

2026 NFHS Baseball Exam - Part I

1. At the pregame conference, the plate umpire asks both head coaches if they have listed all their substitutes on the lineup card. The visiting's team head coach states he did not have time, but will provide them as the game progresses. The plate umpire will:

- A. Start the game and tell the coach he may add the substitutes as he gets time during the game.
- B. Inform the visiting team's head coach that there will be no substitutions allowed for his team in the game.
- C. Not accept the team's lineup card until all substitutes are listed. The game cannot begin until the umpire has received lineup cards from both teams.
- D. Inform the head coach that as a penalty for not having his lineup card correct, he may not occupy a coaching box for the balance of the game.

2. A BBCOR certified bat is permitted to have _____ to enhance the hold of the bat, not to exceed beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob.

- A. Pine Tar
- B. Resin
- C. Any drying agent
- D. All of the above

3. If loose equipment is on the field and interferes with play, the umpire may:

- A. Call outs.
- B. Return runners.
- C. Award bases.
- D. All of the above.

4. Each player shall be numbered with a plain number of solid color contrasting with the color of the shirt:

- A. On the front of the jersey.
- B. On the back of the jersey.
- C. Both the front and the back of the jersey.
- D. Not important that the jersey be numbered.

5. A foul fly is caught by the first baseman using an illegal glove. As the first baseman slips after the catch, the runner from third legally tags and scores. Upon discovery of the glove, the umpire will:

- A.** Call the batter out and score the run.
- B.** Nullify the catch and treat it as a foul ball unless the team on offense chooses to have the result of the play.
- C.** Call a "do-over" after ejecting the first baseman.
- D.** Restrict the coach to the dugout as the coach stated everyone was properly equipped.

6. B1 is crowding the front edge of the batter's box and legally hits the pitch. His stride through with his swing places his front foot on the ground in front and outside the batter's box while his back foot remains in the box. The batted ball bounces up and accidentally hits B1's front leg.

- A.** Foul Ball.
- B.** Fair Ball.
- C.** B1 is immediately declared out.
- D.** B1 is awarded first base.

7. A starting player, who has been removed from the game once, accidentally re-enters in the wrong position in the batting order. He is considered to be:

- A.** A legal substitute.
- B.** An unreported substitute.
- C.** An illegal substitute.
- D.** Batting out of order.

8. An intentional base on balls can be given under the following circumstances:

- A.** The coach of the defensive team can alert the plate umpire.
- B.** The catcher of the defensive team can alert the plate umpire.
- C.** The awarding of first base can occur prior to pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count.
- D.** All of the above.

- 9.** A batted ball becomes stuck in the webbing of the pitcher's glove.
- A.** It is considered to be a lodged ball.
 - B.** The ball is immediately dead.
 - C.** The ball remains live and in play.
 - D.** Two bases are awarded to the batter-runner and other runners.
- 10.** It is considered to be a catch when a batted ball in flight touches a fielder and is subsequently caught by a defensive player after touching:
- A.** A runner.
 - B.** An umpire.
 - C.** Another defensive player.
 - D.** All of the above.
- 11.** If an illegal substitute on defense is involved in a play, the offense has the option to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again if:
- A.** The infraction is discovered prior to the first pitch to the next batter of either team.
 - B.** The infraction is discovered before all the infielders have crossed the foul lines.
 - C.** The infraction is discovered prior to the next pitch to the next batter of the offensive team.
 - D.** If the infraction is discovered prior to the next batter stepping into the batter's box.
- 12.** A player has a small amount of blood on his pants at his knee.
- A.** The pants must be cleaned or changed before the player participates again.
 - B.** Since the amount of blood is not excessive, the player may continue to play.
 - C.** If the blood is not fresh, the player may continue to participate.
 - D.** The player must be removed from the game and cannot return to the game.
- 13.** If a player on the bench leaves the bench area during a fight:
- A.** The player is ejected.
 - B.** Provided the player did not participate, there is no penalty.
 - C.** If the player made no threatening gestures, there is no penalty.
 - D.** Both B and C.

14. An offensive conference will be charged when:

- A.** A coach meets with his base runner after the opposing coach has been granted a conference to talk with his pitcher.
- B.** Time is granted for an obviously injured player.
- C.** An assistant coach is granted time to confer with the base runner on first base.
- D.** A, B and C

15. A coach, restricted to the bench for the balance of the game, may:

- A.** Not have a charged conference with his team at any time.
- B.** Have a charged conference on the field of play, just as he could before he was restricted.
- C.** Have a charged conference only when the other team has been granted one.
- D.** May have a charged conference - offense or defense - in the dugout/bench area.

16. To start a game, the determination of whether the grounds and other conditions are suitable is made by:

- A.** The umpire-in-chief.
- B.** The home coach.
- C.** The visiting coach.
- D.** Both coaches must be in agreement.

17. The visiting team traveled to the game by car. One of the starting player's car broke down and there are only eight players present at game time. An assistant coach has gone to pick them up and should arrive quickly.

- A.** The game may begin, since the coach placed the missing starter in the No. 9 position in the lineup.
- B.** The game may begin, but the coach is restricted to the bench for having the confusion.
- C.** The game may begin if the home team's coach has no problem starting the game with eight players.
- D.** The game may not start until the visiting team has nine players present.

18. The state association has adopted the 10-run rule for all games played in the state. In the bottom of the fifth inning, the home team leads 9-0 and the fifth batter hits a grand slam home run.

- A.** The game ends with the score 10-0, home team.
- B.** The game continues, with the score 13-0.
- C.** The game ends with the score 13-0, home team.
- D.** The game must continue for one more inning.

19. With no lights on its field, the home team wants to play a doubleheader but is concerned about losing sunlight. It proposes that they play a doubleheader with both games being only five innings.

- A.** This is permissible.
- B.** This is not legal. Two seven-inning games shall constitute a doubleheader.
- C.** The opposing coach counters with one game consisting of five-innings and the other game consisting of nine-innings (for a combination of 14 innings).
- D.** The umpire-in-chief will make the final decision on the length of each game.

20. Smith, the No. 5 batter, strains his knee sliding into second base on a double. He is not able to continue and the team does not have a substitute available.

- A.** Smith is declared out.
- B.** The on-deck batter will run for Smith.
- C.** The most recent batter not on base is allowed to run for Smith.
- D.** The game is forfeited to the opposing team.

21. With a runner advancing to third base, the second out is recorded at first base. The first baseman, wrongly thinking the play was the third out, tosses the ball to the base umpire who catches the ball and holds it.

- A.** With the runner advancing, the ball stays live and in play.
- B.** The ball is immediately dead.
- C.** The runner is awarded third base.
- D.** B and C.

22. B2 is adjusting his stance in the batter's box and the plate umpire gives the "Do Not Pitch" signal. The pitcher wheels and legally picks off R1 at first base.

- A.** R1 is out.
- B.** There is no play as the ball became dead when the umpire gave the "Do Not Pitch" signal.
- C.** The ball remains live and in play when the "Do Not Pitch" signal is given.
- D.** (a) and (c)

23. It is a delayed dead ball when:

- A.** Backswing interference occurs.
- B.** An umpire handles a live ball.
- C.** The umpire interferes with the catcher who is attempting to throw.
- D.** A thrown ball touches anything that is partially in the designated media area.

24. The ball becomes dead when time is taken to:

- A.** Award bases when obstruction has occurred.
- B.** Award an intentional base on balls.
- C.** Impose baserunning penalties.
- D.** All of the above.

25. The pitching regulations begin when:

- A.** The batter steps into the batter's box.
- B.** The pitcher intentionally contacts the pitcher's plate.
- C.** The catcher gives a "sign" to the pitcher.
- D.** It is umpire judgment as to when the pitching regulations are in force.

26. A pitcher may turn the shoulders to check runners while in contact with the pitcher's plate while in the:

- A.** Set position.
- B.** Windup position.
- C.** Both A and B.
- D.** Neither A nor B; it is always illegal for a pitcher to turn the shoulders to check a runner.

27. In the windup position, the pitcher pauses for several seconds with both hands together above the head.

- A.** This is legal provided the pause was complete and discernible.
- B.** This would be legal had the pitcher stopped with hands together at or below the chin.
- C.** This is illegal. After the pitcher starts the movement to pitch, the pitcher must continue motion without interruption or alteration.
- D.** Both A & B.

28. When a pitcher is in the wind-up position and wants to go to the set position, or is in the set position and wants to go to the wind-up position, the pitcher must first:

- A.** Inform the plate umpire of intentions.
- B.** Inform those in the offensive coaching boxes of intentions.
- C.** Step clearly backward off the pitcher's plate first.
- D.** A and B

29. It is illegal for a pitcher to:

- A.** Wear a glove/mitt that includes the colors white or gray.
- B.** Wear exposed undershirt sleeves that are white or gray.
- C.** Neither A nor B.
- D.** Both A and B.

30. While an improper batter is at bat, if a runner advances because of a wild pitch or a passed ball:

- A.** The runner must return when the improper batter is discovered.
- B.** The runner's advance is legal.
- C.** The runner is declared out when the improper batter obtains first base.
- D.** Both the improper batter and the runner are declared out if the batting out of order is discovered.

31. After an improper batter has completed his time at bat and is on first base:

- A.** Only the umpire may discover the infraction.
- B.** Only the offense may appeal the infraction.
- C.** Only the defense may appeal batting out of order.
- D.** The offense, defense or the plate umpire may discover the batting out of order and appeal the infraction.

- 32.** When a batted ball contacts the batter while he is in the batter's box:
- A.** He is declared out.
 - B.** A strike is charged to the batter as a foul ball.
 - C.** The ball is live and in play.
 - D.** It is declared to be a no-pitch.
- 33.** A batter may leave the batter's box with no penalty when:
- A.** The pitcher attempts a pickoff.
 - B.** Time is granted to either team.
 - C.** The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals.
 - D.** All of the above.
- 34.** If a whole bat is thrown on a batter's swing:
- A.** It is always ignored.
 - B.** The batter is automatically out.
 - C.** If the bat interferes with a defensive player attempting a play, interference will be called.
 - D.** The defense may take the out or the result of the play.
- 35.** With a runner on third, the batter hits a high pop fly that drifts over foul territory. The third baseman is accidentally prevented from catching the ball by the head coach in the coach's box.
- A.** Foul ball.
 - B.** The runner at third is out and a strike is added to the batter's count.
 - C.** The batter is out.
 - D.** The coach is restricted to the bench and the coaching box must remain unoccupied.
- 36.** Brown, advancing from first to third, fails to touch second base and is standing on third when the throw from the outfield goes into the dugout.
- A.** Brown cannot legally return to his missed base and is subject to being declared out upon proper and successful appeal.
 - B.** The umpire is to immediately declare Brown out for missing second base.
 - C.** Because Brown missed second base, he cannot be awarded home from the errant throw to the dugout.
 - D.** If Brown attempts to return to second base, the defense cannot appeal his missing second until Brown has completed his opportunity to correct his mistake.

37. If any situation arises that could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play of the game, the appeal must be made:

- A.** While all umpires are on the field.
- B.** While an umpire is on the field.
- C.** Before the infielders cross the foul lines.
- D.** Before the official scorekeeper declares the game over.

38. With the bases loaded and two outs, the batter hits a home run. The runner from first failed to touch third base and the defense properly appeals the mistake.

- A.** Four runs will score
- B.** Three runs will score.
- C.** Two runs will score.
- D.** No runs will score.

39. When two runners are between the same bases on an overthrow into dead ball territory:

- A.** The lead runner is awarded two bases and the following runner is awarded one base.
- B.** The lead runner is awarded three bases and the following runner is awarded two bases.
- C.** Only the lead runner is awarded bases.
- D.** Bases are awarded based on what the umpire judges they would have obtained had the throw not gone into dead ball territory.

40. A runner is awarded one base when:

- A.** A foul fly is caught by the left fielder who then leaves the field of play by stepping with both feet into a dead-ball area.
- B.** He is attempting to advance at the time a throw becomes lodged in an offensive player's uniform or equipment.
- C.** Both A and B.
- D.** Neither A nor B.

41. When a runner dives over a fielder:

- A.** The runner is out and the ball is immediately dead.
- B.** Unless interference occurred, the ball remains in play and the runner is out only if he was tagged.
- C.** The runner is out and the ball remains live unless interference occurs.
- D.** The runner will be warned for committing a dangerous act.

42. A runner acquires the right to the proper unoccupied base if the runner touches the base before being put out. The runner is then entitled to this base until_____.

- A.** The runner is put out.
- B.** The runner legally touches the next base while it is unoccupied.
- C.** The runner is forced to advance to the next base by a following runner.
- D.** All the above.

43. A putout is credited to a fielder who:

- A.** Catches a ball in flight.
- B.** Tags a runner or puts out a runner by holding the ball while touching a base to which a runner is forced to advance or return.
- C.** Makes a live- or dead-ball appeal.
- D.** Both A and B.

44. With the bases loaded and two outs, the batter hits a home run. The runner from second fails to touch third and the defense properly appeals the mistake.

- A.** Four runs will score.
- B.** Three runs will score.
- C.** One run will score.
- D.** No runs will score.

45. Umpire jurisdiction ends:

- A.** When the scorekeeper announces there are no issues with the official scorebook.
- B.** When one umpire leaves the field at the end of the game.
- C.** When the last out of the game has been declared.
- D.** When all umpires have left the playing field at the conclusion of the game.

46. The umpire-in-chief's duties include:

- A.** Inspecting the condition of the field.
- B.** Formulating special ground rules if the two teams cannot agree.
- C.** Designating the official scorer.
- D.** All of the above.

47. What is the umpire signal for "Do not pitch"?

- A.** Either arm extended with one finger pointing at the pitcher.
- B.** Both arms extended with all the fingers pointing at the pitcher.
- C.** Right arm straight out front with palm outward and fingers up.
- D.** Verbal command, "Do not Pitch!"

- 48.** What is the "Double Tag Rotation" signal?
- A.** Bump both fists on top of each other with the index finger of the right hand extended.
 - B.** Bump both fists together in front of the body.
 - C.** Rotate both fists in a circular motion to indicate double tag up possibility.
 - D.** Extend arm with two fingers showing that there is a double tag possibility.
- 49.** Baker was used as the courtesy runner for the catcher in the fifth inning. In the sixth inning, he is used as a courtesy runner for the pitcher.
- A.** This is legal.
 - B.** This is not allowed.
 - C.** Baker would be an illegal substitute when he serves as the courtesy runner for the pitcher.
 - D.** B and C.
- 50.** S1 (Substitute 1) pinch-hits for the catcher and singles. The head coach wants to insert a courtesy runner (CR1) for S1, who is going to enter the game as the new catcher. The umpire takes the following action:
- A.** Allows CR1 to replace S1.
 - B.** Removes the catcher for CR1.
 - C.** Does not allow it because S1 is not the catcher of record, but is not eligible because he participated in the game in another capacity.
 - D.** Does nothing because it was not indicated prior to the start of the game that courtesy runners were going to be used.