

# 2018 SOFTBALL STUDY GUIDE

1. In two umpire mechanics, with runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base, the plate umpire has tag-up responsibility at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (Manual).
2. In two person mechanics, the plate umpire always has tag-up responsibility at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. (Manual)
3. In two person mechanics with a runner on 1<sup>st</sup> base, the base umpire shall position him/herself approximately 3 feet behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> base side. (Manual)
4. If the score is tied after completion of 7 innings, the “tie breaker” process will be used starting in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning. (GHSA Policy)
5. A mitt may be worn by any player. (Rule 1)
6. In fast pitch all bats shall meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard and have either the 2000, 2004 or 2013 ASA Certification Mark and not be on the ASA Non-Approved Bat List. (Rule 1)
7. A bat with the knob covered with grip tape is illegal. (Rule 1)
8. The taper of the bat shall have a solid surface and shall have a conical shape. (Rule 1)
9. B1 hits an over the fence homerun. As she touches second base she removes her helmet. The coach of the player’s team is issued a warning. (Rule 1, Case Book).
10. More than one appeal can be made on a runner. (Rule 2)
11. During the game, it is illegal for the team manager to video the game from the dugout and give it to the coach to review footage with players in between innings. (Rule 1, Case Book)
12. A blocked ball is a live ball that is a batted, pitched or thrown ball that is touched, stopped or handled by a person not engaged in the

game, or which touches loose equipment or any object that is not part of the official equipment or playing area. (Rule 2)

13. If a batter attempting to bunt holds the bat in the strike zone but does not offer at a pitch outside the strike zone, a strike shall be called. (Rule 2)
14. B1 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to F3. F3 juggles the ball and it rolls up F3's arm and is clamped to her body by her forearm prior to B1 reaching first base. B1 is safe. (Rule 2; Case Book)
15. B1 hits a fly to deep center field. F8 catches the ball while standing on the temporary fence which has not completely fallen. This is a legal catch. (Rule 2)
16. B1 gets a hit with an illegal bat. B2 then steps into the batter's box with the same bat. After the first pitch to B2 the defense appeals to the plate umpire that the bat used by B1 and B2 is illegal. B2 is declared out and both B2 and the coach are ejected. B1 is also ejected. (Rule 2, Rule 7)
17. If a forced runner, after touching the next base, except home, retreats for any reason toward a prior base, the force play is reinstated. (Rule 2)
18. B1 with a 1-1 count swings and tips the ball. The ball goes directly to F2's chest protector, pops into the air, and is caught by F2. B1 is out. (Rule 2)
19. With runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and no one out B1 hits a pop fly which lands untouched in foul territory. The ball then rolls into fair territory and it picked up by F1. This is a fair ball and the batter is out on infield fly. (Rule 2, Case Book)
20. B1 hits a roller in front of the plate which catcher fields but does not throw to 1<sup>st</sup> bases because she would have hit batter-runner who was outside three foot running lane. Interference shall be called. (Rule 2, Case Book)

21. Upon covering a play at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, the umpire collides with the R1 on her way to 3<sup>rd</sup> base causing her to be tagged out. This is umpire interference. (Rule 2, Case Book)
22. Obstruction is a defensive act that impedes the progress of a runner who is legally running the bases unless the fielder is in possession of the ball, about to receive a thrown ball or is fielding a batted ball. (Rule 2)
23. B2 hits a pop fly to the infield. R1, who is on 3B, is running with the pitch and touches home plate. R1 then realizes a pop fly has been hit to the infield and starts back to 3B. The pop fly is not caught and R1 is tagged as she attempts to return to 3B. R1 is declared out. (Rule 2; Case Book)
24. S1 is discovered in the game three innings after not reporting to the umpire. This is an illegal substitution. S1 and the head coach are restricted to the dugout. (Rule 2, Case Book)
25. For obstruction to be ruled, the act must be an intentional act that impedes the runner's attempt to advance to the next base. (Rule 2)
26. A fielder is considered to be making an initial play if a batted ground ball deflects off the pitcher. (Rule 2)
27. A team may begin the game shorthanded provided an out is called when the vacant position comes to bat. (Rule 3)
28. After the lineup card is accepted by the umpire, if a coach must make a change to player/substitute name or number, or if a player/substitute is added the coach shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. (Rule 3)
29. B1 of Team A singles. As she rounds first she injures her ankle but returns to the bag safely. B1 cannot continue. Since Team A has no available substitutes, the previous batter not on base is permitted to replace her until she is putout, scores or the half-inning ends. (Rule 3).

30. In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the Flex bats for the DP without reporting. This is an illegal substitution. (Rule 3 Case Book)
31. Players' headwear may be mixed (hats, visors) but if worn must be either white, black, beige or school colors and all players must match. (Rule 3)
32. Batter B1 throws her bat in disgust after she strikes out. The umpire rules B1 is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. (Rule 3, Case Book)
33. A base coach may use a stopwatch while coaching first or third base. (Rule 3)
34. Following a team warning for illegal jewelry, the next player observed wearing jewelry in the game shall be ejected along with the head coach. (Rule 3, Case Book)
35. Exposed lower undergarments and exposed upper undergarments must be a single solid color either black, white, gray or a school color. However, the color of the lower undergarment and upper undergarment have to match. (Rule 3)
36. Team A is wearing black upper undergarments. However, F1 is wearing a red playbook wristband on her non-pitching hand. This is illegal since it is not the same color as the upper undergarments. (Rule3; Case Book)
37. Following a dead ball situation, the ball becomes live when the pitcher has the ball within the pitcher's circle. (Rule 5)
38. If a runner intentionally removes her helmet during a live ball, a delayed dead ball is called and the runner is declared out. (Rule 5)
39. R1 is on second base. B2 hits a ball to center field. The center fielder throws her glove at the ball and prevents it from bouncing over the fence. This is a ground rule double. (Rule 8, Case Book )
40. With R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base, B2 hits a ground ball to F6 who overthrows F3 and the ball go into the dugout. At the time the ball entered the

dugout, R1 just stepped on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. It is a dead ball and R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (Rule 5, Rule 8)

41. Prior to starting the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with both feet on or partially on the pitcher's plate with hands separated and the ball in her pitching hand. (Rule 6)
42. If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the back swing, it is a ball on the batter and the ball remains live. (Rule 6)
43. The pitcher must have the ball in the glove, with the hands separated, when taking a position on the pitcher's plate. (Rule 6)
44. Prior to the pitch, all defensive players must be in fair territory. (Rule 6)
45. The pitcher may step back off the pitcher's plate after her hands have come together prior to the start of the delivery motion. (Rule 6)
46. If the pitcher takes a step backward with her non-pivot foot the step backward must start prior to her hands coming together. (Rule 6)
47. If a pitcher exceeds the 20 second time limit rule, an illegal pitch is called, the batter is awarded a ball and all base runners are advanced one base. (Rule 6)
48. If a pitcher is removed from the pitching position and then returns to the pitching position during the same inning she is not allowed warm up pitches. (Rule 6)
49. The 20 second time frame the pitcher has to release the pitch begins when the pitcher enters the pitching circle. (Rule 6)
50. F1, while standing behind the pitching rubber, takes her sign from the coach. She then steps on the rubber and immediately brings her hand together. This is an illegal pitch. (Rule 6, Case Book)
51. The batter must take her position with both feet within or partially within the batter's box within 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher. (Rule 7)

52. F1 is in the pitching position. B1 disconcerts F1 by stepping out of the box on one side of Home Plate to the box on the other side. A strike is called on B1. (Rule 7)
53. R1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base attempts to steal 3<sup>rd</sup> base, B2 swings at and misses the pitch but does not attempt to get out of the way of the catcher attempting to throw to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. B2 is guilty of batter interference. (Rule 7, Case Book)
54. Once the pitcher has brought her hands together, prior to the delivery of the pitch, timeout shall not be granted to the offensive team. (Rule 7)
55. The batter enters the batter's box with a cracked bat. This is an illegal bat and the batter is called out and ejected from the game. (Rule 7, Case Book Rule 3)
56. The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches. (Rule 7)
57. A batter may be called out even though her batted ball was not initially ruled an infield fly. (Rule 8)
58. A fly ball hits the top of the fence and then is deflected over the fence by the fielder is credited as a ground rule double. (Rule 8, Case Book)
59. If an umpire judges that a fielder unintentionally carries a live ball into dead ball territory, it is an immediate dead ball and all runners are awarded one base. (Rule 8)
60. With R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B3 hits a ground ball to F5. R1 starts to third but then retreats to second. This is a dead ball and R1 is out for reversing directions. (Rule 8, Case Book)
61. No run can score on the third out of an inning when the preceding runner is called out on appeal for failing to touch a base. (Rule 8)

62. When a fielder intentionally contacts or catches a fair ball with any part of the uniform or equipment that is detached from its proper place it is an immediate dead ball and the batter and all runners are awarded three bases from the time of the pitch. (Rule 8)
63. R1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, B2 hits a ground ball that is deflected by the pitcher towards F6. R1 collides with F6 while F6 is making an attempt to field the ball. This is interference on R1. (Rule 8, Case Book Rule 2)
64. An obstructed runner is no longer protected if the defensive team makes a subsequent play on a different runner. (Rule 8)
65. R1 on second, B2 hits a fly ball. R1 leaves early for third. F8 makes the catch and R1 is obstructed attempting to return to second and is tagged out. Since obstruction was called R1 is given second base. (Rule 8, Case Book)
66. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base, B2 hits a fair ball down the line which rolls into foul territory and is picked up by a fan. This is spectator interference, the ball is dead, the batter and all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch. (Rule 8, Case Book)
67. When a fielder intentionally contacts or catches a fair thrown ball with any part of the uniform or equipment that is detached it is a dead ball and the batter and all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the throw. (Rule 8)
68. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base, a pitched ball gets away from catcher and rolls away. Catcher scoops ball up with her mask. R1 makes no attempt to go to 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a delayed dead ball. Since R1 made no attempt to go to 2<sup>nd</sup> base she remains on 1<sup>st</sup> base. (Rule 8)
69. After scoring, R2 unintentionally contacts F2 who is attempting to make a play on another runner. R2 is called out for interference and the run does not count. (Rule 8, Case Book)
70. B1 is safe at 1<sup>st</sup> base on a dropped third strike. She rounds 1<sup>st</sup> base, stops and seeing no one covering 2<sup>nd</sup> base she runs to 2<sup>nd</sup> base and is safe. The pitcher had the ball in the circle at the time B1 reached 1<sup>st</sup> base. B1 is out on the look back rule. (Rule 8)

71. F1 is listed as Team A's pitcher. In the top of the first she gets on base and S1 enters as a courtesy runner for F1. F1 cannot face the first batter in the bottom of the first due to sickness. S1 is now considered a substitute for F1 and can no longer be a courtesy runner. (Rule 8)
72. When a runner must return to a previous base while the ball is in play or dead she must always touch them in reverse order. (Rule 8)
73. The "look-back" rule is in effect when the batter/runner touches first base, and the pitcher has the ball either in the circle. (Rule 8)
74. A runner at third base is not subject to the look-back rule, following ball four on the batter, until the batter has reached 1B and the pitcher is in possession of the ball in the circle. (Rule 8)
75. Jones, a courtesy runner for pitcher is on first base. B1 singles and after reaching first base injures her leg and cannot continue. The team has no substitutes. As a result, B1 is declared out since there is no one to replace her. (Rule 8)
76. R1 on 1B. B2 hits a pitch with one foot completely outside the batter's box. F6 fields the ball but F4 obstructs R1 advancing to second base. B2 is out for contacting the ball with one foot outside the batter's box and R1 is awarded 2B as a result of the obstruction. (Rule 7, Case Book Rule 8).
77. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base. B2 has 0-2 count. B2 swings at next pitch and the foul tip is caught by catcher. B2 runs toward 1<sup>st</sup> base and collides with F3 attempting to catch the thrown ball by catcher. This is interference on B2. R1 is declared out. ( Rule 2, Rule 8)
78. R1 on first. She attempts to steal second and while attempting to throw, F2's arm contacts the plate umpire. R1 is safe at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. This is umpire interference and R1 is declared out. (Rule 8)
79. B1 hits a ground ball past F3. No other fielder has a chance to make a play but the ball strikes the umpire. This is an immediate dead ball and B1 is awarded first base. (Rule 8)



80. Bases loaded, 2 out. B2 hits a home run. After B2 touches the plate, the defense appeals B2 missing 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The umpire declares B2 out. Three runs score. (Rule 9)
81. R3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base and R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. B4 doubles. R2 and R3 score, but R2 missed 3<sup>rd</sup> base and B4 misses 1<sup>st</sup> base. After playing action is over, defense appeals B4 missing 1<sup>st</sup> base and then appeals R2 missing 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Umpires declare both R2 and B4 out. No runs score. (Rule 9)
82. Umpire jurisdiction begins with the arrival of one of the umpires within the confines of the field. (Rule 10).
83. In two person crews, either umpire may forfeit a game for just cause. (Rule 10)
84. The use of a double first base is mandatory at all GHSA games. (GHSA Policy).
85. All varsity games must have a winner/loser outcome and cannot end in a tie. (GHSA Policy)
86. Teammates of a player who has hit a homerun must remain behind the batter's box lines nearest their dugout. (GHSA Policy)
87. Eye black shall only be used for glare reduction and not as an individual or team expression/adornment. (GHSA Policy)
88. Cancer Awareness month is September to recognize Breast, Childhood, and Prostrate cancer. (GHSA Policy)