

# *Alberta NUCP Umpire Exam*

## *2005 Level III*

- 1) Top of the first inning the first batter of the game is at bat. The starting pitcher throws two wild pitches and his disgruntled manager goes to the mound to change pitchers. This is allowed.  
**Decision:** False. He must pitch to the first batter or his substitute until such batter is put out or reaches base. Rule 3.05(a)
- 2) One out and two strikes on the batter with a runner on third. The batter swings and misses. The ball passes the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask. The batter is out on strikes, the ball is dead and R3 scores.  
**Decision:** False. The ball is dead. The batter is awarded first base and all runners advance one base. The runner from third scores. Rule 5.09(g) and 6.09(b).
- 3) Runner on first base. The pitcher is on the mound with his pivot foot off the rubber. He reaches up and touches his pitching hand to his mouth. This is a balk.  
**Decision:** False. A ball should be called on the batter. Rule 8.02(a1).
- 4) The batter hits a sinking line drive to right center. Two outfielders converge. The ball is caught by the center fielder just before the two collide. They both fall to the ground and the center fielder's glove comes off his hand. With the ball still firmly in the glove, the right fielder picks the ball from the glove. This is a catch.  
**Decision:** False. The fielder did not prove possession. The batter is not out. Rule 2.00 (catch)
- 5) One out with a runner on second base. The batter bunts the ball in front of home plate. He drops the bat and the bat strikes the ball in fair territory. The catcher fields the ball and retires the batter at first base. The runner from second advances to third safely. As the umpire you correctly rule interference and declare the batter out and place the runner on third.  
**Decision:** False. The batter is called out for interference and the ball is dead, but R2 is returned to second. Rule 6.05(h), 7.09(b)
- 6) The first batter of the game swings and misses for strike three. The pitch gets away from the catcher and rolls toward the screen. The catcher fields the ball and fires to first trying to retire the advancing batter-runner. The ball strikes him in the back while he is running five or six feet in foul territory as he nears first base. This is legal and the runner is safe.  
**Decision:** False. The batter-runner is obligated to be in the runner's lane when approaching the base even though he is in foul territory. He is out for interference. Rule 6.05(k), 7.09(k)
- 7) One out. The runner on first is running on the pitch. The batter hits a fly ball to right center. As R1 rounds second, he sees his coach yelling for him to return to first. He retouches second and is headed for first when he passes the batter-runner headed for second. The ball drops in and when the play finishes R1 is standing on first and the BR is standing second. R1 is out for running the bases in reverse order.  
**Decision:** False. The BR is out for passing a preceding runner. This removes the force and R1 may stay at first. Rule 7.08(h)
- 8) Runners on first and third with one out. The batter chops a high hopper towards shortstop. The shortstop charges in and fields the batted ball. He fires to second to start the double play, but his throw hits the umpire. All runners are safe and one run scores. The play stands.  
**Decision:** True. A thrown ball that hits an umpire is alive and in play. The run counts and runners remain at first and second. Rule 5.08

- 9) Runners on first and third with nobody out. The batter smashes a sharp ground ball that accidentally strikes the runner on third base in fair territory while he is still in contact with the base. The third baseman is playing on the line behind the runner. R3 is out.  
**Decision:** True. R3 is out even though he was touching the base when accidentally struck. The batter is awarded first base. R1 is forced to second. Rule 7.08(f), 5.09(f)
- 10) With one out and two strikes on the batter, a runner on 3rd attempts to steal home on a legal pitch. The runner is hit by the pitch in the strike zone. The umpire called strike three, the batter is out and the runner is sent back to 3rd.  
**Decision:** False The run is allowed to score. With two out, the run would not score. 6.05(n), 5.09(h)
- 11) 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 BR ends up at second base by the time the ball is recovered. This is a legal play.  
**Decision:** False. This is a foul ball. Rule 2.00 (Foul Ball)
- 12) A wild throw to the plate hits the on-deck batter even though he tried to avoid the throw. This is spectator interference and the ball is dead.  
**Decision:** False. Provided the on-deck batter did not intentionally interfere with the ball. The ball remains alive and in play. Rule 3.15
- 13) The 3rd baseman applies pinetar to the ball and then gives the ball to the pitcher. The umpire notices this before the pitcher delivers the ball. The umpire should demand the ball and remove the pitcher and the 3rd baseman from the game.  
**Decision:** False. Only the 3rd baseman should be removed from the game. Rule 3.02
- 14) At the end of the 7th inning a game is tied 2-2. The game is rained out after the 8th inning with the score still 2-2. This is a regulation game called off with the score tied. The game is declared a tie game and must be replayed in its entirety at a later date.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 4.12(b) Note
- 15) A game is called off because of light failure during the bottom of the 6th inning with the home team leading 3-2. This is a suspended game.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 4.12(a.3).
- 16) 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)
- 17) 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, Touch)
- 18) 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)
- 19) 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)

- 20) Runner on first base. 1-1 count on the batter. The pitcher does not come to a complete stop before delivering the ball to the batter and a balk is called. The batter hits a single to right field and the runners end up on first and second. The umpire should enforce the balk.  
**Decision:** False. When the batter reaches first on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base, then the play proceeds without reference to the balk. Rule 8.05 Penalty
- 21) Runner on first. R1 takes off for second base. The pitcher balks on his throw to first base which is caught. The umpires should let the rundown finish because the runner may be able to advance to third base in the event of an overthrow by the defense.  
**Decision:** False. Time should be called as soon as the ball is caught by the first baseman. If the ball is not caught by the first baseman, the umpires should keep the ball alive so that the runner can advance beyond the awarded base. Rule 5.09(c), 8.05 Penalty.
- 22) The umpire must change baseballs when requested to do so by the pitcher.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 3.01(e)(3)
- 23) A player has been put into the game through substitution and it was not officially announced. This player singles. The opposing manager objects and claims that this player is out for an unannounced substitution.  
**Decision:** False. The batter is considered having entered the game when he takes his spot in the batter's box. Rule 3.08(a)(2)
- 24) The batter hits a ball into center but during his swing he was interfered with by the catcher. BR is thrown out going into 2nd. The play stands.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 6.08(c)
- 25) A manager has made a second trip to the mound with the same batter. At the conclusion of the "at bat", the umpire now realizes that was the second trip. He should eject the manager and have a new pitcher enter the game.  
**Decision:** False. The umpire is required to warn the manager that he cannot go back out to the mound a second time with the same batter and pitcher. The pitcher must still be replaced. Rule 8.06(comments)
- 26) The manager of a team, which is using a DH, goes to the mound to change the pitcher. A new pitcher enters the game from the bullpen and the old pitcher goes to play SS. The new pitcher "must" bat in the DH spot and the old pitcher in the SS position in the line-up.  
**Decision:** False. The manager has the choice to place the players in either of the SS or DH position in the batting order. Rule 6.10, 3.03, Baseball Canada Rule Interpretation (Oct. 26, 2001)
- 27) A manager who is ejected from the game may sit in the stands provided he changes to street clothes.  
**Decision:** True. Also, the manager must be well removed from the vicinity of his team's bench or bullpen. Rule 4.07
- 28) A defensive player who enters the game as an injury replacement is allowed 5 warm up throws.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 3.03
- 29) The bases are loaded. 2 outs. The batter hits an inside the park homerun. R2 misses home and the batter misses 1st base. The defence appeals that R2 missed home and the 3rd out is called. The 1st baseman asks for the ball and appeals at 1st and gets an out call for the fourth out. No runs score. This is legal.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 7.10 Notes, 4.09(a)

- 30) 1 out. Runners at 1st and 2nd. The 2nd baseman intentionally drops a fly ball. The ball is dead and the batter is out on the infield fly.  
**Decision:** False. The ball is NOT dead. Rule 2.00 (Infield Fly), 6.05(l)
- 31) 3-man umpire crew. Bases loaded and 0 out. The infield is playing in. A batted ground ball goes past the SS and strikes U3 who is standing inside the diamond. The 2nd baseman would have had a play on the ball. The ball is dead. The batter is awarded 1st base and all runners advance.  
**Decision:** False. A ball that passes an infielder (other than the pitcher) and then hits an umpire, the ball remains alive and in play. This is not the same as a runner being hit by a ball that passed an infielder and another infielder had a play on the ball. In that case, the runner would be out and the ball would be dead. Rule 6.08(d), 5.09(f)
- 32) Runners at 1st and 3rd. 1 out. R3 steals and the batter bunts the ball down the 1st baseline. BR, on his way to 1st, trips and accidentally falls on the ball. BR is out, R3 and R1 return.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 7.09(h), 6.05(g)
- 33) Batter #3 bats and singles. Batter #1 now bats and strikes out. Batter #2 walks. While batter #4 bats, both batter #2 and #3 steal. Batter #4 singles. The defensive manager appeals. Play stands.  
**Decision:** True. The first pitch to #2 makes #1 legal. Because #3 is on base, he is skipped and the next batter is #4. Rule 6.07 (last statement)
- 34) With the bases loaded, the 1st baseman catches a pop up in foul territory. He then starts to fall into his dugout but is held up and steps in. The ball is dead and all runners advance.  
**Decision:** False. The ball is alive and in play. Runners advance at their own risk. Rule 2.00 (Catch)
- 35) At a pre-game meeting, the tournament committee ground rule states that since the home run fence is 500 ft away and not totally to the ground, any hit ball going under the fence would be a ground rule triple. The umpires may allow this provision.  
**Decision:** False. This would be in conflict with the official playing rules. Rule 3.13
- 36) With a runner on 2nd and not advancing, the batter accidentally interferes with the catcher's throw back to the pitcher. The ball is dead and there is no interference charged to the batter.  
**Decision:** True. If the catcher's throw hits the batter while he is still in the batter's box (no intentional interference by batter), then there is no interference and the ball is alive. Rule 6.06(c), PBUC Umpire Manual 4.12
- 37) With a runner on 2nd base, the batter swings and misses strike three. His back swing hits the catcher causing the ball to roll to the screen as the batter runs to 1st and R2 advances to 3rd. This is a dead ball, the batter is out and R2 returns.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 6.06(c) PBUC Manual 4.11
- 38) With 1 out and runners at 1st and 2nd, the batter singles. R2 scores but R1 is thrown out at home. BR advances to 2nd but missed 1st. The defense appeals. 3 outs and 1 run scores.  
**Decision:** False. Rule 4.09 (first approved ruling), 7.12, 7.10(b)
- 39) The batter misses 1st on his way to 2nd on a ground rule double. After the umpire puts the ball in play, the pitcher legally steps off the rubber and throws wildly to 1st on the appeal. The runner scores on the play. The 1st baseman retrieves the ball from down the foul line and appeals. It is denied. The run counts.  
**Decision:** False. The defensive team did not "err". This is nothing more than an overthrow. Rule 7.10(b) and Casebook Comments (3rd paragraph).

- 40) With 1 out and a runner at 2nd the batter swings at strike 3 in the dirt. The ball deflects into the umpire's bag. BR is awarded 1st and R2 is awarded 3rd.  
**Decision:** True. This an uncaught strike 3 with first base open so the batter can run. Rule 5.09(g) (Casebook comments - last paragraph)
- 41) A team is playing with no substitutes left to enter the game and the DH is ejected. The game is forfeited.  
**Decision:** False. The pitcher can enter the lineup in the same position as the ejected DH. Rule 6.10, 4.17, 1.01
- 42) With runners at 1st and 3rd and 1 out, the shortstop intentionally drops a fair fly ball. The ball is dead and the batter is out.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 6.05(l)
- 43) With 1 out and runners on 1st and 3rd, the batter flies to RF. R1 was running on the play. R3 tags up and scores before R1 is thrown out at 1st base before he can return to tag up. 3 out and 1 run scores.  
**Decision:** True. 4.09(a), 4.09 (last approved ruling), 2.00 (Force Play - Example), 7.10(b)
- 44) With 2 out, bases loaded, bottom of the 9th with a tie score, the batter is hit by a pitch. He advances to 1st and R3 scores. R1, believing the game is over, runs across the field. The defense appeals. It is denied and the game is over.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 4.09(b)
- 45) With runners on 1st and 2nd, R2 is picked off and ends up in a run down between 2nd and 3rd. R1 advances to 2nd. The second baseman throws the ball. R2 is then obstructed by a fielder not in a position to field the ball. The ball then enters the dugout. Both runners score.  
**Decision:** True The ball was thrown before the obstruction. Rule 7.06(a) (Casebook Comments) If the ball was thrown after the obstruction then the award would be based on the obstruction. Rule 7.06(a) (Casebook Comments)
- 46) After bunting a ball, the batter drops his bat and starts for 1st. The ball rolls and hits the bat in fair territory. The batter is out.  
**Decision:** False. Providing that the umpire ruled there was no intention to interfere by the batter-runner. Rule 6.05(h), 7.09(b)
- 47) The batter hits a single to RF. The right fielder, seeing the BR make a wide turn, throws to 1st in an attempt to get the retreating runner. The throw enters the dugout. The BR is awarded 3rd.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 7.05(g)
- 48) 1 out, runners at 2nd and 3rd. On a 1-1 pitch, R3 attempts to steal home. R2 remains at 2nd. The catcher interferes with the batter and the pitch is fouled off. Dead ball. R3 scores, R2 remains at 2nd and the batter is awarded 1st.  
**Decision:** False. The pitcher shall be charged with a balk because of the catcher's interference on the batter while R3 was trying to steal home and the batter is awarded first base on the catcher's interference. Rule 7.07, 6.08(c) The 2002 Level 4 exam came back with "True" as the correct answer.
- 49) The umpire must declare the ball dead by calling time if he wishes to examine the ball.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 5.10(e)
- 50) An outfielder may catch an infield fly.  
**Decision:** True. Rule 2.00(Infield Fly)