



# 2011 ASA Umpire Exam

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The examination consists of 50 questions based on Rules 1-10 and the Mechanics section of the ASA Official Rule Book. Questions are true or false and multiple choice. Answers should be put on the answer sheet and returned to the grader or test committee. THE ANSWER SHEET SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE ASA NATIONAL OFFICE.

The abbreviations used in the questions follow the following: B (N) = Batter; R1 = runner closest to home; R2 is the succeeding runner; R3 is the runner on first base when the bases are full; S (N) = substitutes; CR (N) = courtesy runner(s); PC (N) = physically challenged player; and F (N) = fielder by number. F1 is pitcher; F2 is catcher; F3 is first baseman; F4 is second baseman; F5 is third baseman; F6 is shortstop; F7 is left fielder; F8 is center fielder; and F9 is right fielder. If F10 is used it would be the extra fielder in the slow pitch game.

This examination may be given to all ASA registered umpires under one of the following methods to be determined by your local state/metro ASA commissioner, local umpires association, local parks and recreation department, or military sports officer:

- 1) Under supervision without the use of the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 2) Under supervision using the ASA Official Rule Book.
- 3) With no supervision and using the ASA Official Rule Book.

Retain the question portion of this examination for further study. Use care in marking your answer sheet. PLEASE COMPLETE THE EXAM BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

After completing, mail or return the ANSWER SHEET ONLY to:

GRADER \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY  
OF SOFTBALL

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## 2011 ASA UMPIRE EXAM

### General Questions

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1. When using five inch thick bases, it is permissible to use an orange tapered edge base, three inches thick, for the contrasting colored base.
2. On fly balls hit to the outfield near the foul line and your partner does not go out, the plate umpire should signal catch/no catch and then give the ball status of fair or foul.
3. After B1 hits the ball and reaches second base safely, the catcher picks up the bat and appeals to the plate umpire that there is so much tape on the handle of the bat that the knob is not distinguishable. The umpire rules that this is an altered bat.
4. The plate umpire may wear either blue or gray ASA ball bag(s) with navy blue pants.
5. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powder resin and/or an approved manufactured drying agent may be used by the pitcher that is included on the list published by the ASA. Both the resin and the approved drying agent must remain in the pitcher's pocket.
6. In both the Two and Three Umpire System, if the base umpire goes out on a fly ball near the line from behind F4, the base umpire is responsible for the catch or no catch and the plate umpire is responsible for fair or foul.
7. Levi's and cutoffs are not considered proper attire for coaches.
8. When the heat index reaches 100 degrees, games must be suspended as outlined in the Safety Awareness Guide.
9. The Tie-Breaker Rule is used in fast pitch games only.
10. A bat with a cone-shaped grip is legal in all divisions of ASA play.
11. An altered bat has been used by several players before it is discovered. The penalty should apply to all batters who used the bat during this inning.
12. An appeal may be made during a live ball by any fielder in possession of the ball by touching the base missed or left too soon on a caught fly ball, or by tagging the runner who committed the violation if the runner is still on the playing field.
13. A substitute may be reported by the manager to the plate umpire or to the official scorekeeper.
14. In a Three Umpire System with runners on 1st and 2nd base and the 3B Umpire goes out, the 1B Umpire should button hook inside the diamond and has tag-up responsibilities for both runners at 1st and 2nd base.
15. There is no penalty for failing to list an available substitute on the line-up card.
16. A runner can never be called out when hit by a batted ball while in contact with a base.

17. The plate umpire does not need to record substitutions and/or courtesy runners when an official scorer is used.
18. The base path is a line directly between a base and a runner's position at the time a defensive player is attempting to tag that runner.
19. When there is spectator interference, the ball is dead, the batter and all runners are awarded 2 bases from the time of the interference.
20. In the Two Umpire System the base umpire should go to the outfield on a catch/no catch situation or go out on balls too close to the foul line.
21. A defensive player may use the contrasting colored portion of the double base on any force out attempt from foul ground.
22. A player who re-enters the game for the second time must re-enter in a different position in the batting order.
23. A catcher sets up in a manner that gives the plate umpire no view through the slot. The umpire should move to the other side of the catcher to get a better view of the pitch.
24. Substitute Jones comes into the game in the fourth inning without reporting and hits a single. A pitch is thrown to the next batter then the opposing team notifies the home plate umpire that Jones did not report. The umpire removes Jones from the base and rules him out and disqualified.
25. It is the plate umpire's responsibility to call the infield fly.
26. In the Two Umpire System when the plate umpire rotates to third base for a play and the ball gets away from the fielder allowing the runner to advance to the plate, the base umpire should cover home plate.
27. Umpires have the option of wearing a t-shirt under the powder blue or navy blue polo uniform shirt.
28. In a Two Umpire System, the base umpire is responsible for the call at third base on the last runner.
29. With one out and a R1 on first base, the B3 hits a ground ball to F4. F4 tags B3 and immediately throws the ball to F6 who tags second base before R1 reaches the base. This is a double play and the inning is over.
30. When interference is an attempt to prevent a double play, the succeeding runner shall be called out.
31. With no outs, R1 on first base and B2 scheduled to bat, B4 comes to bat instead and grounds into a double play. Before the next batter steps into the batter's box, the defense appeals that B4 batted out of order. The umpire rules that the double play stands and that B2 is also declared out for the third out of the inning.

32. A Player wearing metal cleats after being warned by the umpire shall be disqualified from the game.
33. The Three Umpire System in both fast and slow pitch are:
- Basically the same.
  - Exactly the same.
  - The same except the 1B umpire's starting position is off the foul line as in the Two Umpire System.
  - None of the above.
34. Substitute Davis comes into the game unreported and doubles to left field. Before the next pitch, the defensive team appeals to the home plate umpire that Davis is the wrong batter. The Umpire:
- Rules no penalty and Davis is legally in the game.
  - Rules Davis is ejected, the starter is re-entered or a legal substitute enters the game.
  - Calls Davis out, removes him from second base and is now legally in the game.
  - Calls Davis out, ejects him from the game and a legal substitute or the starting player take his place in the line-up.
35. B1 hits a ground ball to F6, an unreported substitute, who fields the ball and throws B1 out at first base. Before a pitch to B2, the offensive team protests that F6 is an illegal player. The umpire should rule:
- No penalty, simply record F6 as in the game and continue play.
  - The offensive coach has the option of taking the result of the play or have B1 bat again and assume the ball and strike count. F6 is officially in the game.
  - B1 is out and F6 is ejected and replaced with a legal substitute.
  - B1 has the option of batting again with F6 being ejected and replaced with a legal substitute.
36. When a batted ball hits the batter's foot while the batter is in the box. The umpire should:
- Raise both hands above the head and call "dead ball".
  - Raise both hand above the head and call "dead ball" to stop action and then verbalize "Foul Ball".
  - Raise both hands above the head and call "dead ball" to stop the action and verbalize "batter is out".
  - Allow play to continue.
37. A fake tag is a form of Obstruction. It occurs when the fielder, without the ball, deceives the runner thus impeding their progress. A fake tag can occur when the runner, as a result of the fake tag:
- Stops
  - Slides
  - Slows Down
  - All the above

38. With one out and bases loaded, F3 is playing in front of first base. B5 hits a fair line drive that strikes R3 off base in fair territory and then the ball bounces into dead ball territory. When the ball went out of play, no runners had advanced to the next base.
- Dead ball and interference. R3 is out, B5 is awarded first base and all other runners are returned to the last base touched at the time the ball became dead.
  - Dead ball and interference. B5 is out and all runners are awarded two bases.
  - Dead ball and interference. B5 is placed on second base and all runners are awarded two bases.
  - Two base award. B5 is placed on second base and all runners are awarded two bases.
39. With R1 of first base, B2 hits a line drive base hit to F8. The plate umpire should:
- Exit the catcher on the right and trail the batter-runner a third of the way to first base, slightly inside the foul line.
  - Exit the catcher on the left and trail the batter-runner a third of the way to first base, slightly inside the foul line.
  - Exit the catcher on the left and hustle to center of the diamond to observe all play.
  - Move up the third base line to the holding zone for a possible call at third base.
40. With no outs, R1 on third base and R2 on second base, R1 is hit with a fair batted ball while standing on the base. R1 does not intentionally interfere. F5 is the closest defensive player and is playing behind third base. The correct ruling is:
- The ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk.
  - The ball is dead immediately, R1 and R2 remain at their base and B3 is awarded first base.
  - The ball is live and R1 is declared out.
  - The ball is ruled dead immediately and R1 is out. B3 is placed at first base and R2 stays at second base.
41. In a Two Umpire System with R1 on second base, B2 hits a fly ball to F9 who make a routine catch. Which mechanics are correct?
- The base umpire button hooks inside the diamond half way between first and second base and covers the batter-runner. The plate umpire rules on the catch by F9, takes the tag-up at second base and R1 into third base.
  - The base umpire stays outside the diamond lining up the runner and F9, taking the tag-up at second base and R1 into third base. The plate umpire rules on the catch and remains at home for a possible play at the plate.
  - The base umpire button hooks inside the diamond to a position between the pitcher's plate and the baseline taking the tag-up at second base and R1 into third base. The plate umpire rules on the catch by F9.
  - The base umpire button hooks inside the diamond to a position between the pitcher's plate and the baseline, taking the tag-up second base. The plate umpire rules on the catch by F9 and takes the call on R1 at third base.
42. B1 accidentally makes contact with F2's return throw to F1:
- The ball remains live
  - Runners may advance
  - A warning is issued to the batter
  - None of the above

43. If a pitcher has started the pitch and the batter holds up a hand requesting “time out,” the umpire should:
- Grant time out and call “no pitch.”
  - Not grant time out and call the pitch a “ball” or “strike” depending on the location of the ball.
  - Not grant time out and not make a call. Take a result of the batter’s swing.
  - Grant time out, swing around and clean off home plate to allow the batter time to get situated.
44. All the following are true regarding a legal softball bat, EXCEPT:
- Must have the ASA approval stamp on it.
  - Can be rolled as long s it passes the batted ball speed specification.
  - Can not be on the Non Approved bat list.
  - Can have the initials of the owner painted or engraved on the bat taper area.
45. A Safety Grip:
- Can be made of cork.
  - Shall not be less than 10 inches or more than 15 inches.
  - May have pine tar or resin on it.
  - All of the above.

### **Slow Pitch Only**

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46. When two consecutive batters are intentionally walked by the defensive team, the first batter can go directly to second base and the second batter goes directly to first base.
47. For the purpose of an appeal play, an intentional walk awarded by the plate umpire is considered a pitch or play.
48. F1 simulates a legal pitch while not in contact with the pitcher’s plate. F1 then steps on the pitcher’s plate and pitches the ball which B1 hits for a double, scoring R1 from second base. The plate umpire should allow the run to count.
49. In a CO-ED Slow Pitch Game team B positions three male players playing 1B, SS and 3B, a female player is at 2B. The outfield is made up of three female players and one male player. Team A’s coach, prior to the next pitch, informs the plate umpire of Team B’s defensive positioning just after R1 advanced from 1B to 2B safely and B3 was thrown out at 1B. The plate umpire should:
- Declare the game a forfeit.
  - Declare that all action should stand.
  - Give the coach the option of taking the result of the play or awarding the batter-runner first base and advancing the runner if forced.
  - Declare the game a forfeit.
50. When a pitcher makes any motion to pitch while not in contact with the pitcher’s plate and prior to the stop, the effect results in:
- An illegal pitch and a dead ball with a warning issued to the pitcher
  - An illegal pitch
  - No penalty
  - A dead ball and a warning issued to the pitcher

## Fast Pitch Only

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46. In a JO game, the pitcher of Team A comes to bat and hits a single. On the first pitch to the next batter, R1 steals 2nd base. The coach of Team A may replace her with a courtesy runner at this time.
47. F1 takes the sign from the dugout while standing behind the pitcher's plate then steps on the pitcher's plate with the hands separated, simulates taking a sign from the catcher and brings the hands together to start the pitch. The umpire calls an illegal pitch because the pitcher did not take the sign on the pitcher's plate.
48. With 1 out, R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B4 hits a routine pop fly to the second baseman. In the judgment of the umpire, the ball should be caught with ordinary effort. The second baseman makes the catch and then intentionally drops the ball. The umpires correctly rule a dead ball as a result of the intentional dropping of the ball.
49. With one out and R1 on third base, B3 draws a walk. F2 immediately returns the ball to F1 who is in the eight foot circle. In which of the following would the Look Back Rule be invoked:
- R1 remains off third base until B3 advances toward second base. Immediately after B3 turns to advance to second base, F1 throws the ball to F4 and R1 advances home.
  - R1 remains off third base until B3 advances to first base, then; R1 returns to third. The pitcher makes no attempt to play on either of the runners.
  - R1 remains off third base until B3 reaches first base, then; R1 returns to third. The pitcher fakes a throw to third base.
  - R1 remains off third base until B3 reaches second base, then; R1 immediately returns to third. The pitcher makes no attempt to play on either of the runners.
50. With bases loaded, two outs and a 3-2 count on B6, F1 delivers the pitch. B6 swings and misses the pitch that bounces in front of home plate. Which is the correct ruling?
- Ball four
  - An illegal pitch
  - Dropped third strike
  - No pitch

# Benefits of an ASA Umpire



**1** **\$5,000,000 per occurrence of LIABILITY INSURANCE—** This policy covers you in the event you are sued, and adjudged by a court of law for bodily injury, personal injury or property damage to others while officiating at ASA sanctioned activities, games, leagues and tournaments involving ASA registered teams. Coverage is also provided for defense costs to include legal fees, court costs and investigative costs.

**2** **EXCESS ACCIDENT MEDICAL EXPENSE INSURANCE—** Accidental injury arising out of the amateur softball activities of the umpire is covered. These include ASA sanctioned activities, games, leagues and tournaments involving ASA registered teams, practices, clinics, including direct and uninterrupted travel to and from the site of the activity. The medical expense coverage is provided on an excess basis. This means that this insurance comes into play only after other group or individual medical insurance or any other health plan has paid out its benefits. Payments are limited to the usual and customary charges for reasonable and necessary medical services. The policy contains a surgical schedule which sets forth dollar maximums for specific surgical procedures. Thus, some medical expenses may not be covered in full.

Excess Medical Expense Benefit	
Deductible	Maximum Benefit
\$250	\$100,000
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	
Accidental Death Benefit	Accidental Dismemberment Benefit
\$2,000	\$4,000

There is a \$25,000 sub limit of Accident insurance coverage for umpires while traveling to and from an assignment.

**3** **INSURANCE COVERAGE WHILE OFFICIATING OTHER SPORTS** ASA umpire associations, ASA Commissioners, or UIC's can now purchase accident and liability coverage, as well as game fee reimbursement as a result of injury, for their umpires who officiate other sports. Game Fee Reimbursement would also apply to ASA softball games. Coverage is

**4** As part of the registration fee, each umpire receives insurance coverage, The Official Rules of Softball Umpire Edition and quarterly issue of *Balls and Strikes Online*.

**5** Because an umpire is registered with the ASA, they can obtain rule interpretations, attend ASA rule clinics and the regular and advanced National Umpire Schools.

**6** An umpire uniform and leisure wear program is available to each registered umpire. Included are clothing, souvenirs and publications. Request the new catalog today.

**7** Only ASA registered umpires are selected to officiate in metro, state, regional and national championships. There are now more than 100 ASA national championships.

**8** Only ASA registered umpires are eligible to apply for ISF (International Softball Federation) certification which offers the opportunity to umpire in World Championships, Pan American Games and other international events.

**9** ASA Umpires can qualify to umpire in ISF Events held at beautiful ISF Headquarters in Plant City, FL.

**10** ASA Umpires are eligible to apply for the medals program available in blue (3 yrs.), bronze (5 yrs.), silver (15 yrs.) and gold (20 yrs.), just for being a registered ASA Umpire. A complete line of leisure wear styles is available, along with trophies, plaques, watches, etc.

**11** ASA Umpires are eligible to apply for the National Indicator Fraternity and be recognized for their umpiring experience in a registry in the ASA Hall of Fame and Umpire Manual.

**12** Qualified ASA Umpires can apply for Elite Umpire status within the ASA. Those qualified individuals will receive a lapel pin, a navy ASA/ USA "Elite" cap, membership card, framed certificate and their name listed in a registry in the ASA Hall of Fame.

**13** Only through the ASA program are training aides available for umpires and umpire organizations. These aides include an animated mechanics DVD, Clinic guide, Power Point presentations, instructional video cassettes, the umpire examination, meeting quizzes and the case book on CD.