

2018 USSSA UMPIRE TEST (Maryland Edition)

1. Which of the following is a rules difference between USSSA and USA Elite Select?
 - A. Roster Batting is legal in USSSA play, not USA Elite Select.
 - B. The Last Completed At Bat may Courtesy Run (if there is no eligible substitute) in USSSA, not USA Elite Select.
 - C. Multiple Absent Players (automatic outs) are legal in USSSA, but by USA Elite Select rules, only one absent player is allowed.
 - D. All of the above.

2. With respect to roster batting, which of the following is FALSE?
 - A. Must be declared at the pre-game conference.
 - B. Batting order must include every rostered player physically present.
 - C. The DP/FLEX option is available with roster batting.
 - D. Late arrivals are added to the end of the lineup card unless an absent player (automatic out) position is available.

3. Which of the following is TRUE?
 - A. Jewelry is permissible unless judged by the umpire to be dangerous.
 - B. Verbal intentional walks are allowed.
 - C. The penalty for an illegal pitch is now only a ball on the batter.
 - D. All of the above.

4. Which of the following is TRUE?
 - A. On-deck batters may use the opponent's on-deck circle if it puts them behind the batter.
 - B. Bullpen catchers must wear an approved catcher's mask with throat protector.
 - C. Bats with a "USSSA 1.20 BPF" cert on the barrel are legal.
 - D. Batters may wear play indicators (coach's wristband) on their belt.

5. Regarding dead ball awards, which IS TRUE?
 - A. Awards on a batted ball which rolls past a temporary fence are based on runner position at the time the ball becomes dead.
 - B. Under the general rule for baserunner interference with a batted ball, the batter is awarded first base.
 - C. Direction of the runner (advancing vs returning) is a factor to be considered on overthrow awards.
 - D. Baserunners may not be put out for actions resulting from dead ball awards.

6. Which of the following may be APPEALED?
 - A. Making an attempt to advance to second after overrunning first base.
 - B. Leaving a base too early on a pitch.
 - C. A checked swing.
 - D. Disagreement with an umpire's call.

7. Which of the following is FALSE regarding the pitcher?
 - A. It is illegal for the pitcher to take a signal before stepping on the pitching plate.
 - B. The pitcher must take (or simulate taking) a signal while standing on the pitching plate with hands separated.
 - C. The pitch begins when the hands separate or the windup begins, whichever comes first.
 - D. Part of the pivot foot must be on TOP of the pitcher's plate, and the non-pivot foot must be IN CONTACT with it.

8. Regarding the pitcher vs batter, which of the following is FALSE?
 - A. The pitcher has 20 seconds to deliver the pitch after the ball is returned to her.
 - B. The batter has 10 seconds to take her position after the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle.
 - C. The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches.
 - D. If the pitcher stops her delivery because the batter steps out or requests time, "no pitch" is declared.

9. Which of the following is FALSE?

- A. The pivot foot may remain in contact with the pitching plate, or the pitcher may push off and drag away as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground.
- B. If the ball slips out of the pitcher's hand during a pitch, a ball is called and the ball remains live.
- C. A quick pitch while the batter is off-balance is a "no pitch".
- D. While taking the signal, the pitcher must present the ball so it is visible to the batter and umpire.

10. Regarding obstruction/interference, which is FALSE?

- A. In general, only one defender has an absolute right to the initial play on a batted ball, and all other defensive players must yield to the baserunner.
- B. The runner has the right-of-way unless the fielder has possession of the ball, or is in the act of making an initial play on a batted ball.
- C. There must be contact to have an infraction.
- D. Interference is an immediate dead ball, while obstruction is a delayed dead ball.

11. Regarding obstruction, which is TRUE?

- A. The umpire should hold his/her left arm out as long as the runner is protected - then drop it when the runner is no longer protected.
- B. Obstruction is an automatic one base award, but the runner may continue at her own risk.
- C. The general rule is an obstructed runner may not be put out between the two bases where the infraction occurred.
- D. An obstructed runner may deliberately run over a fielder who is in her way to clear a path.

12. Which is FALSE regarding interference?

- A. As long as it is not malicious, a baserunner may remain on her feet and make body to body contact in an attempt to dislodge the ball on an attempted tag.
- B. Physical contact is not required to have interference.
- C. A fielder is still considered to be making an initial play on a batted ball if it is within a "step and a reach".
- D. When interference is called: the ball is dead, the interferer is out, and runners are returned to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

13. Which is FALSE regarding the Lookback Rule?

- A. The Lookback Rule applies when the ball is live, the batter-runner has reached first base (or been put out), and the pitcher has possession of the ball in the circle.
- B. When the rule is in effect, a runner standing on third base is not restricted if the batter-runner continues to second base on a walk.
- C. When the rule is in effect, runner in motion may continue in motion or stop once, but then must immediately go forward or go back.
- D. Once the Lookback Rule is in effect, runners must comply until the pitcher makes a play, the ball leaves the circle, or the ball becomes dead.

14. Regarding batters, which is FALSE?

- A. A batter is entitled to maintain her position in the box if the catcher is throwing to a base, but she may not RE-POSITION after the ball reaches the catcher so as to interfere with the play.
- B. In order to take a pitch after "showing" a bunt, the batter must pull the bat back away from the ball.
- C. The batter's hands are a part of the bat.
- D. Whenever a pitch touches a batter, the ball is dead.

15. Which of the following is TRUE regarding an uncaught third strike?

- A. A batter is out on an uncaught third strike any time first base is occupied.
- B. The catcher must throw the ball to first base to retire the batter-runner advancing on the uncaught third strike rule.
- C. A retired batter who runs to first base anyway and draws a throw is guilty of interference.
- D. A batter-runner entitled to run on an uncaught third strike remains a batter-runner until she safely reaches first base, is put out, or she enters the dugout/bench area.

16. Which is FALSE regarding a foul tip?

- A. A foul tip is a sharply hit ball which goes directly to the catcher's hand or glove, and then is caught by her.
- B. Baserunners do not have to "tag up" on a foul tip.
- C. A foul tip is a live ball.
- D. The foul tip signal should be given on any ball which nicks the bat (whether caught or not) to indicate that the bat touched the ball.

17. Regarding courtesy runners, which is FALSE?

- A. To qualify for a courtesy runner, the pitcher or catcher must have attained her base by any means other than substitution.
- B. The same player may not serve as a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher in the same half-inning.
- C. In non-ELITE SELECT play, if an eligible substitute is unavailable, the last batted out may serve as the courtesy runner.
- D. The courtesy runner may not be an offensive substitute later in the same half-inning, unless an injury occurs.

18. Which is FALSE regarding conferences?

- A. In a regulation game, the offense is allowed 1 charged conference per inning, and the defense is allowed 3 per game without penalty.
- B. The charged conference rule starts when the ball becomes live to begin the half-inning.
- C. When one team is having a charged conference, the other team may meet without being charged, provided they are ready to play when the charged conference ends.
- D. For excessive defensive conferences, the pitcher is restricted to the dugout.

19. Which of the following is FALSE?

- A. A batter entering the batter's box with an illegal bat is called out and ejected.
- B. When an ineligible courtesy runner is used, the courtesy runner is called out and a team warning is issued.
- C. When an incorrect tiebreaker runner is used, there is no penalty - the correct runner is inserted and all action stands.
- D. A runner who deliberately removes a helmet is NOT out - it is a delayed dead ball and at the end of the play a warning is issued.

20. Which is FALSE regarding a delayed dead ball?

- A. Obstruction and most illegal pitches are enforced as a delayed dead ball.
- B. At the end of the play, the ball is declared dead, and in some cases, a penalty or award is enforced.
- C. Catcher's obstruction and illegal pitches may result in an option play where the offensive coach may choose either the result of the play, or a prescribed award.
- D. Malicious contact on the play is ignored if the coach chooses the penalty instead of the result of play.

21. Regarding game administration, which is FALSE?

- A. The clock starts when the plate meeting concludes.
- B. Eligible roster members may not be added as substitutes after the plate meeting concludes.
- C. Pitchers are allowed 5 pitches or 1 minute, whichever is less, between innings.
- D. Any pitcher (starter or reliever) must pitch the entire At Bat of the first batter they face until that batter advances to first base, is put out, or the inning ends.

22. Which is FALSE regarding traditional (non-roster batting) lineups?

- A. A team may bat 9, 10 or 11 batters with 0, 1 or 2 Additional Players (APs), respectively.
- B. A team may also use the DP/FLEX, if declared at the plate meeting.
- C. Only starters have re-entry rights - substitutes who leave the lineup are ineligible to re-enter.
- D. As long as an 8-batter minimum is maintained, a team may drop a position in the batting order for any reason (including ejection), and create an Absent Player (automatic out) position - IF no substitutes are available.

23. Regarding Tiebreakers, which is FALSE?
- The Tiebreaker Runner is the person whose name preceded the leadoff batter in the Tiebreaker inning.
 - If the Tiebreaker Runner is an Absent Player (automatic out) position, she is declared out and the team is not allowed a runner on second base.
 - It is the umpire's responsibility to notify the offense who the Tiebreaker Runner should be.
 - If the Tiebreaker Runner is the pitcher or catcher of record, a Courtesy Runner is allowed.
24. Which is FALSE regarding batter contact with a ball?
- The batter is out when a dropped bat which is moving contacts a fair batted ball.
 - There is no violation when a batted ball rolls into a dropped bat which is not moving.
 - The batter is out when any part of her foot is outside the batter's box when she hits the ball.
 - Part of the batter's box is in fair territory, so it is possible for a batter to legally hit a ball while standing in fair territory.
25. Regarding the DP/FLEX, which is FALSE?
- The DP is listed somewhere in the batting order, and the FLEX is listed after the batting order as the last player in the lineup.
 - The DP can never play only defense, and the FLEX can never play only offense.
 - The DP and FLEX may both play defense at the same time.
 - The DP and FLEX may never both play offense at the same time.
26. Which of the following is NOT the correct Starting Position for Base Umpire in Two Umpire System
- No Runners on, 20-25 feet from first base just off the line in foul territory
 - Runner on 1st Only, 3 paces behind and to second base side of second baseman
 - Runner on 2nd Only, 3 paces behind and to second base side of shortstop
 - Runner on 2nd & 3rd, 3 paces behind and to third base side of shortstop.
27. Which of the following is NOT the correct Tag Coverage at 2nd in Two Umpire System
- With runner at 2nd only, BU has tag responsibility.
 - With runners at 1st and 2nd, P has tag responsibility at 2nd
 - With runners on 3rd only, BU has tag responsibility
 - With bases loaded, BU has tag responsibility at 1st & 2nd, P has tag responsibility at 3rd
28. In Two Umpire System which is TRUE about Going Out
- NEVER do it
 - Make call in outfield and Come back in as soon as possible
 - Make call in outfield and keep back to infield
 - Make call in outfield, turn and observe, assist partner only if partner requests assistance.
29. Which of the following is FALSE regarding Base Umpire RIMing in a Two Umpire System
- No runners on, hit to LF, BU should stay outside diamond
 - Runner on 1st only, hit to LF, BU should stay outside diamond
 - Runner on 2nd only, hit to RF, BU should stay outside diamond
 - Runner on 2nd only, hit to LF, BU should stay outside diamond
30. Which of the following is ACCEPTABLE by SUM Policy on undershirts with a Red Shirt.
- White or Red short sleeve undershirt
 - White long sleeve undershirt
 - Black short sleeve undershirt
 - All are acceptable.
31. What should NOT be covered at Plate Meeting with coaches
- Check line ups. First and Last names, numbers and positions.
 - Explain Ground rules, Time limits
 - Clarify Rules such as Infield Fly, DP/Flex
 - Ask coach if all players and equipment are legal and in compliance with USSSA rules.

TRUE or FALSE

32. P has worked with U1 for a few years, so there is no need to discuss coverage, signs, tag ups, etc.
33. An Umpire should be no closer than 15 feet on a tag play.
34. P and U1 should meet every inning to discuss previous plays.
35. Any Umpire has the authority to call leaving a base early.
36. Two (2) Umpire System; No Runners on base; Ball hit to left of 2nd baseman; BU should allow her to push them into foul territory and P should be ready to take any advance to 2nd base.
37. Two (2) Umpire System Runners on 1st and 3rd. Bunt to Pitcher, throw to 1st for out; throw then goes to 3rd for a close play. U1 moves into diamond near circle and makes call at 1st; pivots and makes the call at 3rd.
38. Two (2) Umpire System Runner on 2nd base. Fly ball to left field. U1 does not go out to cover the catch. P has tag up at 2nd base and play at 3rd base.
39. Two (2) Umpire System Bases loaded. Fly ball to outfield, P stays behind home plate and lines up the runner at third and watches the tag up and any subsequent play at home.
40. Three (3) Umpire System No runners. Line drive in the gap. P observes all runners touching home. U1 observes batter-runner touching 1st, 2nd, and U3 observes the batter runner touching 3rd base.