

2001 Practice Answers

1. Situation: With one out and bases loaded, the batter pops the ball up towards the dugout. The catcher and first baseman converge on the fly but both back off feeling each other has a routine catch. The ball lands untouched and spins wildly towards the mound. The ball is fielded by the pitcher clearly in fair territory part way down the first base line. The batter is ruled out on an infield fly.
Decision: True. Rule 2.00 (Infield Fly), 2.00 (Fair Ball)
2. Situation: Runners at second and third with one out. The batter hits a hard one hopper back towards the pitcher. As the pitcher stoops to field the ball, the ball strikes the rubber and rebounds into foul territory between home plate and first base without being touched by a fielder. Both runners score and R1 ends up at second base by the time the ball is recovered. This is a legal play.
Decision: False. This a foul ball. Rule 2.00 (Foul Ball), 2.00 (Fair Ball)
3. Situation: A wild throw to the plate hits the on-deck batter. This is spectator interference and the ball is dead.
Decision: False. Rule 5.08, 3.15
4. Situation: The defense may not legally appeal after an illegal pitch.
Decision: True. Rule 7.10 (Casebook Comments)
5. Situation: The 20-second penalty may be enforced only when there are runners on base.
Decision: False. The 20-second rule only applies when there are NO runners. Rule 8.04
6. Situation: When a runner passes a preceding runner, he is out and the ball is dead.
Decision: False. The ball is alive and in play. Rule 7.08(h)
7. Situation: If the left fielder deflects a fair ball over the fence in fair territory, it is a home run.
Decision: True. Rule 6.09(h), 7.05(a)
8. Situation: The lines of the batter's box are part of the batter's box.
Decision: True. Rule 6.03
9. Situation: With two outs, the runner from third attempts to steal home as the batter strikes out. The ball eludes the catcher who has to throw the batter out at first. In the interim, the runner from third has scored. The run counts.
Decision: False. The batter runner did not reach first base. Rule 4.09(a)
10. Situation: Bases loaded and one out. The squeeze is on but the batter bunts a pop fly towards the pitcher. The infield fly rule applies.
Decision: False. Cannot have an infield fly on a bunted ball. Rule 2.00 (Infield Fly)

11. Situation: A thrown ball accidentally strikes the third base coach while he is within the coach's box. The ball remains alive and in play.
Decision: True. This is NOT interference. Rule 5.08, 3.15
12. Situation: About batting out of order. A3 bats when A2 should have and hits a home run. No appeal is made. The next legal batter is A4.
Decision: True. You have to assume that there is a pitch, play or attempted play after A3 has hit the ball. Rule 6.07(c)
13. Situation: With a runner in third base, the pitcher starts his wind-up. The batter then shouts "Five" and steps out of the batter's box. The pitcher stops his delivery. A balk should be called.
Decision: False. This balk was caused by the offensive team and must be nullified. Rule 4.06(a)(3), 6.02(b) Casebook Comments
14. Situation: An outfielder holds a fly ball in his glove for three or four steps and then crashes into the wall and drops the ball. This shall be ruled a catch.
Decision: False. The fielder must have control of the ball and his body. The release was not voluntary. Rule 2.00 (Catch)
15. Situation: With a runner on first base, the batter hits a line drive that strikes the base umpire on the fly. The ball rebounds off him and directly to the shortstop and is caught on the fly. The batter is not out because of umpire's interference.
Decision: True. Rule 6.08(d), 5.09(f),
16. Situation: A batted ball which first strikes the ground behind home plate and then rolls into fair territory is a foul ball.
Decision: False. Rule 2.00 (Fair Ball), 2.00 (Foul Ball)
17. Situation: With a runner in first base, the shortstop intentionally lets a pop fly fall to the ground untouched in an effort to start a double play. The batter is out and the runner may advance at his own risk.
Decision: False. Rule 6.05(l) (Approved Ruling)
18. Situation: With a runner on first base, the pitcher legally steps off the rubber and feints a throw to first base without stepping directly towards it. This is legal.
Decision: True. The pitcher is an infielder as soon as he legally steps off the rubber. He may do what ever he wants. Rule 8.01(e)
19. Situation: Bases loaded and one out. The batter lifts a fly ball to center field. All runners tag up and advance one base after the catch. The defense appeals that the runner from second base left early. The umpire agrees and calls him out. The run counts.
Decision: True. Rule 4.09(a), 7.10(a)

20. Situation: If an umpire should clear the bench because of consistent unsportsmanlike conduct, the coach can bring back any player he wishes to use as a substitute providing he hasn't been previously removed.
Decision: True. Rule 4.08
21. Situation: Game pitcher switching from mound to a defensive position. This move does not terminate the DH rule.
Decision: False. Rule 6.10(b)
22. Situation: A balk can be called on a pitcher while no runners are on base.
Decision: False. There must be at least one runner on base. Rule 8.05, 2.00 (Balk)
23. Situation: When a balk is called on a pitcher, each runner is entitled to advance one base without the liability to be put out.
Decision: True. Rule 8.05, 2.00 (Balk)
24. Situation: A line drive ricochets off the third baseman's glove and is caught in flight by the shortstop. The batter is out.
Decision: True. Rule 2.00 (Catch), 2.00 (In Flight)
25. Situation: A line drive off the pitcher's glove strikes the runner between 2nd and 3rd and is caught by the shortstop before touching the ground. This is a catch.
Decision: False. Rule 2.00 (Catch), 2.00 (In Flight)
26. Situation: On a foul tip the ball is dead.
Decision: False. Rule 2.00 (Foul Tip)
27. Situation: A pitched ball hits the sleeve of the batter's uniform, but does not hit the batter himself. The umpire should award the batter first base.
Decision: True. Rule 6.08(b), 2.00 (Person)
28. Situation: A pop-up which lands in foul territory and bounces into fair territory between home and first base and settles on fair territory is a fair ball.
Decision: True. Rule 2.00 (Fair Ball)
29. Situation: A batted ball that strikes 3rd base and bounces into the dugout is a fair ball.
Decision: True. It is also a ground rule double. Rule 2.00 (Fair Ball)
30. Situation: A batted fly ball to the outfield where the fielder has both feet in foul territory and touches and drops the ball that is over fair territory is a fair ball.
Decision: True. Rule 2.00 (Fair Ball)
31. Situation: A batted line drive to the outfield that strikes the foul pole in flight and is deflected over the fence into foul territory is a home run.
Decision: True. The foul pole is in fair territory. Rule 2.00 (Fair Ball), 2.00 (Fair Territory)

32. Situation: A pitched ball is considered a thrown ball.
Decision: False. Rule 2.00 (Pitch), 2.00 (Throw)
33. Situation: The umpire-in-chief is the sole judge as to the fitness of a baseball to be used during a regulation game.
Decision: False. Any umpire can inspect and throw out a baseball. Rule 3.01(c), 5.10(e)
34. Situation: If no announcement of a substitution occurs, and a pinch hitter has taken his place in the batter's box, he shall be considered as having entered the game.
Decision: True. Rule 3.08(a)(2)
35. Situation: At home plate prior to the start of a game, the managers disagree on a ground rule. The umpire-in-chief has jurisdiction over setting the ground rule.
Decision: True. Rule 3.13
36. Situation: The umpires are in charge of the playing field the moment the umpire-in-chief receives the home team manager's line-up card.
Decision: True. Rule 4.01(d)
37. Situation: It is legal to have 4 outfielders and only 3 infielders in addition to the pitcher and catcher.
Decision: True. Rule 4.03(c)
38. Situation: An ejected player is allowed to sit in the stands if he changes into street clothes.
Decision: True. He must be well removed from his bench or bullpen. Rule 4.07
39. Situation: The batter refuses to take his position in the batter's box. The umpire tells the pitcher to pitch. The pitcher throws an obvious ball. It is legal for the umpire to call it a strike knowing it is a ball.
Decision: True. Rule 6.02(c)
40. Situation: The batter is in the batter's box if he has one foot in the box and one foot on the line of the box.
Decision: True. The lines are considered part of the batters box. Rule 6.03
41. Situation: The count is 3-1 on the batter who checks his swing. The umpire calls the pitch a ball. The runner from first steals on the pitch and is called out on the catcher's throw to second. The defense appeals the check swing which is denied. They proceed to tag the runner called out at second as he leaves the field. The offense maintains the walk entitled the runner to second and he left the second only when called out by the umpire. The out stands.
Decision: False. This is an umpire error and must be corrected. The umpire should have never called the out in the first place. Example from Jim Evans' Annotated Rules: Runner on 1st , 3-2 count, 1 out. The runner is off and running on the pitch. The batter takes "ball 4" but the catcher throws to the 2nd baseman covering. The throw is in time to nab the runner unaware of the batter's status. The umpire erroneously calls the runner out. The

runner gets up and advances toward his dugout. Realizing the runner should have been awarded 2nd, the 2nd baseman tags him again while off the base. Does this out stand?
Ruling: The runner stepped off the base as a result of the umpire's improper call. This is a correctable umpire's error, and the umpire should nullify the out. Though not covered specifically in these rules, this ruling is in accordance with the "doctrine of common sense and fair play. Rule 9.01(c)

42. Situation: When a pinch hitter bats for a player in the batting order and then enters the game to pitch, this move terminates the DH rule for the remainder of the game.
Decision: True. Rule 6.10(b)
43. Situation: The pitcher is entitled to as many pitches as he deems necessary before the start of each inning.
Decision: False. He is only allowed a maximum of eight or one minute whichever is less.
Rule 8.03
44. Situation: It is legal for the pitcher to take his sign from the catcher while standing astride the rubber.
Decision: False. The pitcher must be on the rubber with the ball. Rule 8.01
45. Situation: A pitcher summoned into a game in an emergency without an opportunity to warm up is entitled to as many pitches as the umpire deems necessary.
Decision: True. Rule 8.03
46. Situation: With 1 out and a runner on 1st the pitcher drops the ball while standing astride the rubber. This is a balk and the runner on 1st goes to 2nd.
Decision: False. The pitcher must be on the rubber. Rule 8.05(k)
47. Situation: A manager is considered to have concluded his visit to the mound when he crosses the first or third base line.
Decision: False. The visit is concluded when the manager leaves the 18' circle. Rule 8.06
48. Situation: A pitcher who brings his pitching hand in contact with his mouth while standing within the pitching circle is warned by the umpire the first time and ejected from the game the second time.
Decision: False. Umpire shall immediately call a ball. Rule 8.02(a)(1)
49. Situation: With a runner on 2nd and 1 out, the pitcher from the rubber steps toward 2nd base and feints a throw. This is a balk and the runner goes to third.
Decision: False. The pitcher can feint a throw to second or third provided he steps towards that base. Rule 8.05(c)
50. Situation: A runner is standing on 3rd base when he is hit on fair ground by a fair batted ball before it touches or passes an infielder. The runner is not out because he is on the base.
Decision: False. A runner is only protect when touching a base if an infield fly has been declared. Rule 7.08(f)