

2023 Rules Exam

# Baseball Rules Exam

Study Guide



**BASEBALL UMPIRE  
DEVELOPMENT**



**Umpire Classroom**  
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## Table of Contents

Batter Becoming a Runner .....	2
Obstruction (Awards).....	3
Balks .....	3
Slide Rules .....	4
Defensive Actions.....	5
Pitching Regulations.....	6
Obstruction (Definition).....	8
Runner’s Lane Interference .....	9
Defensive Conferences .....	10
Malicious Contact .....	12
Pitching Violations .....	14
Courtesy Runners.....	16
Replacing the Pitcher .....	17
Pitching Positions .....	17
Batter Causing a Balk .....	18
Foul Tip or Foul Ball.....	19
Time of Pitch .....	20
2023 Rules Changes .....	20

## Batter Becoming a Runner

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/qOzkE3xhlmY>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/wUqQqqEqme5Wx9bQ9>

Relevant Rules: 8.1.1

1. 2 out. F2 drops the third strike. B1 starts toward the 3rd base dugout and F2 does not throw to first. B1, after walking beyond the dirt circle around home and in a direction towards his dugout, sees that the defense has left the infield and sprints to first, having deked the defense. What's the call?
  - a) This is legal.
  - b) This is illegal. The runner is out for "failure to attempt to reach first base" because he left the dirt circle in the direction away from 1st.
  - c) This is illegal. The runner is out for "failure to attempt to reach first base" because the infielders have left the diamond.
2. R2 is on second base. After B2 takes his position in batter's box, F2 clearly reaches out over home plate after F1 has made a movement that has committed him to pitch. The batter does not swing.
  - a) This is catcher's obstruction. B2 is awarded first. R2 remains at second.
  - b) This is catcher's obstruction. B2 is awarded first. R2 is awarded third.
  - c) This is nothing.
3. R2 is on second base. After B2 takes his position in batter's box, F2 clearly reaches out over home plate to receive the pitch and throw out R2 who is attempting to steal third. The batter does not swing.
  - a) This is catcher's obstruction. B2 is awarded first. R2 remains at second.
  - b) This is catcher's obstruction. B2 is awarded first. R2 is awarded third.
  - c) This is nothing.
4. R3 is on third base and R2 on second base, with one out. F2 obstructs B4 who hits a ground ball to F4. R2 was attempting to steal third, even though third was occupied. B4 is thrown out at first on the play.
  - a) Catcher's obstruction is enforced. B4 is awarded first. R2 is awarded third, which forces R3 to score.
  - b) Catcher's obstruction is enforced. B4 is awarded first. R2 is returned to second because they can not force R3 to advance since R3 was not stealing.

## Obstruction (Awards)

*Video Review:* [https://youtu.be/v\\_3wnvoPFms](https://youtu.be/v_3wnvoPFms)

*Full Quiz:* <https://forms.gle/feaCATKKzjwccdn28>

Relevant Rules: 8.3.2, 8.3.3

5. While B1 is moving toward second base on a hit to right-center field, F6, who does not have the ball in his possession, fakes a tag on B1 as they are coming into second base. The umpire judges that if the fake tag had not occurred, B1 still would not have reached third base safely.
  - a. This is legal.
  - b. This is obstruction. B1 is awarded second.
  - c. This is obstruction. B1 is awarded third.

## Balks

*Video Review:* <https://youtu.be/GM6QSTLXMMMA>

*Full Quiz:* <https://forms.gle/vHZqz5ayzYXdwqTM8>

Relevant Rules: 6.1.1, 6.1.3, 6.2.4, 6.2.5,

6. With R1 on first, F1, a left-handed pitcher, attempts a pickoff while stepping at an angle but to the home plate side of a 45-degree angle between the center of pitcher's plate and between home and first base.
  - a) This is a balk. Umpires may use a 45-degree angle to help determine the direction of a step. However, they are encouraged to use the language "step directly toward" and not "using a 45-degree" line.
  - b) This is not a balk.
7. With R1 on first base and two outs, F1 attempts to pick off R1. As F1 pivots to throw, he realizes that F3 is not on the base, but is in his normal defensive position. F1 completes the throw without interruption to F3 in his normal defensive position.
  - a) This is always a balk. The throw must be directly to the bag.
  - b) This is always legal. F1 can throw to the first baseman regardless of where the first baseman is standing, so long as there is a runner on first base.
  - c) This is the umpire's judgment if F3 was in proximity of the base.

## Slide Rules

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/bisNeREDWaA>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/yBFAnsnbDATBpBRy5>

Relevant Rules: 2.32.2, 8.4.2

8. Bases loaded. A ground ball to F1 is thrown to F2. R3 slides on the ground not in a direct line to the plate, reaching out with his hand to touch the plate and contacts the catcher. His contact hinders F2's attempted throw to 3rd base.
  - a) This is a legal slide.
  - b) This is an illegal slide. R3 is declared out. The batter-runner is awarded first. As a result, R2 will be at third and R1 will be at first.
  - c) This is an illegal slide. R3 is declared out along with the batter-runner. Other runners return to their position at the time of pitch.
9. R2 is on second base with one out. B3 hits a single and R2 scores. After catching the throw behind the plate, F2 tries to throw to second base but the slide hinders F2's throw. R2's slide was not in a straight line through the plate.
  - a) The ball is immediately dead. R2's run counts and B3 is called out on interference.
  - b) The ball is immediately dead. R2 is declared out, the run does not count, and B3 must return to first base.
  - c) R2's slide is legal.
10. The bases are loaded with **\*\*two outs\*\***. B5 hits a ground ball to F4, who throws to F2 for the force out at home. The throw pulls F2 off home plate several steps toward the first-base side. R3, seeing F2 ready to make a play on B5 at first base, touches home plate and maliciously crashed into F2.
  - a) R3 will be declared out and ejected for the contact. No runs score.
  - b) R3 will be declared out and ejected for the contact. The run scores.
  - c) B5 will be declared out for R3's illegal slide. R3 is ejected. No runs score.

## Defensive Actions

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/2DXovRe6cHk>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/vWxK7sLsMQJXM3e3A>

Relevant Rules: 2.9.1, 2.21.2, 2.29.3, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 8.4.1, 8.4.2,

11. B1 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to first. F3 juggles the ball so that it rolls up his arm and is clamped to his body by an elbow or forearm when B1 touches first. Is the runner out?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
12. B1 hits a popup in the infield over foul territory. F5 positions himself to catch the ball with one foot in the 3rd base dugout, and the other on the playing field. F5 catches the ball. Is this an out?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
13. B1 hits a popup in the infield over foul territory. F5 positions himself to catch the ball with one foot in the 3rd base dugout, the other foot is elevated above the playing field. F5 catches the ball and then falls into the dugout. Is this an out?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
14. B1 hits a popup in the infield over foul territory. F5 positions himself to catch the ball which is coming down inside the third base dugout. F5 jumps into the dugout and falls over the fence after catching the ball. His feet were never touching the playing field while he had the ball. Is this a catch?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
15. With R3 on third, R1 on first and no outs, R1 attempts to steal second. F2 is obstructed on his throw to second base by the plate umpire. The throw is cut off by the shortstop and relayed back to the plate in time to retire R3 trying to score.
  - a) The play stands.
  - b) The defense can choose to take the results of the play or have umpire interference enforced. This results in R3 returned to third. And R1 returned to first.
  - c) Umpires Interference. R3 is returned to third. R1 is returned to first.
16. With one out and R1 on first base, B3 hits a fly ball to short left field. R1 rounds second, but retreats toward first base when he thinks the ball will be caught. The ball drops, but F7 retrieves the ball and throws it to second base. R1 is between first and second. F4 tags second and walks away. Then R1 reaches second without being tagged.
  - a) R1 is out on a force out.
  - b) R1 is safe. Because R1 already touched second, they must be tagged to be put out.

## Pitching Regulations

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/18VRy36naDQ>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/7YW6WktS12k4pDYEA>

Relevant Rules: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 6.1.6, 6.2.2,

17. After the pregame conference, Team A's coach decides not to start F1. F1 had been published in the newspaper as today's starting pitcher. Is this legal?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No, unless F1 is injured, ill or ejected, or removed by his coach for disciplinary reasons, F1 shall pitch to one batter.
  - c) No. Unless the coach is able to get the local newspaper to print a correction before the game, stating that the starting pitcher has changed.
18. In the top half of the first, S1 pinch hits for F1. In the bottom half of the first inning, F1 re-enters to face the first batter. Is this legal?
  - a) Yes, he may re-enter and pitch.
  - b) No, he may not re-enter.
  - c) No, he may re-enter but can NOT pitch.
19. In the top half of the first, S1 pinch hits for F1. In the bottom half of the first inning, F1 does not re-enter. In the bottom of the 3rd inning, the visiting team's head coach tries to bring F1 back into the game to pitch.
  - a) This is not allowed. Since F1 did not pitch to the first batter, F1 can not re-enter the game.
  - b) This is not allowed. Since F1 did not pitch to the first batter, they may not return to pitch. However, they can re-enter to play a position other than pitcher.
  - c) This is allowed. Since F1 was not in the game when his team went on defense in the bottom of the 1st, he has not been a pitcher yet and may come into the game to pitch.
20. F1, who was a base runner in his half of the inning, is slow in coming out to take his warm-up pitches. The umpire refuses to permit him to warm-up, stating he used up his one-minute allotted time. The coach argues this is legal because the allotted time starts when the pitcher delivers his first warm-up pitch. Who is correct?
  - a) The Umpire. The clock starts with the final out of the previous half-inning.
  - b) The Coach. The clock starts when the pitcher delivers his first warm-up pitch.
21. Prior to the start of the third inning, starter F1 is replaced by a relief pitcher. How much time and/or how many pitches does the relief pitcher get to warm up?
  - a) 8 pitches or 1 minute from the final out of the previous half-inning.
  - b) 5 pitches or 1 minute from the final out of the previous half-inning.
  - c) 8 pitches or 1 minute from the first warm-up pitch.
  - d) 5 pitches or 1 minute from the first warm-up pitch.
22. After throwing 3 warm-up pitches prior to the start of the fourth inning, F1 develops a blister on the tip of his index finger and is replaced as pitcher. F1's replacement takes the 5-remaining number of warm-up pitches due starter F1. Can F1 return to pitch later in the game?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No

23. After throwing 3 warm-up pitches prior to the start of the fourth inning, F1 develops a blister on the tip of his index finger and is replaced as pitcher. F1 's replacement takes 8 warm-up pitches. Can F1 return to pitch later in the game?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
24. After throwing 3 warm-up pitches prior to the start of the fourth inning, F1 develops a blister on the tip of his index finger and is replaced as pitcher. F1 's replacement takes 12 warm-up pitches. Can F1 return to pitch later in the game?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
25. F1 intentionally throws at B4 and is ejected from the contest. How many warm-up throws does S1 receive?
- a) No more than 5.
  - b) No more than 8.
  - c) 8. Or as many as necessary, similar to an injury or inclement weather.



## Obstruction (Definition)

*The Video Review for this subject is very important for umpires that work baseball using other rules sets such as OBR, NCAA, or Little League. Please review the key differences in the video associated with this section.*

*Video Review: <https://youtu.be/b6VndrqTLXo>*

*Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/zvNrdWMT2TBzdVD27>*

Relevant Rules: 8.1.1, 8.3.2

26. R1. 1 out. B2 hits a single to right field. R1 is obstructed rounding second but is still able to reach third. The umpire yells and signals "obstruction" and allows play to continue. The umpires believe R1 would have only made it to third had the obstruction not occurred. After the playing action ends,...
- "Time" is called. No awards are made.
  - "Time" is called. R1 is awarded home. B1 is awarded 2nd.
  - The ball remains live and no other action is taken.
27. B1 hits a single to center field. The ball is fielded cleanly by F8, and quickly thrown to F6 covering second base. B1, while casually rounding first base, makes contact with F3 and loses his balance. He does not fall and safely returns to first base. This contact does not prevent B1 from reaching second.
- This is obstruction, B1 is awarded second.
  - This is obstruction, B1 remains at first.
  - This is nothing.
28. B1 hits a single to center field. The ball is fielded cleanly by F8, and quickly thrown to F6 covering second base. B1, while casually rounding first base, makes contact with F3 and loses his balance. He falls to the ground, but quickly gets up and safely returns to first base. This contact does not prevent B1 from reaching second. He was never going to reach second base.
- This is obstruction, B1 is awarded second.
  - This is obstruction, B1 remains at first.
  - This is nothing.

## Runner's Lane Interference

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/xYLeDRf7auo>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/PPFrJBPxYhmk8Ece7>

Relevant Rules: 8.4.2, 8.4.2

29. With R3 on third base, B2 hits a fair ground ball to F3 who fields the ball beyond first base. He throws to F2 attempting to retire R3. The throw hits B2 who is running in fair territory and does not intentionally interfere with the ball.
  - a) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is returned to third base.
  - b) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is out.
  - c) This is not interference.
30. With R3 on third base, B2 bunts a ball that is fielded by F2. F2 attempts to throw to F3, but because B2 is outside of the runner's lane and in the way, F2 tries to throw over B2's head. The throw goes 10 feet over the head of F3.
  - a) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is returned to third base.
  - b) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is out.
  - c) This is not interference.
31. With R3 on third base, B2 bunts a ball that is fielded by F2. F2 attempts to throw to F3, but because B2 is outside of the runner's lane and in the way, F2 does NOT throw the ball and no play is made.
  - a) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is returned to third base.
  - b) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is out.
  - c) This is not interference.
32. With R3 on third base, B2 bunts a ball that is fielded by F2. F2 throws to F3, but the throw is deflected when it hits B2, who is running in fair territory 15 feet away from home plate.
  - a) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is returned to third base.
  - b) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is out.
  - c) This is not interference.
33. With R3 on third base, B2 bunts a ball up the first base line that is fielded by F1. B2 is running in fair territory. When F1 goes to tag B2, B2 moves laterally more than 3 feet, but is able to stay in the runner's lane and proceed to first without being tagged. R3 scores.
  - a) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is returned to third base.
  - b) This is interference, B2 is out and R3 is out.
  - c) B2 is out for having left the baseline. R3 scores.
  - d) B2 is out for having left the baseline. R3 is returned to third base.
  - e) This is a legal play

## Defensive Conferences

*The Video Review for this subject is very important for umpires that work baseball using other rules sets such as OBR, NCAA, or Little League. Please review the key differences in the video associated with this section.*

*Video Review: <https://youtu.be/KQ4zXLii9aM>*

*Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/LjWp2TsAizPmjTSG6>*

Relevant Rules: 3.4.1, 3.4.3

34. Team A has used two defensive conferences in the first 7 innings of the game. They do not use a conference in the 8th inning. How many conferences can the team A coach use in the 9th inning without having to pull his pitcher.
- 0
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
35. The coach of the defensive team has used his three charged conferences. In the seventh inning the coach stops play to confer with his catcher about pitch calls coming from the dugout. Does the defensive team have to remove F1 from pitcher for the rest of the game?
- Yes.
  - No. The defensive team can always call time to clarify pitch signals.
  - No. So long as the defense has not had a visit to the mound in this inning.
  - No. The visit does not count towards needing to change the pitcher if the pitcher is not included.
36. In the third inning the coach of the defensive team, who has yet to have a charged conference, goes to the mound to talk to his pitcher. He does not change pitchers. The next inning he receives time to visit with his catcher. How many charged conferences has the coach accumulated?
- 0
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
37. In the top of the fifth inning the defensive team's head coach asks for "Time" to check on his center fielder who appeared to be ill. At the same time the assistant coach goes to the pitcher's mound to visit with the pitcher. Has a charged conference occurred?
- Yes
  - No
38. The umpire believes F4 is faking an injury so that a coach can talk to the pitcher while the other coach checks on him (F4). What actions can the umpire take?
- Eject F4 for unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - Prohibit the defensive team from checking on their player.
  - Prohibit additional conferences with other players while the defense checks on F4.
  - Nothing. This is a legal because the umpire can't prove the player is faking an injury.

39. Team A has had two charged conferences. In the 5th inning, team A's head coach goes to the mound and swaps F5 and F1. Can the pitcher who is being replaced return to pitch later in the game?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
40. Team A has had three charged conferences. In the 5th inning, team A's head coach goes to the mound and swaps F5 and F1. Can the pitcher who is being replaced return to pitch later in the game?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
41. Team A has had three charged conferences by the fifth inning. With the game tied in the sixth inning, the coach of Team A informs the umpire that: F6 and F1 are going to trade positions. Can the pitcher who is being replaced return to pitch later in the game?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
42. Team A has had three charged conferences by the fifth inning. With the game tied in the sixth inning, the coach of Team A informs the umpire that: S1 is replacing F1. Can the pitcher who is being replaced return to pitch later in the game?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
43. Between innings the coach of Team A walks from the third base coach's box to the pitcher's mound and proceeds to visit with F1. Does this count as a conference?
- a) Yes
  - b) No

## Malicious Contact

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/LltmBkzh04I>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/mYbzhtdXJM4uAbcB8>

Relevant Rules: 3.3.1

44. R3 is advancing to home on a ball hit in the right-center field gap and initiates malicious contact with F2, who is standing out of the baseline. F2 does not have the ball, and there is no play at the plate. The malicious contact occurs before B2 reaches first on this obvious double.
- a) This is an immediate dead ball. R3 is out. B2 is awarded first.
  - b) This is an immediate dead ball. R3 is out. B2 is awarded second.
  - c) This is a delayed dead ball. R3 is out. B2 shall continue to play and advances at his own risk.
45. R3 is advancing to home on a ball hit in the right-center field gap and initiates malicious contact with F2, who is standing out of the baseline. F2 does not have the ball, and there is no play at the plate. The malicious contact occurs after B2 rounds first on this obvious double.
- a) This is an immediate dead ball. R3 is out. B2 is awarded first.
  - b) This is an immediate dead ball. R3 is out. B2 is awarded second.
  - c) This is a delayed dead ball. R3 is out. B2 shall continue to play and advances at his own risk.
46. Upon rounding second, R1 maliciously runs into F6 who is obstructing his base path by being in the baseline.
- a) This is obstruction. R1 is awarded third.
  - b) This is malicious contact and obstruction. R1 is awarded third and ejected at the conclusion of play. A substitute will continue running the bases.
  - c) This is malicious contact and the obstruction is ignored. R1 is out and ejected.
47. With two outs and the bases loaded, B6 hits a home run out of the park. R1 maliciously runs over F4 before touching second base.
- a) R1 is declared out. 3 runs score.
  - b) R1 is declared out. 2 runs score.
  - c) R1 is declared out. 0 runs score.
  - d) R1 is declared out, any runners that had touched the plate before the malicious contact score. The others do not.

48. With two outs and the bases loaded, B6 hits a home run out of the park. R1 maliciously runs over F5 before touching third.
- a) R1 is declared out. 3 runs score.
  - b) R1 is declared out. 2 runs score.
  - c) R1 is declared out. 0 runs score.
  - d) R1 is declared out, any runners that had touched the plate before the malicious contact score. The others do not.
49. With no outs, and R2 on second base, B2 hits the ball in the gap. R2 touches and rounds third and heads for home, and initiates malicious contact with F2 before touching the plate.
- a) R2 is out and ejected. The batter-runner must return to the last legally acquired base at the time of the malicious contact.
  - b) R2 is out and ejected. The batter-runner is placed where the umpire believes they would have achieved had the malicious contact not occurred.
50. With no outs, and R2 on second base, B2 hits the ball in the gap. R2 touches and rounds third and heads for home, and initiates malicious contact with F2 AFTER scoring.
- a) R2 is out and ejected. The batter-runner must return to the last legally acquired base at the time of the malicious contact.
  - b) R2 is out and ejected. The batter-runner is placed where the umpire believes they would have achieved had the malicious contact not occurred.
  - c) R2 is ejected, and the run counts. The batter-runner must return to the last legally acquired base at the time of the malicious contact.
  - d) R2 is ejected, and the run counts. The batter-runner is placed where the umpire believes they would have achieved had the malicious contact not occurred.

## Pitching Violations

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/QWpWBQ1AMPo>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/teGkoLTt47DzmvWH9>

Relevant Rules: 6.2.1

51. With no runners on base, F1 places his pitching hand on his mouth and distinctly wipes off his pitching hand prior to touching the ball, while touching the pitcher's plate.
  - a) This is legal.
  - b) This is illegal, the umpire shall replace the ball.
  - c) This is illegal, a ball shall be added to the count.
52. With R1 at first, F1 places his pitching hand on his mouth and distinctly wipes off his pitching hand prior to touching the ball while touching the pitcher's plate in the set position.
  - a) This is legal.
  - b) This is illegal, the umpire shall replace the ball.
  - c) This is illegal, a ball shall be added to the count.
  - d) This is illegal, and shall be ruled a balk.
53. With R2 at second, F1 is not on the pitcher's plate. He goes to his mouth and goes directly to the ball with his pitching hand. F1 calls time and requests a new ball.
  - a) This is legal.
  - b) This is illegal, the umpire shall replace the ball.
  - c) This is illegal, a ball shall be added to the count.
  - d) This is illegal, and shall be ruled a balk.
54. With R2 at second, F1 is not on the pitcher's plate. He goes to his mouth and goes directly to the ball with his pitching hand. F1 legally engages the pitching plate.
  - a) This is legal.
  - b) This is illegal; the umpire shall replace the ball.
  - c) This is illegal; a ball shall be added to the count.
  - d) This is illegal and shall be ruled a balk.
55. B1 goes to first because of ball four. After B1 has touched first, he steps off the base and F3 tags him by use of the "hidden ball" trick.
  - a) The runner is safe.
  - b) The runner is out.
56. Team A wears its gray road traditional sleeved jerseys. The sleeves of the jersey extend beyond the pitcher's elbow. Is this legal for the pitcher?
  - a) Legal.
  - b) Illegal.
57. F1 prepares to pitch and is wearing a glove that has white laces.
  - a) This is legal, with no exceptions.
  - b) This is legal, so long as the umpire does not determine it is distracting.
  - c) This is illegal; the glove is removed from the game upon discovery.
  - d) This is illegal; the glove and pitcher are removed from the game upon discovery.

58. F1 prepares to pitch and is wearing a glove that has gray piping.
- This is legal, with no exceptions.
  - This is legal, so long as the umpire does not determine it is distracting.
  - This is illegal; the glove is removed from the game upon discovery.
  - This is illegal; the glove and pitcher are removed from the game upon discovery.
59. F1 prepares to pitch and is wearing a glove that has the manufacturer's white logo.
- This is legal, with no exceptions.
  - This is legal, so long as the umpire does not determine it is distracting.\*\*
  - This is illegal; the glove is removed from the game upon discovery.
  - This is illegal; the glove and pitcher are removed from the game upon discovery.
- \*\*GHSA has changed their interpretation to allow for a white manufacturer's logo, so long as it is not excessive or distracting in nature.**
60. F1's glove is red.
- This is legal, with no exceptions.
  - This is legal, so long as the umpire does not determine it is distracting.
  - This is illegal; the glove is removed from the game upon discovery.
  - This is illegal; the glove and pitcher are removed from the game upon discovery.
61. F1's glove is green.
- This is legal, with no exceptions.
  - This is legal, so long as the umpire does not determine it is distracting.
  - This is illegal; the glove is removed from the game upon discovery.
  - This is illegal; the glove and pitcher are removed from the game upon discovery.
62. F1's glove is black with white laces.
- This is legal, with no exceptions.
  - This is legal, so long as the umpire does not determine it is distracting.
  - This is illegal; the glove is removed from the game upon discovery.
  - This is illegal; the glove and pitcher are removed from the game upon discovery.
63. F1 is wearing a white glove. The glove has not been discovered by the umpires. B1 bunts to the pitcher, who fields the ball and throws B1 out at first base. The offensive coach brings the glove to the attention of the umpire-in-chief and wants the penalty for an illegal glove enforced.
- This is an illegal glove. The glove is removed and the out and at-bat are restarted from "scratch".
  - This is an illegal glove. The glove is removed. However, the results of all playing action stand.
64. F1's cap frequently falls off his head.
- This is legal so long as the pitcher starts his delivery with his hat on his head. No exceptions.
  - This is legal unless the umpire determines it is distracting or delaying the game.
  - This is illegal. The pitcher shall continue pitching but without a hat.
  - This is illegal without exception. If a pitcher's hat is, in the umpire's judgement, "regularly coming off his head" he must be replaced. Umpires are encouraged to instruct coaches to have the hat replaced before completely removing the pitcher. The hat is required by rule, and the pitcher may not decide to pitch without a hat.



## Courtesy Runners

Video Review: [https://youtu.be/mPB3Vb0eM\\_Q](https://youtu.be/mPB3Vb0eM_Q)

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/6mQJEiqbSXYtJdTE7>

Relevant Rules: 3.1.1, CR

65. In the top of the first inning, CR1 is a courtesy runner for the pitcher. In the fifth inning, CR1 is brought in to courtesy run for the catcher.
- This is always legal.
  - This is only legal because it is in different innings.
  - This is always illegal.
66. Jones runs for F2 in the first inning, but Smith comes out to run for F2 in the third inning. Jones has not yet entered the game in any other capacity and was still able to run for F2.
- This is legal. Smith can now run for F2.
  - This is illegal. Jones must continue to be the courtesy runner.
67. The coach of Team A sends out a courtesy runner for F2 in the third inning with one out. After the second out, he sends F2 back out to run for himself.
- This is legal.
  - This is illegal.
68. Herrmann is a courtesy runner for F2 in the top half of the sixth inning. He then enters to pinch-hit for F4 later in that half-inning.
- If he is still on the bases, this is illegal because he must finish his time courtesy running. If he is not on the bases, this is legal.
  - This is always illegal.
  - This is always legal, even if he is currently on the bases as a courtesy runner.
69. The coach of Team A sends out a courtesy runner for F1 and fails to report the change to the umpire-in-chief.
- The umpire should recognize this runner is for F1 and note it as a courtesy runner.
  - This is a substitution.
70. F1 singles and is replaced at first by a courtesy runner. On the next pitch, the courtesy runner steals second base and sprains his ankle, but is safe on the slide. What happens next?
- CR1 is out because he cannot finish running the bases.
  - CR1 must be replaced by F1.
  - CR1 must be replaced by a legal substitute, and cannot be replaced by F1 unless no other legal substitutes remain.
71. Adams courtesy runs for F1 (Jones) in the 1st inning. Baker courtesy runs for F2 (Smith) in the 3rd inning. In the 4th inning, Jones and Smith swap defensive positions. Which person can Adams courtesy run for?
- Jones as new catcher.
  - Smith as new pitcher.
72. Adams is the catcher for Team A and is to leadoff in the bottom of the fifth inning. The coach has Smith to pinch-hit for him and Smith leads off with a single. Team A requests to use a courtesy runner for Smith.
- This is legal.
  - This is illegal.

73. Adams is the catcher for Team A and is to leadoff in the bottom of the fifth inning. The coach has Smith to pinch-hit for him (first time in the game Adams has had a substitute for him) and Smith leads off with a single. The coach re-enters Adams into the game and then requests to have a courtesy runner for Adams. The coach of Team B protests that is not legal.

- a) This is legal.
- b) This is illegal.

## Replacing the Pitcher

*Video Review:* <https://youtu.be/gLAZ0Z7tO7U>

*Full Quiz:* <https://forms.gle/yQQbQGHETonpK5D76>

Relevant Rules: 3.1.2, 6.2.2

74. F1 is replaced by S1. The catcher or coach of the defensive team indicates to the umpire-in-chief that his team wishes to grant an intentional base on balls. Following the intentional base on balls, S1 is replaced by S2.

- a) This is legal.
- b) This is illegal.

75. In the top of the 2nd inning, F1 is late getting to the mound. F3 while waiting to give the ball to F1, toes the rubber with the ball AND delivers a warm-up pitch. Is this a substitution?

- a) Yes, F3 is now the pitcher and must face one batter.
- b) No. F1 is still the pitcher of record.

76. The starting pitcher (Jones) for the visiting team sprains his ankle in the top of the first inning and cannot pitch in the bottom of the first. Later in the fourth inning, the visiting team's coach wants to bring Jones back into the game to pitch.

- a) This is legal.
- b) This is illegal, but Jones can return to play any other defensive position.
- c) This is illegal. Jones cannot return to the game.

## Pitching Positions

*Video Review:* <https://youtu.be/tOwMoYGIP4o>

*Full Quiz:* <https://forms.gle/DcMLUK2jkrEzDMHT8>

Relevant Rules: 6.1.1, 6.1.3

77. Switch-hitting B1 steps in against ambidextrous F1. B1 assumes a position in the batter's box as a left-handed hitter, prompting F1 to prepare to pitch left-handed. B1 quickly changes to the other batter's box to bat right-handed. F1 then switches to pitch right-handed. How is this situation prevented?

- a) The pitcher must decide which arm they will throw with first.
- b) The batter must decide to bat left or right handed first.

78. With R3 on third and R1 on first, F1 is in the set position on the rubber. F1 steps back off the rubber and throws to first base. The throw is wild and goes out of play. How many bases are awarded?

- a) One
- b) Two

## Batter Causing a Balk

Video Review: <https://youtu.be/N7Tu-hFUFXA>

Full Quiz: <https://forms.gle/HetEYQGgCycZCp8c7>

Relevant Rules: 6.2.4, 7.3.1

79. R3 is on third base. There are two outs and B4 has a count of 3-2. While F1 is in motion, B4 requests time-out, which is not granted, and steps out of the box with one foot. F1 does not deliver the pitch.
- This is a balk.
  - There is no penalty. Time is called and play will start again from scratch.
  - This is a violation on the batter. Time is called and a strike charged to the batter.
80. R3 is on third base. There are two outs and B4 has a count of 3-2. While F1 is in motion, B4 requests time-out, which is not granted, and steps out of the box with both feet. F1 does not deliver the pitch.
- This is a balk.
  - There is no penalty. Time is called and play will start again from scratch.
  - This is a violation on the batter. Time is called and a strike charged to the batter.
81. R3 is on third base. There are two outs and B4 has a count of 3-2. While F1 is in motion, B4 requests time-out, which is not granted, and steps out of the box with one foot. F1 delivers a pitch that sails over F2's head. B4 advances to first while R3 scores.
- There is no penalty. The pitch is ball 4. B4 is awarded first. R3's run scores.
  - This is a dead ball strike. B4 is out. R3 does not score.
  - This is a live ball, and the pitch is automatically a strike. In this situation, it is an uncaught third strike, allowing B4 to attempt to advance to 1st, and R3 to advance to home..
82. R3 is on third base. There are two outs, and B4 has a count of 3-2. While F1 is in motion, B4 requests time-out, which is not granted and steps out of the box with two feet. F1 delivers a pitch that sails over F2's head. B4 advances to first while R3 scores.
- There is no penalty. The pitch is ball 4. B4 is awarded first. R3's run scores.
  - This is a dead ball strike. B4 is out. R3 does not score.
  - This is a live ball, and the pitch is automatically a strike. In this situation, it is an uncaught third strike, allowing B4 to attempt to advance to 1st, and R3 to advance to home..
83. 0 outs. 0-0 Count. With R3 on third base. F1 starts his pitching motion and B2 requests "Time," but the umpire does not grant "Time." B2 steps out of the batter's box with one foot and F1 delivers a pitch.
- This is a dead ball strike.
  - This is a live ball strike.
  - This is a live ball. The pitch is ruled on based on pitch location. The batter is also charged a strike for stepping out. The new count is 0-2.
  - This is a dead ball. The pitch is a strike regardless of where the ball crosses the plate. The batter is also charged a strike for stepping out. The new count is 0-2.

84. 0 outs. 0-0 Count. With R3 on third base. F1 starts his pitching motion and B2 requests "Time," but the umpire does not grant "Time." B2 steps out of the batter's box with both feet and F1 does not deliver the pitch.
- a) This is a dead ball strike.
  - b) This is a live ball strike.
  - c) This is a live ball. The pitch is a strike regardless of where the ball crosses the plate. The batter is also charged a strike for stepping out. The new count is 0-2.
  - d) This is a dead ball. The pitch is a strike regardless of where the ball crosses the plate. The batter is also charged a strike for stepping out. The new count is 0-2.
85. 0 outs. 0-0 Count. With R3 on third base. F1 starts his pitching motion and B2 requests "Time," but the umpire does not grant "Time." B2 steps out of the batter's box with both feet and F1 throws a wild pitch.
- a) This is a dead ball strike.
  - b) This is a live ball strike.
  - c) This is a live ball. The pitch is a strike regardless of where the ball crosses the plate. The batter is also charged a strike for stepping out. The new count is 0-2.
  - d) This is a dead ball. The pitch is a strike regardless of where the ball crosses the plate. The batter is also charged a strike for stepping out. The new count is 0-2.

## Foul Tip or Foul Ball

*Video Review:* <https://youtu.be/POvORcXe1ac>

*Full Quiz:* <https://forms.gle/ahhNQPigmkTXQ1WKA>

Relevant Rules: 2.5.1, 2.16.1, 5.1.1,

86. B1 swings and tips the ball and the ball goes directly to the catcher's glove and then rebounds to the catcher's chest protector, then the ball is caught by the catcher.
- a) This is a foul ball. The ball is dead.
  - b) This is a foul tip. The ball is live.
87. B1 swings and tips the ball and the ball goes directly to the catcher's chest protector and then is caught by the catcher.
- a) This is a foul ball. The ball is dead and R1 returns to first base.
  - b) This is a foul tip. The ball remains live. R1 does not need to tag up on a foul tip.
88. With R1 on first base, B2 attempts to hit on the first pitch, which goes directly from his bat to F2's mitt, then rebounds to F1, who catches the ball in flight as R1 is advancing.
- a) This is a foul tip. R1 is not required to retouch first base.
  - b) This is a caught foul fly. R1 is in jeopardy of being out if he does not return to properly retouch first base.

## Time of Pitch

*Video Review:* <https://youtu.be/JSbyfwzdXc>

*Full Quiz:* <https://forms.gle/dkZLGZ2jY8pgvegZ6>

Relevant Rules: 2.28.3

89. R3 is on third and R1 on first with no outs. F1 contacts the pitcher's plate and assumes the set position stance. As he begins his stretch, R1 advances toward second base attempting to steal. F1 realizes R1 is stealing but he does not throw to second, fearing that R3 will break for home and score. F1 completes his stretch, coming to a pause with the ball in both hands in front of his body. R1 reaches second and rounds it, after which F1 delivers the ball to B3, who fouls the pitch into the stands.
- R1 should be returned to first.
  - R1 should remain at second base.
90. R3 is on third base with two outs. F1 contacts the pitcher's plate and assumes the wind-up position with his glove hand in front of his body and his pitching hand by his side. As he brings his pitching hand to his glove hand, R3 takes off for home. F1 steps legally off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot and throws to F2 to tag out R3.
- This is a balk.
  - This is not a balk.
91. With R3 on third base, F1 steps on the pitcher's plate in the windup position with both hands at his sides to take a sign from F2. After taking the sign, F1 brings both hands up together in front of his body and then stops to adjust the ball.
- This is legal.
  - This is a balk.

## 2023 Rules Changes

*Video Review:* <https://youtu.be/iTnrcfwhZOo>

*Full Quiz:* <https://forms.gle/dXGj3NmwwQsqPbrNTA>

Relevant Rules: 1.5.4, 1.5.12, 2.4.4, 3.3.1d, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3

92. B1 comes to the plate wearing a necklace that is hanging outside of his uniform. He is also wearing earrings and a wristband from the Nickelback concert that he attended the previous night. Is this player legally equipped?
- Yes
  - No
93. Is a position-player wearing sunglasses on top of his hat legally equipped?
- Yes
  - No
94. B1 comes to the plate wearing a silicone bracelet that has a racist/sexist/intimidating remark on it.
- This is legal.
  - This is not legal.



95. A coach/player/bench personnel is wearing a bandana. This is allowed.
- a) True
  - b) False
96. A player is wearing a play-calling wristband on his/her belt. This is allowed.
- a) True
  - b) False
97. A right-handed pitcher engages the pitching plate with his pivot foot parallel to the pitcher's plate. His shoulders are squared to the plate, and his free foot is breaking the plane of the front edge of the pitcher's plate. Is this pitcher in the set or windup? <https://youtu.be/wMiREHTft2s>
- a) Windup
  - b) Set
98. A right-handed pitcher with no runners on base engages the pitching plate with his pivot foot parallel to the pitcher's plate. His shoulders are squared to the plate, and his free foot is breaking the plane of the front edge of the pitcher's plate. He picks up and lowers his free foot twice in his delivery. <https://youtu.be/wMiREHTft2s>
- a) This is legal.
  - b) This is illegal, and we will restart from scratch.
  - c) This is an illegal pitch, and a ball will be added to the count.
99. The 2023 rules change now acknowledges the "Hybrid" stance and specifically addresses that it be considered a wind-up.
- a) True
  - b) False
100. Umpires shall use the location and angle of the pitcher's pivot foot when determining if the pitcher is in the stretch or windup.
- a) True
  - b) False
101. Umpires shall use the location and angle of the pitcher's free foot when determining if the pitcher is in the stretch or windup.
- a) True
  - b) False
102. The catcher is wearing a legal hockey-style helmet. The player is also wearing sunglasses. This is legal.
- a) True
  - b) False
103. The catcher is wearing a legal hockey-style helmet that was manufactured with a tinted eye shield. The eye shield is NOCSAE-certified. This is legal.
- a) True
  - b) False