team positioned a uniformed team member in the stands behind the backstop to chart their own team's pitches. Also, they had a uniformed team member in the press box running the scoreboard and music between innings. Both of these uniformed players were listed on the team's lineup card. Is that appropriate?</p> | <p>All the team needs to do is have the team member remove her uniform and wear some other type of attire. The intent is to prevent the batter who hits in the next inning from sitting back there to gain information that will advantage her so she renders herself ineligible for the remainder of the game that day. 5-6 note 2 indicates that "all players listed in the starting lineup must be in uniform, in the dugout area and available to play at the start of the game." But that is not true of substitutes. The main reason for this is to allow for a player who is at class or in the training room to be listed as a substitute and able to play and yet not have a game being held up for a starter to get on site. Realizing smaller schools are personnel challenged; we don't want to disadvantage them further so if a team needs to have players pitch in behind the backstop, they need to at least have them attired properly. Should the game be incomplete and resumed later, those working players would be eligible to play in the restart.</p> |
| 5.11 | <p><u>Promotions Noisemaker</u> An institution's promotions staff wants to begin a tradition of having a cannon discharged to celebrate the scoring of runs similar to the celebration they have for scoring in a football game. Is that considered a noisemaker and therefore disallowed? If allowed, must it be fired only when the ball is dead?</p> | <p>The artificial noisemaker rule (5.11) does NOT apply to this situation as it refers to student-athletes, managers, coaches and athletic trainers and it sounds like this would be done by or under the direction of games management staff. So, specifically, the NCAA softball rules do not preclude the use of a cannon. That said though, the users should be educated that it should not disrupt the flow of the game nor disrespect the opponent and add a guideline that it may only be used for about 10 seconds once play has ceased following the scoring of runs (that's the guideline for bands in rule 5.14). Dead ball, live ball really doesn't work all that well in that most runs are scored while the ball is live (a batted ball put in play that scores a run is far more common than a dead ball, out-of-the-park home run). After play is over, fire the cannon, and then the next batter steps in the box. Firing it while the ball is being fielded or thrown and a run is scoring would be as inappropriate as waiting until the next batter is getting in the box and preparing to hit. Lastly, as a courtesy to the umpires and opponents, the new tradition should be mentioned in the pregame meeting.</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 6.1.3.1 7.1.1.2 | <p><u>Appeal play</u> Runners on first and third with one out. Batter singles to right field plating the runner from third. The runner who started on first misses second but arrives safely at third. The batter-runner is thrown out at second trying to advance (second out). The defense appeals that the runner from first missed second (the third out). Does the run score since it occurred before the appeal?</p> | No. Since the third out is a force play at second, not a timing play, the run does not score. |
| 6.1.3 7.1.3 | <p><u>Fourth Out Appeal</u> Runners on second and third bases with two outs. The batter swings and misses strike three but the catcher does not catch the pitch. The runner from third base scores. The catcher eventually recovers the ball and throws to the pitcher covering the plate who tags out the trailing runner also attempting to score (third out). The batter-runner, thinking the inning was over, advanced toward BUT did not touch first base before the pitcher realizes she has a play and throws to first base. The throw beats the batter-runner but since there are three outs already, what is the effect?</p> | The play at the plate is the apparent third out however the defense may appeal baserunning infractions in order to nullify the run. When properly appealed, a dropped third strike is a force out, therefore the apparent run does not count. |
| 6.4.4 | <p><u>Player Warm-ups</u> The offensive team coach had 4 players outside of the dugout in dead ball territory in the spectator area swinging bats with the timing of the ball being released by the pitcher and 1 player hitting a ball attached to rubberized cords during each inning they were at bat. Can they do that?</p> | I am not sure what you mean by dead ball territory in the spectator area but between innings, the correct rule would be 6.4.4 for activity on the field of play. If there is an area outside the field of play (bullpens or batting tunnels are the most common) and they are swinging/throwing/pitching in those areas between innings, 6.4.4 does not apply because it is off the field and in fact, 6.4.3 allows for use of the bullpen and dead ball areas while the ball is in play. |
| 6.4.4.2 | <p><u>Runner Warm-ups</u> 6.4.4.2 says that the offense can only warm-up run in the outfield between innings and during a pitching change. Is it acceptable for base runners who are on base to time the pitcher and their lead offs during these times?</p> | The intent of putting warm up running in the outfield is to avoid potential confrontations between opposing players and minimize risk by separating bats, balls and people. But standing on your base or taking a step or two leadoff while the new pitcher is warming up is not considered running warm-ups and should not be confrontational. So yes, runners already on base at the time of the pitching change can "time the pitcher". |
| 6.5.6 | <p><u>Substitute Pitcher Warm-up</u> Between innings the first baseman (also the backup pitcher) was keeping warm by pitching on the infield in front of the dugout. It seems that this warm-up practice</p> | True, this activity is not legal. The rationale is that the umpires and coaches should not have to dodge balls thrown in a variety of directions in the infield area. However any number of players can be in the outfield with any number of balls so she can throw there and have a teammate take throws at first base for her infielders to warm-up. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|--|
| | | would not be legal. Why not? The warm-up area at this particular field is in dead center field, so it is a long way from the dugout. | |
| 6,5,6 10.19 | | Pitcher Warm-up If the pitcher takes four warm-ups and then throws once to an infielder not at first base, is this a violation? If it is, why can't she throw to a different base? | Yes it is a violation. The intent of the rule is to limit the number of throws AND to limit the direction of throws which should assist the opponents and umpires to do their jobs while play was suspended without worrying about errant throws. |
| 6.5.6 10.19 | | Pitcher Warm-up Can the pitcher throw UNDERHAND (simulating a pitch) to any of the infielders? For example, the pitcher throws four warm-ups to the catcher and then throws/pitches UNDERHAND once to the first baseman. Definition 1.123 specifically states a warm-up pitch is a "pitch delivered to the plate during a suspension of play." But can this count as a fifth warm-up pitch? | A warm-up pitch is an underhand throw to the plate during a suspension of play. Anything else is some kind of throw...overhand, sidearm, underhand. So no, this fifth throw is not a warm-up pitch but does conclude her warm-ups. |
| 6.5.6 10.19 | | Pitcher warm-up If the pitcher throws her four warm-up pitches and then throws to the second baseman covering first base, does that violate 6.5.6? | The rule says the throw must go to first base (the place) but does not say the first baseman (the who) must receive the throw. |
| 6.5.6.1 | | Pitcher Warm-up What is the intent of "continuous manner" wording regarding warm-up pitches and throws to bases? | The intent of the committee in using "continuous throws" is to have the pitcher pitch and then throw to first base or throw to first base then pitch but not to alternate a pitch then a throw, then a pitch, then a throw nor to add in any extraneous activities like fielding balls prior to throwing to first base. The rationale for this rule addition is to keep the game moving in a predictable way that allows for the desired warm-ups yet also provides some safety to other participants who can now position themselves to avoid being hit by errant throws. |
| 6.9.2 | | Dead Ball-No Catch Why is a catcher, who is looking up to catch a pop foul ball, allowed to steady herself by holding the backstop fence to make a legal catch but she is not allowed to steady herself using a pole located inside a dugout that would prevent her from falling into the dugout and hurting herself? Why is the first a legal catch and the second, no catch, dead ball? | The rule does not allow the fielder to make contact with any object (including the ground) in dead ball territory when contacting a live ball. The purpose of the rule is to keep players within the controllable confines of the playing area which therefore avoids the variety of circumstances that could exist past chalk lines or fences marking dead ball territory. It provides consistency in the result of the play and minimizes risk to participants but it does have a small downside as you point out in your example. |
| 6.11 1.27 | | No Conference Charged After seeing her pitcher complete her warm up, the | See rule 1, section 27 for the definition of a conference and rule 6, section 11 for application. Since the coach did not suspend play, this is not a conference...many times |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | pitching coach goes out and talks to the pitcher. This is between innings and the plate umpire is cleaning the plate before the batter steps into the batter's box. The opposing coaches wanted this to be considered a charged conference. Should this have been charged a conference? | coaches actually stand at the mound and talk to the pitcher or defense during the warm-up pitches. In this case, the coach came out to the mound but there was no suspension of play. |
| 6.11 10.19 | | <u>Activity During Conference</u> During an offensive conference, can the pitcher play catch with other players on the field? Does it have to be overhand or can she pitch? | Yes, the pitcher can play catch as long as she is ready to play when the offense and umpires are ready. There is no provision for warm-up pitches during a conference in 10.19 so all she can do it throw overhand, sidearm or underhand to a teammate (i.e. not pitch from the pitcher's plate nor throw to the plate). |
| 6.11.1 | | <u>Injury Suspension of Play</u> While there is a suspension of play for any injury, is it permissible for offense and/or defense to talk strategy? | As straightforward as the question is, you'd think the answer would be easy...but no! If a player is injured or apparently injured, an umpire should accompany the team representative to determine if this stoppage of play is indeed for injury. Discussions on strategy or coaching should not take place during this "discovery time" and the opponent should be prevented from using this time as well. If the discovery time noted above is brief and ends in no medical attention needed, use your judgment as to if both teams can use the time during the suspension. The criteria here is no unfair advantage to either team. Examples where no coaching discussions would be allowed are a player getting to her feet and walking off a cramp or catching her breath for a few seconds. However if it is an obvious injury where the umpire will beckon the medical staff, or if determined to be an injury requiring some intervention, then yes, while the injured player is being tended to, both the offense and defense can use the time to talk strategy without it being a charged conference. Once the medical staff is done, if either team wants to continue the conversation, advise them that they may however it will then be a charged conference. |
| 6.11.3 | | <u>Second Conference</u> Can a team gain a second defensive conference in an inning by sending a team representative out to be ejected but still have the opportunity to deliver a message? | Ideally, as a team representative approaches the field for a second conference, the umpire will prevent the excessive conference and therefore not have to eject the offender. In the event preventative umpiring does not prevent the situation, the offender should be immediately ejected and every effort made to prevent delivery of any messages sent from the dugout to the field. |
| 6.11.3 6.19.1.5 15.2 | | <u>Additional Conferences</u> An assistant coach SPRINTS on the field for a second conference in an inning, delivers the needed message to the pitcher and fielder(s). The umpire attempts to stop the coach but is avoided and therefore ejects the | Under 15.2, umpires clearly have not only the authority to order a coach to do or refrain from doing an unsportsmanlike act such as this but also obligates them to conduct the game under conditions conducive to fair play. Therefore, upon ejection of either coach, the head coach can be warned that the willful disregard for the rules will not be tolerated. |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| | | assistant coach per 6.11.3. Two batters later, the same thing happens with the same defensive team, another assistant coach SPRINTS out with the same results--delivered message and ejection. What recourse is there to prevent the defense from taking advantage of excess conferences beside additional ejections? | At this point of warning, there are several options. One is simply to remind the coach that each ejection carries with it an incident report to the NCAA. Another is that should it happen again, the head coach may be ejected for unsporting behavior. A third is to warn the head coach that a forfeit may be declared under 6.19. |
| 6.11.3 10.19.3 | | Charged Conference A coach uses the one allowable conference early in an inning and then later in the inning reports a defensive switch of the pitcher and right fielder to the umpire. The coach then goes to the mound and tells the pitcher to go to right field, signals the right fielder to come to pitch, and then discusses strategy with the new pitcher as she throws warm-up pitches. a) does that trip to the mound to switch players count as a conference? b) if after throwing one pitch, may the coach switch the players back to their original positions and gain both warm-up pitches for the returning pitcher and a conference for making a pitching change? | a)No conference is charged since the substitution was given to the umpire and then the coach went to the mound to carry out the switch. b)The coach may switch the players back at any time however if the returning pitcher has already pitched in the inning, she may not be given warm-up pitches. In addition, the coach has not used the one additional conference gained from the initial switch of players so that one conference is still available even though the coach already spoke to the starting pitcher earlier in the inning. Note-a team can never have more than one conference available regardless of the number of pitching changes in an inning. |
| 6.11.3 | | Charged Conference Is it a charged conference if a coach comes out to the pitcher's mound to question the umpire about an illegal pitch? | If the coach had a question, he/she should ask the umpire to come out to the circle and answer the question for him/her and the pitcher to hear. But if the coach goes to the circle first, it will be umpire's discretion as to what transpires....if the coach asks the umpire a question, it is probably not going to be a charged conference but if the coach talks first to the pitcher then to the umpire, it is probably going to be a charged conference. |
| 6.11.3 | | Charge Conference Head coach of the defensive team comes out of the dugout to speak with the base umpire regarding a possible obstruction call at second base. The conversation was lengthy, so meanwhile the team's pitching coach came out and spoke with her pitcher. The pitching coach/ pitcher conversation was concluded and the pitching coach was back in the dugout before the head coach and umpire's conversation was done. Is this a charged defensive conference? | While the conversation between the umpire and coach allows the offensive coach to talk with his/her players without it being a charged offensive conference, it is a defensive conference if another defensive coach chooses to confer with his/her players. Although that might appear unfair, the reason for the disparity is the opportunity for abuse. If a coach wanted to deliver a message to the defense, he/she would only need to send another representative to query an umpire and then could deliver the message without using their allowable conference. Therefore, to protect the integrity of the game, the defense would be assessed their conference in this case. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|
| | 6.11.3 8.5.2.2 | <p><u>Charged Conference Activity</u> The pitching coach holds a conference to confer with his pitcher. During the conference, the third baseman put on a catcher's helmet/mask and the shortstop threw five warm-up pitches to her at third base. I could not think of a reason to stop this. A batter later, the coach switches the pitcher with the shortstop and she took five more warm-up pitches with the catcher. I could not think of a reason to stop this either but others thought neither should have been allowed. Follow-up question... can the pitcher who just left the pitching position and became the shortstop, throw 1) overhand to the first baseman or 2) underhand to the third baseman who again uses her catcher's helmet /mask while play is suspended for the new pitcher to throw her warm-up pitches.</p> | <p>The rule book is silent on the actions of other players while a coach uses the team's allowable conference but there is support for allowing the substitute pitcher to have the five warm-up pitches in 8.5.2.2. Because the throws on the infield did not delay the game and in the interest of student-athlete welfare and allowing a player to suitably warm-up, I think you were right to allow her to throw. If the substitute pitcher had been on the bench, she would have been able to use the bullpen so she is not getting an advantage another player would not have had. A rule proposal to allow or disallow this action would be appropriate if someone feels strongly one way of the other. Follow-up answer...again, in the interest of student-athlete welfare, yes these players may warm-up during the suspension of play. That said though, the fielders must be ready to resume play when the umpire is ready to resume the game.</p> |
| 2-6-12 | 6.11.3 | <p><u>Who is Penalized for Charged Conference</u> Offensive conference charged early in the inning. The inning goes long, coach puts in a sub to hit. After a pitch, the batter asks for time prior to stepping in the box and bolts for the coach standing in their coaching box. Umpire cannot get batter's attention prior to them getting to the coach. In this case would the player be ejected?</p> | <p>Yes, The rule says the team representative(s) or player(s) who holds another charged conference shall be immediately ejected so the rule violator is the one who is ejected.</p> |
| | 6.11.3.3. 6.11.4.3 EFFECTS 12.10.5 | <p><u>Runners Switch Bases</u> When a team representative holds a second conference without making a substitution, the team representative(s) who holds the conference is ejected. But if runners on bases switch bases, the head coach is ejected. Isn't that inconsistent?</p> | <p>Actually all the violators are ejected in each of those situations but it is true the head coach is also ejected if runners switch bases because we believe this would not happen without the head coach's knowledge. If he/she allows this unsporting act, he/she too is accountable and is therefore ejected.</p> |
| | 6.11.4 | <p><u>Charged Conference</u> Batter hits a double and is on second base with no other runners on base. After the ball is returned to the circle, the defensive players request and are granted time to meet in the circle. The first base coach runs out to second base to give the base runner a piece of gum, slaps her on the behind and says good job. FYI she would give everyone a piece of gum that would get a</p> | <p>Since play was suspended for the defense I can see why the base coach thought it was ok...as you say, just like the game business of retrieving a batting guard or even to change from a helmet with a face guard to one without to run the bases. And since no coaching occurred I am surprised the other coach even asked for a conference to be charged. But I think you were right to not charge it. That said, I also think the coach should be told that going on to the field without doing game business puts him/her in jeopardy for being charged a conference. I am not a fan of base coaches inserting themselves into the game like this but I also would have handled like you did.</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| | | base hit. The coach for the defensive team came out and wanted me to charge her with an offensive conference. I listened to her point. I responded that no coaching was done and explained to her what the coach actually came out to do - give her gum. I also stated that I didn't see any difference in a coach running out to get a shin protector from the base runner or bringing her sunglasses etc. The rule states that the base runner cannot vacate the vicinity of her base which she did not. It doesn't say anything about the coach. I know the intent is to not delay the game. So, my question to you is did I do the right thing or should I have charged an offensive conference? | |
| 6.11.4.4 | Base Runners During Conference During a pitching change, are the base runners allowed to vacate the vicinity of their bases without it being a charged conference as long as they are ready to resume play when umpire is ready and/or player is finished warming up? | Yes, in general when play is suspended, the base runners may vacate the vicinity of their bases. The exception is when a defensive player requests time to speak to one or more defensive players (the result being a charged offensive conference). | |
| 6.16.4.1 | Drop Dead Time The rule permits coaches to agree on a "drop dead time" at the pregame conference to accommodate travel issues. Can that drop dead time be a "no new inning" shall begin after x time? Or does it literally have to be a "stop the game at that exact time" time. I had a situation where a team had a flight out and wanted to have 4pm be the drop dead time but they wanted to finish the inning they were in rather than drop dead. I suppose that is to preserve the stats for that inning or perhaps preserve the "win" in the event they were ahead. Is this allowed? | The coaches can set no new inning after x time or xx time as literally the last play. It must be clarified at the pregame meeting so everyone is on the same page and understands which you are using. If it is unclear or not discussed, the time reverts to a drop dead time/end the game now scenario. | |
| 6.21 | Doubleheaders/Series Our conference used to play doubleheaders but has now switched to single game series. 6.21 requires completion of the first game of a doubleheader before | Yes, the intent of the rule is to complete what has been started before starting another game. A halted game could commence at the scheduled game time for the successive game or could be completed prior to the scheduled start time at the discretion of the on-site administrator in consultation with the umpires and opposing coaches. | |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| | | the second game begins; does that apply to the series format as well? | |
| 7.1 | | <u>Inaccurate Line-up</u> If the defensive team has inaccurately listed either their pitcher or catcher, when are they considered to have made a play? Does throwing or receiving a pitch constitute making a play? | Both throwing and receiving a pitch are considered having made a play. The coach of the offended team may bring the error to the attention of the umpire and request nullification of the results of the last pitch. Strategy might dictate waiting until the penalty will be more advantageous however the offending team also has the ability to correct its own mistake without penalty. |
| 7.1.1.3 12.28 | | <u>Tagging Up Appeal</u> Runner on first base takes off on the hit and run. She hits second base and is on her way to third base as the outfielder makes a diving catch for the first out of the inning. The outfielder jumps to her feet and overthrows the ball into the first base dugout (the runner is now half way between second and third bases as the ball leaves the fielder's hand). A) What is the proper call? B) During the dead ball or as the umpire awards the runner additional bases, if the runner attempts to return to tag up at first base, should the umpire stop the runner? | A) Dead ball, the runner is awarded two bases (third base). BUT she never tagged up and according to rule 12.28.4.3 she cannot return to touch a base if she is on a base beyond the base she left too soon when the ball becomes dead. So if the defensive coach appeals she never tagged up, you have an out. B) Stopping the runner and pointing out she cannot return during the dead ball advantages the defense into making an appeal they might otherwise not have noticed. Notice the re-touch but let the appeal or lack thereof take its course without stopping the runner. |
| 7.1.1.2 | | <u>Missed Base Appeal</u> Runners on first and third bases with one out. The batter doubles but misses first base, the runner from first misses second on her way to third, and the runner on third scores. The defense appeals the two missed bases but does it matter in which order they appeal? | Yes. When the defense initially appeals the batter missed first base, which is the second out. The subsequent appeal for missing second is a timing play so if the runner from third has crossed the plate at the time of the appeal, the run scores. If the defense initially appeals the runner missed second base, which is the second out. The subsequent appeal for missing first is a force out; therefore the run does not score. |
| 7.1.1.2 | | <u>Missed Base Appeal</u> Base runners on first and third bases with one out. Batter singles to right field plating the base runner from third base. The base runner who started on first base misses second base but arrives safely at third base. The batter-runner is thrown out at second base trying to advance (second out). Defense appeals that the base runner from first base missed second base (third out). Does the run score since it occurred before the appeal? | No. Since the third out is a force play at second base, not a timing play, the run does not score. |
| 7.1.1.4 8.3.2 | | <u>Inaccurate Lineup</u> If the defensive team has inaccurately listed either their pitcher or catcher, when are they considered to have | Both throwing and receiving a pitch are considered having made a play. The coach of the offended team may bring the error to the attention of the umpire and request nullification of the results of the last pitch. Strategy might dictate waiting until the penalty |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| | | made a play? Does throwing or receiving a pitch constitute making a play? | will be more advantageous however the offending team also has the ability to correct its own mistake without penalty. |
| 7.1.5.3 | | <u>Missed Base Appeal</u> Base runners on first and third bases with one out. Batter singles to right plating the base runner from third. The base runner who started on first base misses second base but arrives safely at third base. The batter-runner is thrown out at second base trying to advance (second out). Defense appeals that the base runner from first base missed second base (the third out). Does the run score since it occurred before the appeal? | No. Since the third out is a force play at second base, not a timing play, the run does not score. |
| 7.2.5 | | <u>Protest Committee</u> During the regular season, can a protest committee exist to facilitate protests in a tournament? | The only time a protest committee has any authority is during an NCAA qualifying event (see 7.2.6). However if there is a tournament umpire in chief and a protest is lodged on the field, the UIC may be consulted for his/her opinion to assist the umpires working the game in settling the dispute. The protesting coach retains the right to protest to the softball secretary- rules editor if the on-field resolution is not satisfactory however the input from the tournament UIC might resolve the discrepancy without needing that latter, final step of a written protest. |
| 8.1.1 8.1.2 | | <u>Defensive Alignment</u> 1) The first baseman plays directly behind second base (up the middle) and the defense doesn't put anybody in the first baseman's traditional position. Has there been a defensive position change, and if so what? 2) The same alignment as in the previous example; however the person that was the third baseman is behind second (up the middle) and the person who was the first baseman is where the traditional third baseman is. Has there been a defensive position change, and if so what? 3) The right fielder moves to shallow left field, the left fielder moves to deep left field and right field is left vacant. Has there been a defensive position change, and if so what? Would anything be different if the centerfielder moved to shallow left and the right fielder moved to the traditional center field area? | 1) There has been no change... by rule, the first baseman can be positioned anywhere in fair territory. This is a positioning issue rather than a reportable change. However, that said, in order to give players credit when credit is due, coaches could report these positioning changes for the benefit of the opposing coach and the scorer. 2) This is an example of a change that must be reported in that the first and third baseman have switched positions so for the sake of accurate scoring and deference to the opposing coach, it is vital information. If not done, apply the effect for 8.1.2. 3) This is a positioning issue rather than an exchange of positions. In the interest of accuracy, it would be helpful if the coach informed the umpire that the right fielder is now positioned in shallow left field but it is not required. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| 8.1.1.2 | <u>Halted Game Resumed</u> At the resumption of a halted game, one team is using DP/Flex and has used up all available substitutes. The left fielder becomes incapacitated during warm-up. The DP goes in to play leftfield. It becomes the left fielder's turn to bat. Is it an out or a forfeit? If forfeit, do we need to get to her turn at bat before declaring it or could it happen at the pre-game meeting? | | On the lineup card, enter the DP to play left field. She continues to bat in the same position of the batting order so there is no substitution, the original left fielder is still in the batting order but is otherwise in the dugout. When the left fielder's position in the batting order comes up, she could enter the batter's box, assuming she is physically capable of doing so. She can stand in the box and take pitches without the intent to get on base, but if her spot in the order is unfilled, the team will have to forfeit as there is no provision for playing short-handed. The forfeit does not actually occur until the position in the batting order comes up because there is the possibility the game would be stopped for some other reason before that spot comes up, perhaps the mercy rule invoked, inclement weather, an action of the opponent that halts the game... |
| 8.2 | <u>DP/Flex</u> If the starting DP gets on base and is replaced by the Flex to run the bases twice in a single game, the DP is then unable to play for its remainder (starter who has reentered). If that position (the one the DP originally occupied but the Flex currently holds) in the batting order comes up again, may the coach substitute for the DP even though there has been no one in that position for some time or must he/she substitute for the Flex? | | Once the starting lineup is created with a DP and Flex, those positions exist throughout the game even if one of them is temporarily vacant. The Flex who entered the game to run for the DP is still the Flex and retains all those rights. The DP position still exists and a substitute may be entered in that spot in the batting order. Some of the confusion regarding the DP and Flex stems from using misnomers such as "temporary DP" or from equating the phrases "the number of <u>players</u> being reduced from 10 to 9 (text in the rule book)" with "the available positions decrease from 10 to 9 (which is not true)". |
| 8.3.1 & 4 11.11 | <u>Batting Out of Order</u> The Flex bats in a spot in the batting order other than the DP's spot and before the next pitch, the defense appeals to the umpire for a batting out-of-order violation. They are correct in that the previous batter was not the correct batter but she is an illegal player, not a legal player guilty of batting out-of-order. As the umpire examines the lineup card, he discovers the issue. Should he act on the appealed batting out-of-order or enforce the penalty for illegal player? | | A coach making an appeal must reasonably identify the rule violation in question. While not required to identify the rule by number or page, the player and terminology for the rule in question have to be correctly communicated to the umpire. To avoid miscommunication, the plate umpire should show the defensive coach the lineup card and have him/her walk the umpire through the complaint giving the coach every opportunity to see the mistake and better articulate his/her objection. In the unlikely event that the coach still only appeals batting out-of-order, the plate umpire shall enforce the effect for batting out-of-order. |
| 8.3.2 | <u>Inaccurate Line-up</u> If Jane Doe is wearing number 7 and is listed as Jane Doe, number 7 in the <u>written</u> batting order but is listed as Jane Doe, number 18 in the pre-printed roster on the bottom of the card, what is the ruling? Can the incorrect number at the bottom of the card be changed by merely crossing out the incorrect number | | The written lineup would take precedence and in this situation, a correction to the card would be made but no other action. HOWEVER if it were reversed (Jane Doe is wearing number 7, is listed on the written lineup as number 18 but on the printed lineup as 7), that becomes an inaccurate lineup. Yes, many time teams with multiple uniforms have someone with two numbers depending on the uniform jersey so coaches can cross out the incorrect number and replace it with the correct one. This should be done prior to the start of the game but |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------------|--|--|---|
| | | and putting in the present number beside her name in the pre-printed portion? If yes, must it be before or can it be after the lineup is made official? | sometimes is caught during the contest. The number should be corrected to match the written lineup. |
| 8.3.2. | | <u>Inaccurate Line-up</u> Team A did not put first names on their lineup card and it was submitted to the umpires at the pre-game meeting that way. Later in the game a player from team A hit a 2-run home run. The team B coach brought out the lineup card and appealed to the umpire that team A submitted an inaccurate lineup card. The question is: Should the umpires have given the lineup back to the coach for correction at the pre-game at home plate or simply wait to enforce the penalty when brought to their attention by the coach from team B? | If the umpire noticed that first names were omitted from the line-up card (and I would hope they would notice this when they review the card in the pregame meeting), he/she should return the card to the coach and ask for its completion. This would apply to any missing information on the card (like a DP but no FLEX, no substitutes listed on the card, etc). In general, we have encouraged preventative umpiring in cases in which an umpire can prevent an administrative mistake such as this. |
| 8.3.2 | | <u>Inaccurate Line-up</u> In the pregame meeting, a coach informed the home plate umpire that he was going to protest the spelling of one of the girl's last names on the line-up if they were forced to go into a tiebreaker. In game two, he did protest the spelling of a girl's first name. In the first instance the player's name was written incorrectly on the line-up, but was correctly printed on the bottom of the line-up. The question the umpires had was since it was brought to our attention by the coach before he invoked the rule should we inform the opposing coach that this was brought to our attention and would she like to correct it (preventive umpiring)? Second, since the name on the bottom of the line-up was correct and there was only one person with this last name (first name misspelled) is it still an inaccurate line-up? | First, the possible misspelling of a player's name...this is a judgment call and will depend on the confusion the misspelling brings. If there are two players on the team named Smith and Smythe and the name on the card is written Smyth, there's a better case for a penalty than if Tschida is misspelled Tchida and she is the only one player whose name starts with T. Similarly, if someone's first name is misspelled but the last name is correct and unique to just one player, there is little chance of confusion (for example, Stephanie is misspelled as Stefany but her last name is Smith and there are no other Smiths on the team). The benefit of the doubt should go to not penalizing the team if no confusion results or if the writing is difficult to read but the printing at the bottom for the card is clear. Second, when the umpires accept the line-up cards, they review them and can ask for corrections if they notice a misspelling or something more serious (like a DP but no FLEX listed or two players listed with their position as the pitcher). The opportunity to correct any of those mistakes in the pre-game meeting eliminates confusion later and is good preventative umpiring. |
| 8.3.2 8.3.3 | | <u>Inaccurate Substitution</u> A coach gives you a substitution of #5 for #20, but #5 is wearing her road uniform and her number is #6 for the road and there is a runner on first base who steals second base on the next pitch. Now the defensive coach tells the umpire that #6 is batting not #5. | 1. When substitutions are made they should be #5 Smith for #20 Jones and as the umpire makes the change on the lineup card, he/she will notice the discrepancy from the printed list of eligible substitutes. If this is the case, he/she should use preventative umpiring and not allow the substitution without the correction. In the unlikely event that it is still undetected, it does establish that the substitute was Smith for Jones which in fact is what happened on the field and makes the violation an inaccurate lineup. The player |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|--|
| | | <p>1. Is this an Inaccurate Lineup or a Misreported Player? 2. What is the definition of a Misreported Player?</p> | <p>who was reported is playing, she simply has the wrong number on the lineup card. In either case, the advance of the base runner is legal. 2. See Rule 1.121</p> |
| 8.3.3 8.3.4 | | <p><u>Inaccurate Substitution</u> #10 is the runner at second base, #12 is at first base with no one out. The offensive coach announces to the umpire #14 will run for #10 and then uses a conference to talk to the batter, the substitute and the original two runners. When the offense breaks the huddle, #14 replaces the trailing runner (#12) instead of lead runner (#10) as reported. What is the remedy when properly appealed before the next pitch?</p> | <p>The remedy will depend on the question posed to the umpire by the offended team. If the defense asks "is #10 supposed to be at second base?" You have an unreported reentry. #14 was officially reported as a substitute for #10 however #10 can reenter for her own substitute (assuming she had not been out of the game already). Impose the penalty for unreported player as determined by the time of the report. If the defense asks "is #14 supposed to be at first base?" #14 is an illegal player. She was not a starting player and was officially entered as a substitute for #10. She cannot enter the game a second time (as a substitute for # 12) so impose the penalty for illegal player as determined by the time of the report. If the defense asks "are both players incorrect?" impose both penalties as determined by the time of the report.</p> |
| 8.3.3 8.3.4 | | <p><u>Inaccurate Substitution</u> A was playing B. In the fourth inning the A coach calls time and announces a substitute of 6 for 24. I repeated 6 for 24 and recorded it on my lineup card. I announced 6 for 24 to B's coach. After the next pitch B coach called time and came out and said to me, "You announced 6 for 24 to us, but that is number 12 on the base." I looked at the base runner and indeed it was number 12. I walked over to A's coach and told him about the mistake he had made. I told him that he could either keep 12 in the game or re-enter 24, but that either way it was an out. He opted to re-enter 24. At the end of the inning I told B's coach that because 12 had incorrectly entered the game that she was no longer viable as a substitute, but that 6 was.</p> | <p>When you record the substitution reported to you that renders 24 out of the game (and if a starter, still has her re-entry) and enters 6 from the bench (her allowable entry into the game). Now you have an unreported substitution (number 12 for number 6) so 6 is out of the game permanently and the effect is no pitch, the unreported player is out and declared officially in the game. If the coach reenters 24 then 12 is out of the game permanently, 24 has used her one re-entry, and there is no base-runner now due to the out. You are incorrect to tell the coach that 6 is a viable substitute because 6 was in and then out immediately when 12 entered for her so she indeed was not available.</p> |
| 11-11 | 8.3.4 | <p><u>No Substitution</u> In the fourth inning # 6, the first baseman, is substituted for with #4 on offense. # 4 makes it to third base and the coach re-enters #6. The inning ends and as the pitcher is warming up, the opposing coach sees that # 4, who has no re-entry status, is warming up the infielders at first base. The coach informs me that #4 came out on her own and then removes her and tells # 6</p> | <p>Since the coach did not mistakenly report #4 returning and since the ball was not live, there technically is no illegal substitution; #6 has legally re-entered. Actually it is not unheard of for a substitute to go take throws at first base or catch for the pitcher while the player in the lineup gets ready between innings. So this is not much different as long as you still have no more than four infielders (to meet 6.5.6).</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|---|---|
| | | to take her position on first base. Since the ball was dead, does the discovery apply only when the ball is live or at any time of discovery? Second, if she is an illegal substitute does her illegal re-entry nullify # 6 re-entry? | |
| 10-11 | 8.5.1 15.2.7 15.2.15 | <u>Substitution</u> Substitution by defense during the inning for the catcher (straight sub –non injury) followed by a pinch hitter substitution by the offense. Catcher comes on the field and asks to receive warm-up pitches during the umpire’s paperwork. The base umpire grants the request and the pitcher throws two warm-up pitches. The offensive coach objects to the two pitches and demands two balls be assessed for illegal warm-up pitches. Effect? | Without an injury, there is no rulebook support for allowing the pitcher warm-up pitches to an incoming catcher during a substitution without the standard consequence of assessing balls to the batter. However, because the base umpire granted the request of the catcher, the team cannot be penalized for the apparent infraction. Therefore, the plate umpire shall not set aside the decision of the base umpire to allow the additional pitches and there is no penalty. |
| | 8.5.2 | <u>Pitching Change</u> A relief pitcher may throw not more than the allowable number of throws/ warm up pitches except if the pitching change is necessitated by an injury. NFHS does not allow the injured pitcher to reenter if her substitute uses more than 5 warm-up pitches. What about the NCAA? | The injured pitcher is not precluded from reentering at any time as long as she can legally reenter (i.e. was not a substitute herself or as a starter, previously used her one allowable reentry). Unlike the NFHS, the injured player is entitled to resume her pitching duties even if her replacement took excessive pitches in order to warm-up to pitch. |
| | 9.2 | <u>Catch/No Catch</u> If a fielder, trying to catch a batted fly ball, has the ball in her glove, subsequently knocks down the fence and loses possession of the ball and it lands on the fence while the fence is lying down. | It is not a catch since the fielder did not control and voluntarily release the ball (the ground caused the ball to be dropped). The ball was over the fence in fair territory and so it is a homerun. This is the same as a fielder 'tipping' a fly ball over the fence in fair territory. In specific circumstances, the umpire could judge that the fielder had control of the ball long enough to establish a catch. For example, a fielder making the catch, taking a step or two and falling over a short fence thus dropping the ball as she attempts to "catch herself" and protect her face. While the release was not voluntary, the catch clearly occurred before going out of play. In this situation, the catch would be good, the batter would be out, the ball would be dead, and all runners would be advanced one base from the time of the pitch. |
| | 9.4 9.6 | <u>Base Runner-Umpire Collision</u> Base runner on second base when the batter hits a line drive between the shortstop and third base. The ball settles in for a hit. The base runner hesitates to see if the ball goes through, hesitates again and then takes off for third base. The base umpire also hesitates and as he begins to move, contacts the base runner who is then | Although there are some rule references to umpire interference, there are no references to umpire obstruction when the offense is disadvantaged. While the contact you mention is unfortunate, there is no rule reference for relief and in fact maybe the note following 9.6.1.3 is most appropriate. It reads “It is not interference if a pitched or thrown ball strikes an umpire or if there’s contact between an umpire and a fielder playing a batted ball. The ball is live, and each base runner is entitled to advance with liability to be put out.” So in your case, the base runner would be out and the batter-runner safe at |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | thrown out at third base. The batter-runner safely attains second base. What is the ruling? | second base. |
| 9.4.1 11 Intro | | Catcher Obstruction The batter, in her prep stance, holds the bat straight across the plate and then brings it back. On the play in question, she brought it back <u>after</u> the pitch was released and on the way back, tipped the catcher's glove. I judged she was taking the pitch and not trying to make contact and didn't do it intentionally and therefore just called it a strike. Of course the coach questioned the call and said that is what that batter did every pitch as her preparation to swing. My question arises from the manual (in deciding whether it was batter interference or catcher obstruction the pitch is the determiner- Prior to the pitch reaching the plate, the batter is protected but after the pitch, the catcher is). What is the correct call? | The batter is entitled to an unobstructed swing at any pitch so if that is her normal motion, the catcher must stay back and allow her to swing. That said, the question becomes was the contact on the batter's attempt to make contact with the pitch (in which case, it is catcher obstruction) or was she trying to draw an obstruction call while taking the pitch (in which case it is batter's interference)? Knowing the rules and possibilities will allow the plate umpire to use judgment and apply the correct effect. |
| 9.4.1 11.22 | | Obstruction/Interference If a batter swings at a pitch so late that the ball is in the catcher's glove when bat/ball contact is made, is the call interference on the batter, catcher obstruction or no call? | This is a judgment call with an overriding principle of penalizing the offender. If the catcher anticipates the pitch and reaches forward to catch the ball over the plate, it is catcher obstruction. If the catcher catches the pitch well behind the plate and the purpose of the swing is to impede the catcher, that is batter interference. In the unlikely event both players are acting appropriately, it is generally a no call. |
| 9.4.2 12.19 12.19.7 | | Obstruction/Interference Runners on first and second bases with no outs. A ground ball is hit into the pitcher's circle that the pitcher fields and throws to third base for the force out. As the pitcher fields the ball, the shortstop (who is moving to field the ball near second base) and runner from second base collide, causing the runner to fall to the ground and be retired at third base. Is there interference on the runner for running into a fielder as she moved to field the ball or is the shortstop guilty of obstructing the base runner? | Per Rule 12.19.1.4.4, "If two fielders try to field a batted ball and the runner contacts one or both, the umpire shall decide which one is entitled to field the ball, and that fielder only is entitled to protection". Since the pitcher fielded the ball, only she is entitled to protection so there is no interference on the play. However, it should be noted that had the pitcher missed the ball, it would be umpire's judgment as to if she had a reasonable chance to field the ball or if the first fielder with a chance to field it would be the shortstop. Per Rule 9.4.2.1, "A fielder who is not in possession of the ball, not in the act of fielding a batted ball, or not about to receive a thrown ball, shall not impede the batter, batter-runner or runner." This too, relates to judgment. Since the pitcher was the protected player, the shortstop is guilty of obstruction and the runner should be awarded the base(s) she would have earned had obstruction not occurred. Remember too, there is the possibility of a no call for inadvertent contact. If the ball was clearly the pitcher's to field, the shortstop obstructed the runner. However, if the ball was clearly the shortstop's to field (but the pitcher miraculously snagged it), do not penalize the runner. |

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|---|
| 9.4.2 | Obstruction With a base runner on second base, the batter hits a base hit to left as the base runner is rounding third base she bumps into the third baseman instead of advancing towards home or returning to third she just stops and is put out. | | <p>Maybe the discrepancy in the two different answers comes from what each of you envision as you read the description of the play ... Here are my thoughts on the two different possibilities. Even though we try not to "get in the heads" of players and evaluate their intent, the apparent actions based on intent are often relevant and yes, judgment does come into play.</p> <p>1) If the base runner has rounded third base in the traditional sense of rounding a base to evaluate the defensive play, then the effect of obstruction would be to negate the putout and award the base runner third base. The base runner has not made it apparent to the umpire that she intends to advance home, she has merely rounded the base. In these cases, the runner is awarded only the base she held prior to the putout and the effect for violation of rule 9.4.2.6 is assessed.</p> <p>2) On the other hand, if the base runner rounds third base and her actions demonstrate her intent to continue to home, then the effect of the obstruction would be to negate the out and award the base runner home. In this case, the base runner's action needs to convince the umpire she intended to advance by clues such as aggressively rounding the base, the speed of the play, her body language and/or by the effect of the contact. If you believe she was obstructed in her pursuit of home (and the base runner gets the benefit of doubt here), award the additional base. In the particular case you wrote up, I envision your effect to be the first because "she bumps" into the defensive player and "she just stops" gives me the impression she was NOT truly prevented from advancing.</p> |
| 9.4.2 | Obstruction Base runners on first and second bases with two outs. Batter gets base hit to right field. The base runner from second base is obstructed going home as the throw is coming to the plate (she would clearly have scored). However she is knocked down and manages to scramble safely back to third base. Meanwhile, the throw to the plate gets by the catcher. The catcher retrieves the ball and throws to third base in time to tag out the trailing runner who is also on third base for the third out. Do we go ahead and award the obstructed runner home and score the run even though we have three outs? | | The lead runner scores on the award for obstruction (the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction) and the trailing runner is the third out at third base with the batter-runner being left on base. |
| 9.4.2 | Obstruction With a runner on second base and two outs, the batter singles to the outfield. The runner from second base collides with the third baseman but eventually | | On the obstruction call, the runner is awarded the base(s) she would have reached had there not been obstruction. If the umpire believes the runner would have scored before the third out was made, the run would count. If the umpire judges the runner would not have scored until after the tag at second, the run shall not score. Note-this is only |

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|---|
| | | progresses home. As the throw comes into the infield, it is cut off near the mound and a play is made on the batter-runner attempting second base. The third out is made at second base before the obstructed runner scores. Does the run score? | possible on a timing play and would not be the case if the third out was a force out. |
| 9.4.2.1 | Obstruction | In defining "about to receive" a thrown or pitched ball, does that mean the fielder is no longer in jeopardy of committing obstruction beginning at the moment the ball is closer to the fielder than the runner is? | Yes, the relationship between the ball and fielder and runner and fielder determines "about to receive". |
| 9.4.2.1 | Obstruction | Can the fielder be guilty of obstruction if the ball is not going to be played on because the fielder chooses not to play the batted ball and is just standing there? | Yes, the fielder has to actively be playing the ball (i.e. fielding, throwing or receiving a throw) to be protected. For example, if a player is following a slow roller roll down the foul line, hoping it will go foul, she is not protected and could be guilty of obstruction if she hinders the batter-runner on her way to the running lane. |
| 9.4.2.6 | Obstruction-Rounding/Returning | First baseman has been warned for rounding obstruction. The batter hits a ground ball in the gap and as she rounds first base to see if she can advance, she is obstructed by the first baseman. The base umpire signals obstruction and mentally judges where the batter-runner would have advanced had obstruction not occurred. In a) the batter-runner returns to first base which is the base the umpire judged she would have reached; b) the batter-runner safely slides into second base which is the base the umpire judged she would have reached and in c) the batter-runner boldly attempts third base, is easily thrown out however the umpire judged she would have only reached second base. | In a) at the conclusion of the play, the umpire will award the batter-runner second base as the effect for a subsequent obstruction violation by the first baseman. In b) the runner safely advanced to the base the umpire judged she would have reached had there not been obstruction and because it was one base beyond the base where she was obstructed, there is no additional effect. In c) the runner is out and there is no effect for the subsequent rounding obstruction. The batter-runner was only protected to second base but chose to attempt additional base(s). In essence, the one base award for a subsequent rounding or returning violation is only applied if the runner does not attain one base beyond where the obstruction occurred. |
| 9.4.2.6 | Obstruction-Rounding/Returning | First baseman has been warned for violating 9.4.2.6. Base runner rounds first base and is obstructed by first baseman. Umpire judges the base runner could have made second base. However the base runner goes on to third base and is put out by mile. By the obstruction rule, she is out. But by 'round/return' rule, she should be awarded a base. Which is correct? | The out would stand. The base runner is awarded one base beyond the rounding or returning obstruction, and if the runner gets more than that on their own, there would be no additional award. When the runner is legally put out beyond what would have been the one base award, she is out. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|-------|---------|--|---|
| | 9.4.2.6 | <u>Obstruction-Rounding/Returning</u> If a defender is warned for blocking a bag while a base runner is rounding the base, and in the following inning she obstructs a base runner returning to a base, are these 2 separate warnings? | No in both cases she violated 9.4.2.6. After the first violation she is warned and the next violation results in a one-base award to the base runner and each other base runner forced to advance. |
| 12.11 | 9.4.2.6 | <u>Obstruction-Rounding/Returning</u> If a defensive player commits a rounding and returning obstruction, would that defensive player still get a warning, even if it was a caught fly ball. | First of all, the correct reference for rounding and returning obstruction is 9.4.2.6. If the defensive player caught the fly ball, she would not be guilty of obstruction because she was playing the batted ball. If the player who obstructed is not the same as the one who caught the fly ball, then issue the warning for the unnecessary contact. |
| | 9.4.2.6 | <u>Obstruction-Rounding/Returning</u> Base runner on first base. The batter hits a long fly ball to deep left field close to the foul pole. The base runner advances watching for the catch. The second baseman also moves to second base watching for the catch. The runner attempts to round second, but the second baseman obstructs her. I signal delayed dead ball and say "obstruction". Then the left fielder misses the ball and it falls foul in the corner. Since it was a foul ball, do we still issue a warning to the second baseman for a rounding obstruction? | At the time of the obstruction, you have a delayed dead ball and obstruction call as you did. Then once the ball is dead, you issue the warning to the second baseman and notify the coach unless that player had previously been warned and then you have the one base award as detailed in 9.4.2.6 even though the ball ended up being an uncaught foul ball. |
| | 9.4.2.6 | <u>Obstruction-Rounding/Returning</u> Obstruction was signaled and called on the third baseman for a base runner returning to third base, but the formal warning was not given right away (as we should do with obstruction with rounding and returning). After the half inning when it occurred, the umpire went to the coach and player and inform them of the warning. The question is-is there a time when we cannot go back and warn after we have forgotten to warn (i.e. next pitch, end of half inning, or before next occurrence). The coach could say "yes you did call obstruction, but you did not give us a warning". On the other hand, the opposing coach could say the next time the third baseman obstructs for rounding or returning that her base runner should be awarded the next base. | In the unfortunate circumstance that the warning is not given immediately, it should be given as soon as possible because subsequent obstruction calls will result in a base award and we want to proactively prevent that whenever possible. Ideally, the player and coach know and will adjust positioning but the umpire's warning is important because it clarifies the type of obstruction called and the effect of subsequent violations. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 9.4.2.7 | <u>Visual Obstruction</u> Has there been any discussion on removing the "intentionally" on the prohibiting seeing the release of the pitch. The first basemen are getting pretty good at being in the way without ever looking over their shoulder, hence being non-intentional, but this is still prohibiting the runner from seeing the release. | Either the runner should ask the defensive player to move or the umpire can (if she notices the runner having difficulty positioning herself on the base and able to see). As soon as she is alerted, she should comply and if it continues, then you have grounds for assuming this is intentional. The reason we chose to leave "intentional" in is that the runner can "draw the violation" by positioning herself behind the fielder and then innocently claim not to see. |
| 9.4.3 | <u>Equipment Obstruction</u> How can detached defensive equipment interfere with a pitch? | With a base runner on second base, the batter swings and misses a low, outside pitch. The pitch is knocked down by the catcher but rolls a few feet to the right of the catcher. The catcher, watching the runner to prevent her from attempting to advance, whips off her mask and uses it to drag the ball toward her glove. The proper effect is to award the runner third base. |
| 9.6.1.3 | <u>Umpire Interference</u> With a base runner on first base, the batter bunts the ball in front of home plate. The catcher fields the ball and is just about to throw when the plate umpire knocks the ball out of the catcher's hand while pointing to indicate the ball was fair. Is that umpire interference since the rule specifically refers to pick offs and steals? | If the umpire contacts any other fielder playing a batted ball, the ball is live and interference is not ruled. It is only contact between the umpire and catcher that might result in interference. If there is a play in which the defense obtains an out, the play stands. But if the catcher is prevented from making a play or does not obtain an out, the batter is returned to the batter's box and the base runners returned. In this case, the catcher fielded the ball but was unable to attempt a play so the base runner returns to first base, the batter returns with the previous count. |
| 9.7.3 | <u>Lodged Ball</u> When a ball becomes lodged in the clothing or attached equipment of a defensive player the effect is the ball is live until it is judged by the umpire to no longer be playable at which time it is a declared dead ball. Question: what are the base awards once the ball is declared dead? | The base awards would be to the bases they would have reached had the ball not become lodged. |
| 9.9 | <u>Blocked Ball</u> If a shoe falls off a player and is struck by a batted ball, what is the effect? | If the shoe belongs to a base runner, it is loose offensive equipment (see Rule 9.9.1). If it belongs to a defensive player, it is considered loose defensive equipment (see Rule 9.9.2). |
| 9.10 | <u>Dead Ball</u> On a completely enclosed field with gates to the dugout, the plate umpire reminds coaches during the pregame meeting to keep the dugout gates closed. The gates are closed at the beginning of the play with a base runner on second base. The batter hits a ball that rolls all the way to the home-run fence. The base runner attempts to | If the ball went through the open gate <u>into the offensive team's dugout</u> : 1) if the offense was acting properly (i.e. the on-deck batter coming to the on-deck circle), penalize the defense for the errant throw by invoking the two base award from the time of the throw for the batter-runner and the base runner scores. 2) If however, the offense was not acting properly (i.e., opened the gate as the ball started rolling in that direction), declare dead ball and place the base and batter runners at the base last touched which means the run does not score. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---|---|
| | | score as the relay throw is off line and headed toward the dugout gate. As the base runner is about to score, a player opens the gate and the ball rolls through it and into the dugout. What is the effect? | If the ball went through the open gate <u>into the defensive team's dugout</u> : 1) There is no situation when the defense would be acting properly and open the gate; 2) If the defense did however open the gate to allow the ball to go out of play, declare dead ball and award the batter-runner and base runner the bases they would have reached had the defense not committed the unsporting act. |
| | 9.11 | <u>Pitch</u> When does a pitch end?? For example, if a pitched ball is rolling on ground and the catcher, while trying to retrieve it, accidentally kicks the ball into dugout. How many bases are awarded? Does it matter if the pitch is no longer is moving? | It is considered a pitch until it is fielded/caught or batted by a player so in your example, the award to base runners would be one base. It does not matter if the ball, at the time of the contact was moving or stationary. |
| | 10.1.3.3 11.2 | <u>Catcher Obstruction</u> May a batter take a stride position at the front of the batter's box and, as the pitch is delivered, move the rear foot backward toward the catcher to reclaim the batter's box from a catcher who has legally moved forward and therefore be compensated for catcher obstruction if contact occurs? | No, since the only possible reason for striding backward is to hinder the catcher, this action is inconsistent with the spirit of the game and should not result in rewarding the offender. Note- the catcher may not obstruct, hinder or prevent the batter's <u>legitimate</u> attempt to make contact with a pitch so movement by the batter that enhances her ability to contact the pitch is protected by catcher obstruction's penalty. The benefit of the doubt must go to the batter. |
| | 10.2 | <u>Taking Signal</u> The pitcher puts her front foot on the pitcher's plate and looks in to the catcher who by her hand/arm movements gives the pitcher the signal. The pitcher then steps on the pitcher's plate with her other foot, brings her hands together and begins the pitch. Is this a legal pitch or an illegal pitch? | The pitcher is not restricted to taking only 1 signal. She can stand as described and receive a signal from the catcher or the coach in the dugout or her dad in the stands. <u>But</u> she must then take another signal or simulate taking a signal in the position described in 10.2...both feet on the pitcher's plate, hands separated, the ball in either (but not both hands). This required position alerts the batter and umpire that she is about to bring her hands together, separate them and deliver the pitch. |
| | 10.4 | <u>Pitcher's Step</u> Dealing with a right handed NCAA pitcher who, when she starts her motion, lifts her pivot foot 6 to 8 inches toward the sky vertically and then puts the right foot down on top of the pitcher's plate before she takes her step. Is this legal? | No, the pitcher must maintain contact with the pitcher's plate and then make take one step toward home plate. The effect for the action you describe is illegal pitch. |
| | 10.7 | <u>Dropped Ball</u> The pitcher was taking her sign from the catcher, and just dropped the ball before putting her hands together. The plate umpire awarded a ball to the batter. My question here is: Shouldn't this have been just a "live" | Yes, apply rule 10.7.1...no penalty but runners may advance with liability to be put out since the pitcher no longer has possession of the ball in the circle. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|---|--|
| | | ball with no penalty? The pitcher just dropped the ball before starting any pitching motion. | |
| | 10.8 | <u>Illegal Pitch</u> Runner at first base. Illegal pitch is called and batter hits a double to the outfield. The base runner rounds third base and heads home. The batter-runner reaches second base but the initial base runner is tagged out at the plate. The question is: since the batter reached second base and the base runner passed second base, is Effect 1 what we apply -that if the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the play stands, and the illegal pitch is cancelled? Does this not penalize the offense? | I can see where you might interpret it as penalizing the offense but the base runner and batter-runner both advanced a base from where they were at the time of the illegal pitch. So that result was better than the effect for an illegal pitch and that is why the play stands. The fact that the base runner unsuccessfully attempted two additional bases is what resulted in the out. |
| | 10.8 10.10.5 11.16.3.4 | <u>Hit by Illegal Pitch</u> Base runners on first and second bases, no outs. What is the effect if the slapper runs out of the front of the batter's box and gets hit by the pitch a) if she swings and misses and b) if she does not swing AND in both cases, the pitch is called illegal? | In a) the result of the play is a dead ball strike so the base runners did not advance and the batter is not on base which means the offensive coach can keep those results or choose the standard effect for illegal pitch (ball on the batter and both base runners advance). In b) the result of the play is "no pitch" so the base runners did not advance and the batter is not on base which means the offensive coach can keep those results or choose the standard effect for illegal pitch. NOTE- Effect 3 in 10.8 refers to a batter who is hit by the pitch IN the batter's box and not to a pitch that has not yet reached home plate. |
| 1-10-12 | 10.10.4 | <u>No Pitch</u> You all have probably caught this, but I do not believe Rule 10.10.4 applies anymore with the change to a delayed dead ball when a runner leaves early. | This was a topic we discussed and decided to leave under 10.10 because it is a list of the possible circumstances under which no pitch would be the result. If the coach chooses the leaving to soon penalty then it is "no pitch" and the effect for no pitch is that all action on that pitch is cancelled. So it is a possible result. |
| | 10.13 | <u>Foreign Substance on Ball</u> Concerning Mighty Grip and Gorilla Grip. I assume either of these grip enhancers requires a wipe-off prior to contact with the ball. However, I also can see that if these gripping agents are not considered a foreign substance, they would not require that wipe-off, as that only pertains to a foreign substance. So, is a wipe required, or not? If the pitcher is using these and nothing is sticking to the ball, do we require them to wipe their hand? | Either of these products can be used to dry the pitcher's hand and because nothing transfers to the ball, she does not have to wipe it off. However it cannot be applied directly to the ball and if it is, it will be an illegal pitch. If a similar substance is used and residue does transfer to the ball, that too would have to be wiped off or result in an illegal pitch. So if there's a product you are not familiar with, ask the pitcher to apply it as she wants to use it in a game, then have her grip the ball and hand it to you. If there is transfer of product onto the ball, then you have a foreign substance that is not appropriate. If not, then the product would be okay. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---|---|
| 12-10-11 | 10.13 | <p><u>Foreign Substance on Ball</u> There is a new product on the market called "Liquid Grip". It comes in bottle similar to soft soap and when you push the pump, the liquid comes on your hand and makes your hand "tacky". It is designed for batters who do not use batting gloves to be able to grip the bat better, but I can see it being used by pitchers. It will be put on in the dugout out of sight and is undetectable unless you feel the hand. It is reactivated simply by putting a small amount of water on the hand and the tackiness comes back. Is this product going to be allowed for pitchers?</p> | <p>If the pitcher puts any substance on her hand in the dugout, it will likely not be detected by either the umpires or opponents UNLESS the substance transfers to the ball. In that case, if the ball becomes tacky, an illegal pitch is called for the first offense and the pitcher is ejected for any subsequent offense. It does not matter who on the defense defaces the ball, so regardless of the source, the penalty is the same.</p> |
| | 10.13.2 | <p><u>Foreign Substance on Ball</u> The batter just received ball four, and is on her way to first base. The catcher returns the ball to the pitcher. Prior to the batter-runner touching first base, the pitcher is in the circle and goes to her mouth wetting her fingers and without wiping off, the pitcher applies the saliva to the ball. Is illegal pitch enforced even though it is not yet a pitch?</p> | <p>An illegal pitch can be called for any pitch thrown by the pitcher that is in violation of the pitching rules but also as an effect for a rules violation. It is the latter case that applies to this situation of applying a foreign substance to the ball. By rule, "For the first offense, an illegal pitch shall be called as soon as the foreign substance touches the ball." Therefore, the umpire witnessing the action calls "illegal pitch" and makes the award. After the batter-runner touches first base, she is awarded second base. The next batter starts her at-bat with a 1-ball and 0-strike count. The pitcher need not be in the pitching position nor actually throw a doctored pitch.</p> |
| 12-2-11 | 10.13.2 | <p><u>Foreign Substance on Ball</u> I was at an umpiring camp recently and there seemed to be some misunderstanding of this rule and how to enforce it. The disagreement comes over if dirt is a foreign substance. Some umpires suggest "preventive umpiring" by preventing the pitcher from continuing with the pitch and instead ask to see the ball after she applies dirt to it. Others say dirt is not a foreign substance. My thought was that I don't know a store that I can buy a ball with dirt on it, therefore its foreign substance. While preventive umpiring is to make sure we rub the ball up prior to giving it to the pitcher, but if she chooses to add more dirt to it herself, I believe the rule is clear.</p> | <p>I agree that the preventative umpiring part of the equation is to be sure all balls are rubbed up before you put one into the game. In that pregame process, dirt can be used or substances like Turface or Gorilla Gold that remove the manufacturers' gloss and slickness. But once the umpire puts a ball in play, applying any substance to the ball is not legal.</p> |
| | 10.16 | <p><u>Returning Ball to Pitcher</u> Runners on second and third bases, no outs, tie ball game bottom of the seventh inning. Defensive</p> | <p>You are right that this scenario does not fall under an exception in 10.16 so the effect would be enforced. In addition to the ball on the batter, the catcher would be warned and</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|---|
| | | coach uses a conference. The first pitch to the batter is outside called a ball, the catcher throws the ball directly to first base, instead of back to the pitcher. I called an additional ball on the batter, for the catcher throwing to first base, and resumed play with a 2-0 count. What would the correct call be in this scenario? We have looked at 10.16 returning a pitched ball to the pitcher, and don't feel that it falls into that category, and we have also looked at 10.15 intentional base on balls, and we don't feel that it falls into that category either, because the pitcher didn't do it. Any clarification in this scenario is greatly appreciated. | should she do it again, she would be ejected. If the umpire believes the act was intentional in order to walk the batter, the ball would not be assessed but the catcher would still be warned. |
| 10.18 AR3 11.23.2 | Time Between Pitches Can the batter, after stepping out of the batter's box without being granted time, run back into the box and legally hit the ball? After assuming her legal position, what if the batter leaves the batter's box and the pitcher delivers a pitch or she re-enters the batter's box after the 10-second count expires? | Yes, because play was not suspended by the plate umpire, if the batter realizes her mistake and gets back in the box, she may legally continue her turn at bat. There is a significant distinction here. If the batter, pitcher and catcher all assume their appropriate positions and then, without being granted time, the batter leaves the batter's box but the pitcher delivers the pitch in the allowable time, the pitch is a ball or strike, depending on its location in the zone. However, if the batter, pitcher and catcher all assume their respective positions and then without being granted time, the batter leaves the batter's box <u>and</u> the time between pitches expires while she is out of the batter's box, the effect is a strike even though the pitch was never thrown or she re-enters the box after the time expires. The rationale is to always disadvantage the batter for leaving her position when play is not suspended. | |
| 10.18 | Time Between Pitches At the start of the game the home team has finished their warm-up and are huddling at the mound, the pitcher has the ball and the batter is at the batter's box ready. Should the umpire call "Play Ball" and start the 10 second count or should he wait until the huddle breaks. | Manage the flow of the game by allowing the huddle to break up but IF this is taking an excessive amount of time, walk toward the mound and encourage the players to assume their positions. If your reminders continue without a change in their behavior, it MIGHT be necessary to say "play ball" and begin the count but I suspect that will be the exception. Most players will adapt their timing and finish their huddle and be ready to disperse and play in reasonable time. | |
| 10.19 | Warm-up Pitches With a base runner on third base, the defensive coach reports a defensive change of the pitcher and second baseman. The incoming pitcher takes her five allowable warm-up pitches and then throws four additional warm-up pitches, the penalty for which the umpire awards four | Unfortunately, it is legal however I think this is largely preventable by the umpires interceding immediately. Ideally, as soon as the fifth warm-up pitch is thrown, the plate umpire will resume play but occasionally that is not the case due to the amount of time it takes to record the substitution. If the plate umpire is still engaged, perhaps one additional warm-up pitch might be thrown before the base umpire can stop the actions but it shouldn't go unnoticed for four additional pitches. Teams attempting this tactic will | |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--|---|
| | | balls to the next batter. As soon as the batter reaches first base on the award, the defensive coach switches the players back. The coach was simply walking the batter with no risk of the base runner from third base advancing. Is this strategy legal? | likely throw the warm-up pitches quickly and the crew must be alert to the possibility that they are attempting to intentionally walk a batter using this strategy. A variation of this situation occurs when a pitcher begins an inning, is replaced by a relief pitcher and then returns to pitch all in the same inning. The returning pitcher may quickly attempt four warm-up pitches and since she is not entitled to them, the same result of the batter being awarded first base occurs. In the end though, if any pitcher throws warm-up pitches that she is not entitled to, the next batter(s) would receive the awarded ball(s). |
| | 10.19 | Warm-up Pitches A pitcher is struggling on the mound and is removed from the pitching position due to injury. Her replacement has not warmed up at all and therefore takes more than 5 warm-up pitches to get ready. Can the original pitcher come back to pitch in this game? Wouldn't coaches take advantage of this loophole in the warm-up rule? | NCAA rules do not prevent the pitcher from returning to pitch...they only prevent a pitcher who returns in the same inning from having any warm-up pitches. So if a pitcher is removed due to injury, the substitute enters and is allowed adequate warm-up time. If the original pitcher is ready to return, she can do so...even in the same inning... with no limitations other than not receiving warm-up pitches in the same inning. You are absolutely correct that this could be used inappropriately however in all cases, we error on the side of student-athlete welfare and safety. We hope it is never abused BUT if it is, we also hope that word will get around about a particular coach using this and then it can be addressed through their administration. Could someone get away with it once, absolutely; but if they use it several times, the coaching community will be buzzing about it and we think asking a student-athlete to fake an injury to get that extra warm-up time will be a tough secret to keep. |
| 2-6-12 | 10.19.1 | Warm-Up Pitches from Circle 10.19.1 does not state where they can pitch from . . . 1) Is it acceptable for a pitcher during her warm-ups to throw from halfway between the circle and 2b? 2) Is it acceptable for a pitcher during her warm-ups to start from just behind the circle but actually release the ball from inside the circle? 3) Is it acceptable for a pitcher during her warm-ups to throw from in front of the circle? | Although 10.19.1 does not specifically address where she can begin her pitch, 6.5.6.1 does require that her warm-up pitch be from the pitcher's circle. 112.21.1 says a pitcher is considered to be in the pitcher's circle when both her feet are within the circle or on the lines. So, in the end, to not be in violation of the rules, the pitcher must start with both feet in/on the pitcher's circle and deliver her warm-up pitches to the plate. Thus none of the three situations in the question is legal. |
| | 10.19.5 | Pitcher's Warm-up Rule 10.19.5 says that the pitcher shall be given adequate time to warm up after any substantial delay caused by inclement weather, injury or delayed play by the umpire. Does this mean that they can continue to throw warm up pitches while the umpire is recording lineup changes? | The key here is additional warm-up pitches are allowed in the event of "substantial delay". The purpose of the rule is to minimize the risk of injury to the pitcher who is unable to stay loose or warm due to circumstances beyond her control. So in general, recording lineup changes would not cause substantial delays and result in extra pitches. If in doubt, the pitcher should ask the umpire for permission to throw additional warm-up pitches without penalty. |
| | 11 intro 11.3.3.2 | Batter's Swing Contacts Catcher's Mitt Runners on base but no outs. Third strike swinging - | The batter is entitled to one unobstructed swing but only until the catcher contacts it. It is not obstruction as the batter's opportunity to hit the ball ended on the catch. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| | | catcher catches pitch which is high and inside but brings her up and behind batter. The batter's swing is balanced and normal (although long) which causes contact with the catcher's mitt (not the ball) and dislodges the ball. Is it obstruction? dropped third strike? batter interference? | It is not a dropped third strike as the catcher was prevented from holding onto the pitch. It is not batter's interference as the situation says her swing was normal. Ruling is a strike and since it was her third, the batter is out. |
| 11.6 | | Foul Tip On a potential foul tip with 2 strikes on the batter... Situation (a.) Ball goes directly off the bat, nicks off the catcher's glove, rebounds into the air, and the catcher catches it in her glove. Situation (b.) Ball goes directly off the bat, nicks off the catcher's glove, hits her in the chest, rebounds off of her and she catches it in her glove. Situation (c.) Ball goes directly off the bat, hits the catcher in the chest, rebounds off of her and she catches it in her glove. | For both a) and b) the ruling would be foul tip/strike three. c) Is a foul ball because the first contact was not with the catcher's hand or glove. |
| 11.6 11.14 | | Foul Tip I believe I know what a foul tip is and what a dropped third strike is but can one change the other? What I mean by that is with two strikes and no one on first base the pitcher pitches the ball, it drops off the table and skips off the dirt just as the batter is swinging but she still gets a piece of it fouling it directly back thus producing a foul tip into the catcher's glove. Question: Did the fact that she was able to foul tip it eliminate the dropped third strike? Or is it any pitch that hits the dirt after leaving the pitcher's hand will be considered a dropped third strike? | The batter may swing at, bunt or hit a ball even though it has bounced but then must take the result of the play as opposed to the result of the dropped third strike. So if she had swung at a ball on a high bounce and hit it out of the park, she is credited with a home run...if she foul tips a low bounce back to the catcher, the result is a strike and, in this particular case, since it was her third strike, she is out. You cannot have a dropped third strike on a batted ball. |
| 11.11.3 | | Batting Out of Order Leadoff batter is now the runner on second base, no one out. Batter three (improper batter) singles to outfield and is safe at second base on the throw home. Runner who started on second base advances to home but misses third base. At the conclusion of the play, the first base coach appeals to the plate umpire regarding batting out of order at the same time the third base coach appeals to | The umpire crew will resolve the appeals in the order in which the appeals occurred. If an order cannot be determined (i.e. too close to call), the plate umpire will ask the head coach to identify the appeal to be ruled on first. If the defense first appeals the runner from second base missed third base, she is out (first out) and then appeals the improper batter before the next pitch, batter two is declared out for failing to bat (second out) and advance by batter three is nullified. Batter three is now up to bat with 2 outs, no runners. If the defense first appeals the improper batter before the next pitch, batter two is |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | the base umpire regarding the missed base. Which takes precedence? | declared out (first out) for failing to bat and since all advances are nullified, the runner is returned to second base. The next batter is the one who follows the player called out (that is, batter three) who now bats with one out, runner on second base. |
| 11.11.3 | | <u>Batting Out of Order</u> The leadoff batter in the inning strikes out, the next batter is skipped in the batting order but the player after her grounds into the second out of the inning. Before a pitch to the next batter, the defensive coach informs the umpire that a batter was skipped and in the effect of rule 11.11.3, "the player who should have batted is out". Therefore, inning over with three outs, correct? | Incorrect, the batter who should have batted is out but the result of the play (the ground out) is nullified". Either way, there will be a batter with 2 outs. So a coach who sees this mistake needs to decide who he/she wants at bat...if the skipped batter is the out, then the batter in the box is the one who just grounded out...if the batter who grounded out remains the second out, the next batter is the one who follows her in the batting order and the mistake in the batting order is not brought to the umpire's attention. |
| 11.14 12.9.11 | | <u>Dropped Third Strike</u> With less than 2 out and first base occupied, the batter-runner leaves the batter's box and heads toward first base after a third strike not held by the catcher. The base runner feigns stealing but returns to first base which draws a throw by the catcher. The throw ricochets off the batter-runner (who was out on strikes) allowing the base runner to advance to second base. Per ASA rules, the ball is dead and the runner returns to first. What is the NCAA ruling? | Rule 11, section 14 covers the general rule for dropped third strike. The ball is live and runners may advance. However since the batter-runner is already out on strikes, when she interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play, apply the penalty in rule 12.9.11. That is, the ball is dead and the runner closest to home at the time of the interference shall be declared out. If there had been additional runners, they would be returned to the last base touched at the time of interference. |
| 11.16 12.3.2 14.2.16 | | <u>Hit By Pitch/Ball Four</u> The batter is hit by a pitch that would have resulted in a base on balls. Which one takes precedence? | In most cases, the batter is awarded first base by virtue of being hit by the pitch. The rationale is that the ball should be dead and other base runners not permitted to advance as the catcher tracks down the deflected pitch. That said though, if the batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch not entirely in the batter's box or initiates the contact with the pitch and the umpire would <u>not</u> have awarded the batter first base based on the contact, the batter is awarded first base on ball four and it is scored as a base on balls. There are umpire mechanics specified for each of these awards to assist the scorekeeper in the proper call. |
| 11.16.3.2 | | <u>Hit By Pitch</u> If a pitch that is over the plate but not in the strike zone, hits the batter, is the batter awarded first base? This rule says when the pitch is in the strike zone but if it is not a strike (too high or low) yet over the plate is she still awarded the base? | If the batter-ball contact is in the strike zone or the batter swings, it is a dead ball strike. If the batter-ball contact is over the plate but not a strike, it is a dead ball ball. If the batter-ball contact is in front of home plate, it is no pitch. In all of the above cases, the batter is not awarded first base by virtue of being hit by the pitch. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|--|
| | 11.18 1.68 | <u>Infield Fly</u> Is the infield fly rule in effect even if no umpire calls it? | If a ball is hit that would otherwise meet the definition of an infield fly but is NOT declared, it is NOT an infield fly. |
| | 11.18 note | <u>Infield Fly</u> The rule book says that any defensive player who positions herself in the infield at the start of the pitch shall be considered an infielder for the purpose of this rule. Does that mean that an outfielder who might be playing shallow and comes in and calls off the infielder changes this from an infield fly to just a routine fly ball? | Yes, a team can have all three outfielders in the infield prior to the pitch and if one of them catches an infield pop-up that was declared an infield fly, it is an infield fly. If an infielder could catch the ball with ordinary effort, it is an infield fly regardless of who actually catches it. |
| | 11.22.2 | <u>Batter Interference</u> What's the call if a batter, who is drawing her bat backward just prior to a pitch, contacts the catcher? | There are several possibilities here. Often times the umpire's holding the pitcher up until the batter has assumed her set position will prevent this situation. But assuming it did not... this is a judgment call with an overriding principle of penalizing the offender. If the pitcher has not begun her motion, as soon as contact is made, the umpire should call no pitch and step out of the set position. Everyone then resets without penalty. If drawing the bat backward is an attempt to hinder the catcher, (as in showing bunt and then deliberately drawing the bat back to protect a base stealer) invoke the penalty for 11.22.2. That is, the batter is out; the ball is dead on the interference. If the contact impedes the batter's ability to contact the ball, enforce catcher obstruction (9.4.2). |
| 11-11 | 11.22.2 12.2 | <u>Batter Interference</u> Base runner on first base; 3-1 count on the batter; 2 outs. The base runner is off on the 3-1 pitch; the defensive dugout is yelling "steal". It is a close outside pitch but the catcher comes up throwing to second base before and during the time the umpire is calling the pitch a ball. The batter, now batter-runner, is coming across the plate and freezes as the catcher is trying to throw to second base. The catcher makes contact with the batter-runner and her throw sails into center field. Is this still not interference the same as a batter stepping across when there wasn't a ball four situation? Does a walk and the fact that the base runner is entitled to go to second base change anything? | For there to be interference on the batter-runner in this case, the interference has to be intentional. Not sure if that is the case when you say she freezes, so that's umpire judgment. If it is not intentional, it is incidental contact that does not carry a penalty. If it is intentional interference by the batter-runner, then enforce 11.22.2 or 12.2.5 depending on the location of the interference. The walk only means the runner cannot be thrown out advancing from first base to second base but she can be retired after touching second base and attempting to either advance or dive back into second base so the ball is still live to allow for that play by the catcher. |
| | 11.22.2 | <u>Batter Interference</u> Base runner on second base when left-handed hitting batter takes a strike. Attempting to pick the base runner off second, the catcher's throw strikes the motionless | The ball is live when the catcher throws the ball and it strikes the bat but becomes dead when the ball deflects out of play. The base runner scores on the play and batter remains at bat with a strike one count. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| | | bat of the batter who is standing still in the batter's box and the ball deflects out of play into dead ball area. | |
| 11.22.3 | | <u>Batter Interference</u> With one out and bases loaded, the batter swings and misses the pitch. The batter's bat knocks the ball out of the catcher's glove on the follow through. The base runner on third, seeing the ball roll away from the catcher, breaks for home and scores. What is the call? | The batter is out, the ball is dead and the runners must return to the last bases touched unless the umpire rules the batter interfered with the catcher. For that to be the case, the umpire must judge the act to be intentional in which case 11.22.3 would be invoked. |
| 11.22.3 | | <u>Batter Interference</u> The batter runs toward first base after striking out. The catcher catches the pitch but the batter draws a throw by the catcher to the first baseman. Is it the catcher's responsibility to know the batter is out or is this interference and therefore the base runner closest to home is called out? | It is the catcher's responsibility to know that the batter is out on strike three but she is entitled to throw to any base to keep a base runner close or attempt a pick off. It would not be interference by the batter unless she does something to interfere with play (like providing a screen so the first baseman could not return a throw home to prevent a base runner on third base from scoring). |
| 11.22.4 note | | <u>Batter Interference</u> The batter swings and does not make contact with the pitch however her swing is so forceful that on the follow through, her bat hits the catcher and hinders her throw on a runner who is stealing. NCAA baseball rule 6, section 2d specifies it is not interference but a strike, dead ball, and runners must return. Is this the correct call for NCAA softball? | In softball, it is interference. Although the batter is entitled to an unencumbered attempt to hit the ball, the catcher is also entitled to make a play without being hindered by the batter. In the situation you describe, the batter's attempt to hit the ball ended when ball/bat collision did not occur so the catcher must now be entitled to throw. Since the catcher was hindered by the batter, the penalty for interference should be invoked. |
| 12.2.2 | | <u>Batter-Runner Interference</u> With the bases loaded and one out, the batter hits a high infield fly ball toward first base. The umpire invokes the infield fly rule however no infielder attempts to catch the ball. The ball lands in fair territory where it contacts the batter-runner. The first baseman subsequently fields the rebounded ball and tags the runner who started on first base standing a step off first base. What rule applies? | As soon as the ball and runner collide, the ball is declared dead. Since the contact occurred in fair territory, the batter-runner is out by application of the infield fly rule and runners are returned to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. Had the contact occurred in foul territory, the correct call would have been foul ball. Even though the batter-runner had been declared out on the infield fly and subsequent contact occurred, it is not batter-runner interference because no fielder was attempting to make a play at the time of the contact. |
| 12.2.4 | | <u>Batter-Runner Interference</u> Base runner on third base. Batter receives a base on balls and trots down to first base. After she is half way and the running lane has started, the catcher throws to first base in an attempt to keep her from continuing to | On the base award, the batter-runner cannot be put out solely as a result of a defender's action. However she can be put out for violating base running rules. In the first situation, the batter-runner has violated the rule which stipulates she shall not run outside the runner's lane and interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base. On the interference, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and each other runner returns to |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|---|
| | | second. 1) The throw hits the batter-runner who is in fair territory or 2) the throw hits a part of the runner's body which is over fair territory although her feet are both in the running lane. | her base. In the second situation, there is no interference since the batter-runner's feet are within the runner's lane. The ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk. Note that in the second example, if the batter-runner, even though she is in the runner's lane, intentionally interferes by waving her hands, interference would be enforced. |
| | 12.2.5 | <u>Batter-Runner Interference</u> If a batter-runner intentionally interferes with a thrown ball going to first base and the base runner is so quick she is on her way to third base when the interference happens, the rule says the base runner gets the last base she touched when interference occurred (which would mean she gets second base and is not sent back to first base). I can see this used strategically to move a runner with fewer than two outs. If the batter-runner did it intentionally to cause interference, why would we allow this infraction to be able to move a runner at all, regardless of the base runner's quickness? | 12.2.5 refers to a batter-runner but only when she intentionally interferes with the ball. .. for example, a ball thrown toward home that is kicked by the batter in an attempt to keep the catcher from tracking it down. In your example, the offense is penalized for their interference because, as you mentioned, the base runner was on her way to third base and must now return to second base because that's all she had attained at the time of interference. |
| | 12.3.3.5 12.3.5.2 | <u>Base Awards</u> Award of Home Plate..... "When a fair batted fly ball is deflected by a fielder or fielders over the home-run fence in fair territory". Award Second Base..... "When a fair batted ball deflects off a fence and then off a fielder before going over the home-run fence" . The ball has never touched the ground when deflecting off the fence, then off fielder, then over HR fence so why are they both not home runs? | They are two different situations...the first is a ball whose impetus from the bat sends it over the home-run fence so the batter "deserves" a home-run; the second is a ball that deflects off the home-run fence, back into the field of play where it deflects off a fielder and that impetus sends it over the home-run fence. In this case the batter "deserves" whatever bases she can reach (not a home-run) however with the ball out of play, she is not free to advance. She is awarded second just as if the ball had bounded over or through the fence. |
| | 12.5.1 | <u>Base Running Mistake</u> Bases are loaded and the count is two balls and two strikes on the batter. The next pitch is ball three; however the batter drops her bat and runs to first. All other runners advance without anyone attempting to play on them, and a run scores. The umpires realizing that it is only ball three brings the batter back to bat and return the runners back to their original bases. Is this the correct ruling? | The umpire was correct in recalling the batter to the box and continuing her turn at bat with a full count however the base runners who advanced should not have been returned to their original bases. They advanced legally during a live ball and should receive credit for doing so...including the run scored. Returning the base runners to their previous bases would be protestable. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------|---|--|
| | 12.9.1 | <u>Ball Possession</u> On a play at first base, the throw bounces and the first baseman securely controls the ball between her arm and her body just before the batter-runner touches the base. Is the batter–runner out? | By rule, the batter-runner is out on a force play if the fielder contacts the base while having and maintaining possession of the ball. However possession is defined by a fielder who, with her hand(s) and/or glove/mitt gains control of a batted, pitched or thrown ball. Therefore the batter-runner in the question is not out. |
| | 12.9.1 12.27.3 | <u>Ball Possession</u> Bottom of the seventh, tie game, two outs with runners on first and second bases. The batter hits a slow roller to the first baseman who fields the ball barehanded between her feet, then turns around and dives for first base. She reaches to touch first base with the ball for the force out and as the ball touches the base, it squirts loose. The runner from second crosses home plate before the first baseman can regain possession of the ball. Does the run score or is the batter- runner out on the force out? | The batter –runner is out. There is no time frame that the ball must be held. If the defensive player has control of the ball when she touches first base, the base dislodging the ball is irrelevant. Similarly, if the first baseman fields a ground ball, has secure possession, and instead of diving to tag the ball to the base, she takes a few steps parallel to the foul line and touches first base with her foot. At the instant she steps on the bag, the batter-runner's foot lands half on the bag and half on the first baseman's foot causing them both to get tangled up, fall and the ball slips out. Nothing intentional, just a wreck immediately after contact with the base on the force out. The runner would be out on the force even though the base runner caused the ball to come loose. |
| 1-10-12 | 12.9.5 | <u>Base Runner is Out</u> This true-false question was presented at our meeting: The base runner from third base scores (lead runner) and the base runner from second base (trailing runner) follows her but misses home plate on her slide. The umpire calls "No Tag" and gives the safe sign. The lead runner helps the trailing runner to get to her feet. She touches the plate before the tag and is ruled safe. The answer was False. I contend that the trailing runner is not a runner anymore because she is considered safe until the appeal. | She is out under rule 12.9.5. The trailing runner knows she has missed home plate so she is headed back to tag it. The catcher has heard the umpire declare "no tag" and is attempting to tag the trailing runner before she can score. But before the play finishes, the trailing runner is illegally contacted by a teammate. When the defense appeals that the base runner missed the base and then was assisted by a base runner who had already scored, she will be declared out under 12.9.5. |
| | 12.12 | <u>Abandonment</u> If a batter believes she has been struck out and leaves the playing area (i.e. enters the dugout), do the same penalties apply as if she was a base runner who abandons her base or a batter-runner who fails to advance on a base award? | No, the batter may be summoned from off the field of play and return to complete her turn at bat without penalty. Ironically, no other offensive player has the same benefit of making an error and having it corrected without penalty but abandoning a base refers to a base runner, not a batter abandoning the batter's box. |
| 1-20-12 | 12.12 | <u>Abandonment</u> Runners on first and third bases, two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning with a tied score. Batter hits a | The base runner is called out for abandonment but that is a timing play so if the base runner from third base touched home plate before the base runner from first base was out, the run scores and the game is over. However, if the defense appealed the base |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|--|---|
| | | single, touches first base and the runner from third touches home plate but the base runner from first base starts to advance but then goes to join the celebration at home plate without advancing to second base. Does the run score? | runner from first base failed to touch the base to which she was forced (second base), that would be a force out and the run would not score. Note- the umpire shall call the base runner out for abandonment but not tip off the defense that an appeal opportunity exists. Instead they should observe the actions of the defenders and once they have left fair territory and the catcher left her normal position, the opportunity for an appeal closes and the game is over. |
| | 12.12.5 | <u>Abandonment</u> Runner on first base, 1 out, bottom of the 7th. Batter hits the ball to the second baseman and she throws to second base to get the runner from first base on a force out. The batter-runner over runs first base (thinking she was out) takes a wide turn towards the fence. The first base coach says, "Get back here, you are not out". The coach does not touch the batter-runner, but she does get back to first base safely. Is this considered abandoning a base and should the batter-runner be called out? With the force out at second base, this would be the third out of the inning and game over. | The batter-runner would not be guilty of abandoning her base for simply turning toward dead ball territory (the fence). She would be out however if she had left the field of play or obviously headed into her dugout. |
| | 12.13 | <u>Catch and Carry</u> Base runner on first base when the ball is hit to the third baseman who overthrows first base. The ball rolls in foul territory and stops right before the out-of-play chalk line. The right fielder, in foul territory, picks up the ball but fumbles it out-of-play. What is the base award? | Apply the catch and carry rule. Award both the batter and base runner one base from the base last legally touched at the time the fielder fumbled the ball out of play OR two bases if the umpires believe the fumble was intentional. |
| 1-5-12 | 12.14.3 | <u>Collisions</u> Runner on second base takes her lead directly toward the shortstop, who is 10 to 12 feet behind (the outfield side) the baseline between second and third bases (as opposed to a leadoff directly toward third base). The ball is hit directly over second base so the base runner is in the fielder's direct line to the ball. Must the runner go around the shortstop to avoid contact? The runner in my judgment is trying to draw an obstruction call. | The shortstop must be given an opportunity to field the ball with consideration for how deep she is playing and the speed and trajectory of the ball. If the runner interferes with her reasonable opportunity to make a play, that's interference. If she does not have a reasonable opportunity to play the batted ball but collides with the base runner, 12.14.3 likely occurs. |
| | 12.19.1.1 | <u>Interference</u> What does it mean "before it passes an infielder" in the rule when it says "The base runner may not contact a fair | No, it refers to a ball that is within range of an infielder but has not yet reached her. So a ball hit directly to the second baseman would be judged when it passes her. The first baseman is irrelevant because she is not expected to field a batted ball hit directly to the |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|--|
| | | batted ball, while off base, before it touches a fielder or before it passes an infielder (other than the pitcher) who has a reasonable chance to make a play"? Since the first and third baseman play up, doesn't that apply to anything except bunts? | second baseman. If a base runner running from first base to second base cannot contact that batted ball while running in front of the second baseman who is the fielder expected to field it. |
| | 12.19.1.2 | Interference Runner on first base with no one out. The first baseman is playing in for the bunt as the batter hits a screaming line drive past the first baseman that the second baseman has absolutely no chance of getting to. The ball hits off the base runner's shoulder (who is off the base) and deflects into right field. Is interference called? | Per rule 12.19.1.2, "the base runner may not contact an untouched, fair batted ball, after it passes an infielder if another fielder has a chance to make a play." If, in the umpire's judgment, the right fielder had a chance to make a play, rule interference. The rule is not intended to protect only the four infielders but any fielder, regardless of where she is positioned. |
| | 12.19.1.4 | Interference Runners on first, second and third bases. One out. Pop up right behind first base, infield fly called, base runner comes off of first base and on the way back to the base, runs into the first baseman attempting to field the fly ball. Interference. The base runner from third base tags and advances home. Two out on the play correct? | You are right that the batter is out on the infield fly and the ball is immediately dead and the base runner is out at the time of interference. The base runner from third does not score. |
| | 12.19.1.4 12.19.1.5 | Interference Base runner on third base. Slow roller is hit right on the third base foul line and as the third baseman charges the ball, the base runner, who is barely in foul territory, collides with her. The ball is not touched, rolls foul and stops. | 12.19.1.4 refers to interference on fair batted balls and 12.19.1.5 refers to interference on foul batted balls only when the fielder has an opportunity to make a play. In your situation, neither applies and the ruling would be foul ball. If the foul ball had a chance to become fair however (i.e. had it not stopped), it would be interference under 12.19.1.4. |
| | 12.19.1.4 | Interference I have had two separate situations, both involving base runners at first and second bases when a slow roller was hit to the second baseman. In both, the base runner leaving first base had minor contact with the fielder as she crossed the base path to field the ball. In both cases, the out was obtained at first base as that was the only play she had due to the slow roll on the ball, and the base runners leaving on the pitch. In both cases, I made a "no call" because of the velocity of the ball, the proximity of the base runners to the bases, the severity | The effect for a base runner contacting a fielder in the act of fielding a batted ball is an immediate dead ball so in your case, you would not know if she could or could not have completed a play. These are examples of interference and although the contact was not catastrophic, it is difficult to draw the line as to how much contact is inappropriate. Therefore, in an effort to discourage all inappropriate contact and to protect the fielder who is concentrating on the batted ball and is usually blindsided by the base runner, the ball is dead, the base runner is out and other base runners returned to the bases they held at the time of the interference unless forced to advance by the batter who is awarded first base. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|--|---|
| | | of the contact between the fielder and the base runner, and the fielder's ability to complete the only play she had (which meant she was not prevented from making the play). Was I correct? | |
| | 12.19.1.4.5 | <u>Interference</u> Base runner on second base, ball is hit to the third baseman's left and she deflects the ball toward the middle of the infield. The shortstop moves to make a play on the deflected ball but is unintentionally contacted by the base runner. Does 12.19.1.4.5 apply if the fielder could have made a play but was prevented from doing so? | No if the contact was unintentional, it is not interference. The base runner is only penalized for intentionally interfering with that second fielder. |
| | 12.19.2 | <u>Interference</u> Base runners are on first and third bases when the batter receives ball four. As the batter-runner is running to first base, the base runner, who was on first base starts advancing to second base. For some unknown reason, the pitcher throws the ball to the shortstop, and she starts playing on the base runner between first and second bases. During this time, the lead runner from third base scores. While the base runner between first and second bases is in a "pickle" she deliberately slaps the ball away when the shortstop is throwing the ball to the first baseman. What would the call be? | The run scores as this is a timing play. At the time of the slapped ball, the umpire should immediately declare the ball dead to stop additional action and since there is no play to be made, award the base runner who was forced to advance, second base and the batter-runner first on the walk. There is no play to be made because the runners did not attempt to advance past the bases they were awarded and neither base runner committed a base running violation. |
| 1-21-12 | 12.20 | <u>Leaving Early</u> If a play involves both leaving early and a defensive rule violation, should the umpires move the runners based on the offensive coach's decision and then again once the defensive coach makes his/her decision? | Like the other option plays, base runners should not be taken off bases nor advanced based on the first option selection if the defense also has an option to choose. Players should be moved only following the final decision. |
| | 12.21 | <u>Look-Back Rule</u> Last half of the seventh inning with the score tied and a base runner on first base with one out. Batter hits a sharp ground ball to third base, the third baseman makes a great play and gets the force out at second base. The ball is thrown back to the pitcher and the batter-runner who made it to first base is on first base | If the pitcher carries the ball out of the circle, the look-back rule is not in effect and base runners are free to advance (with liability to be put out, of course). I have not seen any protest paperwork but assuming there is no new information, the game will stand as played. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| | | with the ball is thrown to the circle. When the pitcher decides to run to the third baseman to give her a high five for a good play, the base runner on first base takes off and runs to second base and makes it safely. The defensive coach maintained that the base runner could not leave first base after going to the base with the ball in the circle. He protested the game at that point. On the next pitch, the batter hit a single, scoring the base runner from second base. GAME OVER. Could you send me a ruling on the protest? | |
| 12.21.4 | Look-Back Rule Base runner on third base. Batter receives a base on balls. Ball immediately goes back to the pitcher in the circle. Batter- runner crosses first base and continues down the right field line, makes an arc deep into right field and continues her arc towards second base. A bit confused, the pitcher cocks her arm in a obvious attempt at a play on the batter-runner at which time, the base runner on third base releases off the base. Now the pitcher brings her arm back down to her side so that she is no longer making a play. Is the look back rule back in effect now and does the base runner on third base now have to immediately make a decision to return to third base or advance to home? Does the batter-runner have to continue to second base if she is still headed in that direction after the pitcher is no longer making a play and she has taken several steps in that direction or is she allowed one stop even though the pitcher is no longer making a play on her? | Once the pitcher makes a play, both runners are released from the restrictions of the look back rule so both can leave their base and advance or leave their base, stop to locate the ball and choose their direction. It is not a time related play (ie the base runner is free only during the time the pitcher is making a play); it is an all or nothing (ie the pitcher makes a play, the base runners are released...pitcher makes no play, the base runners are restricted). The fact that the pitcher started to make a play and changed her mind (and stopped) does not shorten the amount of time the base runners have to advance or return. | |
| 12.21.6.3 | Look-Back Rule Runner on first base following a single. The pitcher has possession of the ball in the circle when: 1) with only a single foot on the base, the runner lifts it off the base to clean off the bottom of her cleats, thus breaking contact with the base. She does not attempt to advance so because there is no advantage gained, | 1) No, the runner should be called out unless she asked for and was granted time by the umpire. 2) As in the earlier situation, the runner should be called out unless she asked for and was granted time by the umpire. In both these cases, the umpire should enforce the rule without assigning intent of the runner or whether or not an advantage is gained. It is much cleaner to call all aspects of the game based on the objective actions that are displayed rather than to assign value | |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| | | <p>should the umpire ignore the violation? 2) the runner walks off the base to groom the dirt area which she churned up as she ran out her single. She does not attempt to advance so should the umpire ignore the violation?</p> | <p>or intent and then decide if the action warrants a penalty. For some, that might seem “nitpicky” but it does provide predictable, consistent application of the rules without having to judge intent OR whether or not a “real” advantage is gained. That said, it is good preventative umpiring to anticipate these possible actions. For example, if the area around the base is churned up at the conclusion of play, the umpire can signal “time” in anticipation of the player’s desire to smooth the ground. If the player then simply walks off the base without requesting time, you have no violation as play is already suspended. Bottom line, however, is that players are responsible for adhering to the playing rules and the rules committee does not favor the slippery slope of ignoring rule violations when there’s no intent to violate the rules or conversely only penalizing players when they intentionally violate the rules.</p> |
| | <p>12.22.4</p> | <p><u>Base Runner Fails to Retouch Base</u> Bases loaded -1 out: single to the outfield. Base runner from third base scores and coach holds up the next base runner at third base. The base runner from first base is halfway between second and third bases and heading back to second base. The batter has rounded second base. Upon seeing the runner from first base coming back to second base, the batter cuts through the infield and does not retouch second base, makes it all the way to first base and is standing on the bag. One of her fans is yelling for her to go back to touch second base. She starts off the base and the defense throws to the first baseman to tag her (but is confused as to why) but they start a run down with her between first and second bases. In the meantime, the base runner from third base tries to score and is thrown out. While that tag is happening, both other runners move up to third and second bases. Time is called and the defense appeals that the runner standing on second base did not retouch it. Pertinent facts – the runner is standing on second base. She went back and touched first base after not re-touching second. Her steps on the base path went like this: touched 1st, touched 2nd, missed 2nd, touched 1st, standing on 2nd. Is she out on appeal for not re-touching second</p> | <p>Yes, upon appeal the base runner is out for heading back to first base without re-touching second base. Third out, inning over although the runner who started on third base does score.</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | base on the way back to first base? | |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 12.26.2 | Runner's Lane With a base runner on third base, the batter dribbles a ball down the first base line. The first baseman, throws home to play on the base runner advancing from third base. The throw strikes the batter-runner, who is not in the running lane. Is this interference? | | It is not interference and neither player is out. The batter–runner is not required to be in the runner's lane when the play is not being made at first base. Batter-runner interference is detailed in 12.26.2 as the batter-runner shall not run outside the runner's lane and interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base. Since the play is not at first base, 12.26 does not apply. That said though, the batter-runner may not wave her arms or demonstratively interfere with the thrown ball. |
| 12.26.2 | Runner's Lane Runner on third base. Batter receives a base on balls and trots down to first base. After she is half way and the running lane has started, the catcher throws to first in an attempt to keep her from continuing to second base. 1) The throw hits the batter-runner who is in fair territory or 2) the throw hits a part of the runner's body which is over fair territory although her feet are both in the running lane. NFHS calls her out for interference in both cases even though the base on balls awards her the base without liability to be put out. Is the ball dead or live, may the runner advance and is it interference in NCAA play? | | On the base award, the batter-runner cannot be put out solely as a result of a defender's action. However she can be put out for violating base running rules (see definition of without liability to be put out rule 1, section 124). In the first situation, the batter-runner has violated rule 12, section 26.2 which stipulates she shall not run outside the runner's lane and interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base. On the interference, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and each other runner returns to her base. In the second situation, there is no interference since the batter-runner's feet are within the runner's lane. The ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk. Note that in the second example, if the batter-runner, even though she is in the runner's lane, intentionally interferes by waving her hands, interference would be enforced. |
| 12.26.2 | Runner's Lane Bases are loaded with two outs. The score is tied in the bottom of the seventh inning. The batter has a full count and the next pitch is ball four. As she is heading to first base and the winning run is coming in to score, the catcher throws the ball toward first base and it hits the batter-runner in the back while she is inside the foul line and NOT in the runner's lane. The defensive coach wants the runner to be called out for interference and the base runners returned to their bases. Inning over game still tied. Is that correct? | | No, the umpires correctly allow the runner to score assuming that all base runners complete their base running responsibilities and touch the base to which they were forced. Inning over, the home team wins. |
| 12.27.3 | Tag Play Base runners on first and third bases with two outs. The batter punches the ball up the middle where the shortstop fields it but her only play is at second base. The base runner slides around the base without touching | | No; she is considered forced out because she was legally tagged out before reaching the base she was forced to advance to by the batter-runner. The force out is the third out so the run does not count. |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|----------|------------------|---|---|
| | | it and as she tries to scramble back, the second baseman tags her out. Meanwhile the runner from third base crosses home plate before the tag. Does the run score? | |
| | 12.29.5 12.21 | <u>Tag Play</u> Batter hits a deep fly to center field which looks like it will be caught. Batter runs to first base, head down, touches the base and turns and walks back down the line towards home and her third base dugout. The wind blows the ball down and the center fielder does not catch the ball. She picks it up and throws it into the infield where the pitcher picks it up while in the circle. The base coach directs the batter-runner to turn around and run back to first base. The batter-runner stops her retreat to the dugout, looks at the pitcher, then breaks for first base. The first baseman tags the batter out. Is the batter-runner out when she stepped back towards home? If not, is she out for stopping and reversing her direction with the pitcher hold the ball motionless in the circle? Or is she out on the tag? | Although the batter-runner may not step back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag by the fielder, 12.29.5 does not apply because the steps back toward the plate were not to avoid or delay the tag. The look-back rule allows for a runner who is in motion when the ball is returned to the pitcher within the circle, to continue in the direction she is going or immediately and directly go in the other direction. Once she determines that direction, she cannot change (unless one of the circumstances in 12.21.3 occurs). Therefore, the batter-runner who is dejectedly moving along the foul line toward home as the ball reaches the pitcher in the circle may now choose to reverse her direction and attempt to return to first base. |
| 10-17-11 | 13.1 | <u>Excessive Celebration</u> I seem to recall that something had come out about excessive celebration by the offensive team after an out-of-the-park home run, Was an interpretation issued regarding this? I had a team this weekend gather at home plate as they usually do and once the batter-runner touched home plate all those gathered around home plate fell down as if they were shot. | Under 13.1, the umpire has the ability to penalize a player or team personnel for unsporting behavior or verbal misconduct. In the context of the game, if you believe the act you witness was unsporting, then you can eject the violator(s). Of course, preventative umpiring allows for a less severe penalty of letting the coach know that should you see the same response, you will consider it unsporting and apply the effect listed in 13.1. If the act is by the host team, you can also let the on-site administrator know of your concern over the display of unsporting behavior. |
| | 13.1 | <u>Trick Plays</u> Umpires have described plays being used by teams designed solely to deceive their opponent and gain advantage. I think most of umpires have heard of these 'trick' plays or have seen them on baseball, not softball. Offense Example: Base runner on first base. Batter with 2 ball count. Next pitch is called a ball. Batter drops the bat and proceeds to first base. Base runner on first | There are lots of elements of the game designed to deceive the opponent and gain an advantage....throwing pitches other than straight fastballs is designed to deceive the opponent as is taking a batting stance and then changing to bunt at the last second to name a few. So disallowing these on the basis that they deceive the opponent is not appropriate. Now are they unsporting? You might have more of an argument here but even then there are examples of situations that might be planned and others that might actually be mistakes and differentiating might be an issue. Clearly a practiced and executed play such as the second example is easily identifiable but a batter walking on |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|-------|---|--|
| | | <p>base advances to second base. Umpires returned batter to plate and leave the base runner at second base. Later in the game, the offensive coach told plate umpire "that play works every time."</p> <p>Defense Example: Base runner on third base. Following a pitch, the catcher bounces out to simulate a pick off, stumbles and falls without releasing the ball. Third baseman, shortstop, and left fielder all act like they are chasing an overthrow. Base runner attempts to score and is tagged out by the catcher. Do you feel these plays are part of NCAA softball or consider them a form of interference/obstruction since their sole purpose is to deceive the opponent?</p> | <p>ball three and a base runner advancing ahead of her may or may not be intentional. So the short of it is that the onus is on the players (both offensive and defensive) and coaches to know what is going on in the game and react appropriately.</p> |
| | 13.1 | <p><u>Post Ejection Action</u></p> <p>What is the penalty if an ejected coach (out in the outfield) talks to a player in the bullpen who then goes to the dugout and relays, or apparently relays, information to the coaching staff?</p> | <p>Coaches are accountable for knowing the rules and that this is a violation which results in a forfeit. The one minute forfeit warning refers to the ejected person remaining and not to an ejected coach who has delivered a message.</p> |
| | 13.2 | <p><u>Suspension</u></p> <p>A player from school A and school B are both ejected under Rule 13.2 for a scuffle at the plate in the last game of a conference series. The next day, school A has a scheduled, non-conference doubleheader which is rained out in the fourth inning of the first game. The ejected and suspended player is withheld. The following day, school A begins a conference series. Is the player eligible to play in the conference series?</p> | <p>No, the player has not served the suspension. Although the games were previously scheduled, they were not played by virtue of being declared "no game" due to weather.</p> |
| | 14.16 | <p><u>Caught Stealing Scoring</u></p> <p>Runner on third base with one out. The coach calls for a suicide squeeze but the batter misses the ball on the bunt attempt. The runner from third leaves on release of the pitch, is caught in a rundown, and eventually putout. Since the first throw by the catcher is to the trailing base (third, in this case) would it be scored a pick off or since she was trying to advance, would it be caught stealing?</p> | <p>It would be scored as caught stealing. The general rule is to determine the action of the runner at the beginning of the play and apply the appropriate scoring. If the runner would have been credited with a stolen base at the conclusion of a successful play, she would be charged with caught stealing if unsuccessful. If the runner was merely leading off with the pitch, her options would be return safely or be picked off. Unlike baseball, the location of the first throw is not relevant to the decision.</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 15.1 | <p><u>Umpire Attire</u> May umpires wear pink shirts for a pink out game for breast cancer?</p> | <p>There's been lots of discussion across NCAA sports in how to handle these and other charitable, recognition type events. You will notice the use of pink whistles, pink wristbands, pink shoe laces and perhaps other incidental items used to commemorate breast cancer awareness dates in many NCAA events. So like most other sports, the softball rules do not allow for the use of pink softballs nor pink umpire shirts, pants, caps or other significant parts of the umpire uniform. Attire for softball umpires is already a more expensive proposition than in most sports and the rules committee is sensitive to adding additional expenses...even for the multitude of worthy causes.</p> |
| 15.2.2 | <p><u>Umpire Jurisdiction</u> Bottom of the seventh inning with the visiting team up by one run. With a runner on second base, the batter hits a game ending home run. The base and batter runners complete their base running responsibilities, the umpires return the game balls to the on-site administrator and walk 25 feet into their dressing room. Shortly after their arrival, the visiting coach arrives and asks the plate umpire if the player who hit the home run had been re-entered and after reviewing the line-up card, the umpire replied she had not. The crew then re-dressed and returned to the field to explain they were resuming the game based on the unreported re-entry. The game eventually went into extra innings and the visiting team won. Is this the proper resolution for the unreported player?</p> | <p>The umpire's jurisdiction begins when he/she arrives on the field and reports to the host coach, and it ends when he/she leaves the confines of the field after the game. There is no rule book support for resuming the game once their jurisdiction ends. Therefore, the results of the game are a win by the home team. Once the umpires wrongly decided to resume the game, the home coach should have protested the decision but even though that did not happen, the events that transpired after the umpire's jurisdiction ended are void.</p> |
| 15.2.14 | <p><u>Jeopardy by Umpire</u> A batted ball bounced over the fence. The first base umpire had gone out and correctly signaled for dead ball when the ball left the field. The batter-runner was incorrectly awarded third base. The offensive team substituted for the base runner at third base. Then the base award error was corrected and the batter-runner was put back on second base on the ground rule double. Now the offensive coach did not want the substitution. Because the batter-runner was initially put on the incorrect base, then later corrected I did not feel that a player's entry into the game should be put in jeopardy</p> | <p>I do believe you did the right thing. The substitution was based on the coach thinking the substitute was going to be on third base, not second base AND that belief was based on information from the umpire (awarding her third base on a ground rule double) so that is correctable. We had a similar circumstance with a batter who was awarded first base on a base on balls. The offensive coach made an immediate substitution for the now base runner at first base with the plate umpire. At the same time, the defensive coach came out of the dugout and talked to the first base umpire, asking for a checked swing on the last pitch. The base umpire discussed with the coach the proper appeal process would be to the plate umpire so coach waited until the plate umpire was free and asked for an appeal. The plate umpire asked for the appeal and the first base umpire called it a swing. Now the count is 3-1. In this case, the umpires allowed the coach to rescind her substitution of the "pinch runner" and allow the original batter to return to the batter's box</p> |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|------------|---|--|
| | | and did not keep the sub recorded. At this point, the visiting coach protested the game. I am familiar with the substitution rule and realize I did not apply it correctly. At the time, I felt it was common sense to not put a player in jeopardy as a result of a correctable error on the part of the umpires. | to complete her turn at bat. In both cases, the substitution was reversed without penalty. |
| | 15.9.3 | Reversal of Decision Bases loaded, full count, and the umpire calls ball four. The defensive team appeals a checked swing and when all other runners are moving up, the base umpire says "yes she did" and the pitch is ruled a strike. The runners are now all off their bases and the runner is tagged out coming from third to home. Does 15.9.3 apply? | Yes, base runners are place back on their original bases and no runners are declared out. The umpires may rectify a situation where the reversal of an umpire decision or a delayed dead ball by an umpire places a batter-runner, a runner or the defensive team in jeopardy. This does NOT apply when there is a misapplication of a playing rule, but when a reversal or delayed call puts a team in jeopardy, there is relief. |
| | Appendix C | Illegible Bat Model On enforcement of the new approved bat list procedures-- if the model number on the bat is not legible because of use and wear -- should the bat be ruled not approved because it cannot be confirmed that it is on the approved list? | The coach and umpires must be comfortable in verifying the equipment that the coaches are presenting is legal. Hopefully most of the time, you can clearly see all the model numbers and letters. If some are illegible due to wear and tear, does the team have an identical bat that has a model number that's completely legible? If you are convinced the bat in question is the same, then you can allow its use but if there's any doubt in your mind, then do not allow the bat in play. Remember appropriate bats are critical to fair competition and risk minimization so error on the side of caution if in doubt. |
| | Appendix D | BCT 1) If a site is doing BCT prior to the game, where can the sticker be placed? 2) What type of sticker should be used and how would an umpire know if the sticker has been switched to a different bat? 3) Does the coach have the option after a player hits a home run to ask to see the bat? If we are looking at game pace, won't this slow down the game even more? How should the umpires be involved? How far do you want the umpires to go with this? | 1) Sticker location- We had originally said the sticker had to be placed on the knob or the grip (although the latter is not recommended because of wear and tear) using rule 1.1. However that rule was written back in the day when we talked about bats in terms of only three parts--knob, grip and barrel. When we redefined a bat by its five parts in rule 3.2, we never went back to 1.1 to amend it. So technically a sticker could be placed anywhere except on the barrel hence making the taper a legal location. 2) The stickers should be destructible stickers...these are sold to stores that peel apart in pieces and cannot be relocated intact. Many stores use these types of stickers especially for sales because they cannot afford to have customers remove them and relocate them on expensive items not intended to have reduced prices. The ones the NCAA has used for three years cannot be reused because they just fall apart. However, if the stickers are too strong and there's a question as to if a sticker was transferred to a different bat, the only recourse would be IF the teams logged in their bats at the time of testing and IF the switch involved bats from different models. A team with two "Ball Buster" bats, one that would pass BCT and one that would fail BCT, can present the first for BCT testing, obtain the sticker and move it to the second |

Format: Date Rule Situation/Question

Interpretation

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>with very little recourse open to their opponent's challenge. That would be an incredibly disappointing occurrence!</p> <p>3) You are right on target with not unduly interrupting the pace of the game and avoiding umpire inquisitions. If that situation arises, the opposing coach and plate umpire should each file an incident report ... home run happens, coach comes out to ask if the bat has a sticker, which it does but was obviously a forged sticker or obviously switched, coach and plate umpire file incident reports which trigger a conversation between the SRE and Director of Athletics and Coach. Game results are what they are but we might avoid future misunderstandings.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|