

2025 GHSA Study Guide

1. All equipment shall be worn properly and as designed by the manufacturer. Any equipment judged by the umpire to be potentially dangerous is illegal.
2. Prior to the end of the game, appeals may be made during Live Ball or Dead Ball and must be made prior to the next pitch (legal or illegal) or prior to all infielders leaving fair territory and the catcher has left her normal fielding position.
3. A blocked ball is a live ball, pitched, batted or thrown which is touched, stopped or handled by a person not engaged in the game; or touches any object which is not part of the official equipment or official playing area; or touches loose equipment.
4. An illegally batted ball is a pitch contacted by the batter when one or both feet are on the ground and entirely outside the lines of the batter's box at the time of bat-ball contact.
5. A checked swing is the batter stopping the bat prior to the barrel passing the front of the batters body towards the infield.
6. The strike zone is the space over home plate which is between the batter's forward armpit and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural batting stance.
7. B1 rounds first base on a base hit. F3 is in B1's way, but B1 does not elect to try for second base, because the ball was already at second base. The umpire signals obstruction but doesn't advance the runner to second base.
8. B1 hits the ball and overruns first base. In coming to a stop B1 turns toward second base but makes no attempt to advance or feint an advance but returns to touch first base. The first baseman tags the runner prior to returning to touch first base. U1 calls runner safe as she has the ability to return to first base without liability of being put out.
9. With R1 on second base, B2's batted ball is deflected by F1. The ball goes directly to F6 who makes an attempt to field the ball and make a play. R1 makes contact with F6 preventing F6 from getting to the ball. The umpire does not rule R1 out for interference because they determined F6 was not making the initial play on the batted ball.
10. S1 is discovered in the game three innings after not reporting to the umpire. S1 has entered the game as an unreported substitute. A team warning is issued, with the next offender and the head coach restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.
11. With two outs, R1 is on third base and R2 is on first base when B5 hits to short center. R1 goes home. R2 delays the advance to second base but touches second base. R2 is then put out on an overslide, the out being made after R1 touches home base. The run doesn't score. The force didn't end as R2 overslide second base.

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12. Each team MUST start with 9 fielders and a DP/Flex position.
13. A player, starter or substitute may be withdrawn from the game and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever in the lineup. A starter and any substitute for that starter may not be in the game at the same time.
14. At the pregame conference, any member of the coaching staff may attend and be responsible for verifying the lineup card is correct, all players are legally equipped and that players and equipment are in compliance with the rules.
15. A coach may use an electronic device for one way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense. Coaches may not use electronic communication devices to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area.
16. Unsporting acts shall not be committed, including, but not limited to use of words or actions to incite or try to incite spectators to demonstrate. Use of profanity, intimidation and/or deceitful tactics, baiting or taunting or behavior in any manner not in accordance with the spirit of fair play.
17. In a seven inning game, a coach may have one charged defensive conference per inning without penalty.
18. Several players on a team are wearing caps, while others are wearing visors and headbands. Provided the caps, visors and headbands are white, black, beige or any school color there is no violation.
19. F1 is removed from the game and replaced by S1. After S1 has faced two batters, F1 re-enters the game in the same position in the same inning. The umpire allows F1 to throw 5 warm up pitches.
20. L. Jones is a starting player in center field and batting second in the batting order. In the second inning, B. Smith replaces L. Jones. Subsequently, the coach desires to re-enter L. Jones as catcher and have the player batting in the eighth position. This is a legal substitution.
21. In the fifth inning, L. Jones enters the game as the DP and is placed at the end of the batting order, this is legal as a team can add the DP at anytime going from 9 to 10 players on the lineup card.
22. The DP – L. Jones bats fourth in the lineup. In the third inning, the DP – L. Jones plays defense for F5 who bats sixth in the order. In the fifth inning, the Flex – B. Smith, who is listed 10th, bats for F5. This is illegal. The defensive position player (Flex) can only bat in the DP batting position.

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23. In the second inning of the first game of a day-long tournament, F8 runs into the fence chasing a fly ball and exhibits signs of a concussion. After being helped off the field, F8 parent provides permission for F8 to return to action. This is legal since the parent provided permission for her to return to action.
24. F5, who has the ball, is in position at third base to make a tag on advancing R1. R1 attempts to slide and dislodges the ball. R1 is out for malicious contact.
25. Team A has had two charge conferences. The coach of Team A is granted time to visit with the pitcher. At the same time the assistant goes out to talk to the first base person. The umpire notifies Team A that since the Assistant coach went out to talk to the first person that would be another conference, and they must remove the pitcher.
26. Umpires are responsible for deciding whether or not the field conditions are suitable for starting the game.
27. At the Pregame Conference, the Umpires shall ask head coaches to verify that their players are legally and properly equipped and shall remind participants about proper sporting behavior.
28. After the game starts, coaches may decide whether or not conditions are suitable for continuing play.
29. A game shall be forfeited if a team cannot provide 8 players in the batting order to finish the game.
30. If the base runner leaves early, it is ruled a delayed dead ball in order to give the catcher an opportunity to throw her out.
31. If an illegal pitch is released by the pitcher and the batter swings and hits the ball, it is an immediate dead ball and a ball is called on the batter.
32. Obstruction is always an immediate dead ball.
33. If the player's entire foot (no part of the foot is touching in live-ball territory) is beyond the line and touches dead-ball territory at the time the player catches, fields or throws the ball, the player has entered dead-ball territory, the ball is dead, and the batter is out.
34. The ball becomes dead immediately when a batter-runner or runner violates the look-back rule.
35. When the ball becomes dead, a runner may return to touch a base that she had previously missed.
36. With two strikes on B3, B3 swings at and misses a pitch. The ball strikes the batter's arm. This is a dead-ball strike and B3 is out.

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37. The batter swings at a pitch and the ball contact the batter's hand(s) first resulting in a ground ball to the pitcher who fields the ball and throws the batter out at first base. The umpire rules the ball is dead when it is contacted by the batter's hand(s) and a strike is declared on the batter if the batter swung at the pitch.
38. After F1 has started the delivery, B1 steps out of the batter's box without requesting time. The pitcher stops or hesitates in the delivery. The umpire calls an illegal pitch.
39. The pitcher may take her signal from anyone however while in contact with the pitcher's plate, she must take or simulate taking a signal from the catcher
40. Dirt is not a foreign substance and does not have to be wiped from the hand prior to contacting the ball.
41. The pitcher must release the next pitch within 20 seconds after the ball has been returned to her from the catcher.
42. If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the backswing or forward motion, it is considered a pitch.
43. The pitcher has a choice of balls at the start of each half inning unless both balls do not get put into play. In that case, the pitcher in the bottom of the first inning must throw the unused ball. Thereafter, the ball in play should be returned to the 16-foot circle after every half inning.
44. F1 takes the pitching position with hands already together. This is an illegal pitch, because F1 is required to take a position on the pitching plate with the hands separated.
45. With R1 on second base, R2 on first base and one out, F1 fails to bring the hands together for one second, then delivers the pitch to B3 who hits into a double play an illegal pitch is called. The offense has the option of the results of the play or the penalty of an illegal pitch which is a ball on the batter.
46. F1, after stepping onto the pitching plate with the hands separated and taking a signal, brings the hands together. F1 immediately begins the wind-up motion. This is an illegal pitch.
47. In delivering a pitch, F1's pivot foot breaks contact with the pitcher's plate but not the ground before the non-pivot foot has touched the ground. This is legal.
48. While the umpire is reporting a substitute to the official scorer, a pitcher continues to throw in excess of the five warm-up pitchers. The umpire awards a ball for ever warm up pitch thrown over 5.

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49. The bases are empty, and the batter has a count of no balls and one strike. On the next pitch, the batter hits a foul ball which the catcher retrieves and throws to third base. A ball is awarded to the batter, and the count becomes on ball and two strikes.
50. The umpire notices that the pitcher is wearing tape on the thumb of the pitching hand. This is not allowed as the pitcher is prohibited from wearing tape or other substances on the pitching hand or fingers
51. After the first inning, the first batter in each inning shall be the player whose name follows the last player who was called out.
52. A strike is called on the batter when a pitched ball contacts the batter while swinging at the ball.
53. A batter may take as long as necessary to prepare herself to enter the batters box for the next pitch.
54. If a pitch is not entirely in the batters box, the batter must make an attempt to avoid the ball. If she is hit, it is simply a dead ball, ball or strike depending on the location.
55. With a runner on first and less than 2 out, the batter is out on a dropped 3rd strike.
56. If a batter contacts a ball twice with the bat while the bat is still in her hands and she is still in the batters box, it is a dead ball foul unless the second hit was intentional.
57. The on-deck batter may take a position within the lines of either teams on-deck circle.
58. With R1 on second base, it is time for B3 to bat but B4 erroneously bats. B4 hits a double and the irregularity is discovered before a subsequent pitch by coach of team in the field. B3 is declared out and B4 shall bat again with no ball and strike count and R1 returns to second base.
59. R1 is on third base and B2 at the plate with a count 3-1. B2 moves toward the front of the batter's box as B2 fakes a drag bunt, withdraws the bat and is struck by a pitch that is in front of the plate. In the judgement of the umpire, the pitch was prevented from entering the strike zone, resulting in a dead ball and a strike called on B2.
60. B1 swings and after laying down the bat and running to first base the ball hits the bat in fair territory. The batter is out, and the ball is dead.
61. On an intentional walk, the ball is dead and runners may not advance unless forced. If the defensive coach, pitcher or catcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, this may be done by notifying the plate umpire who shall award the batter first base.
62. The batters hands are considered part of the bat.

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63. A Batter-Runner is out if they run outside the three-foot lane and interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
64. The Batter-Runner is out when they hit an "infield fly" whether or not it is initially called.
65. If two Runners occupy the same base, the last runner to obtain the base is entitled to it if she has been forced to advance.
66. A runner is out if they run more than 3 feet from the base path to avoid being touched by the ball in the hand of a fielder.
67. A runner is out if they pass a preceding runner before that runner is out.
68. A Runner may run over a defensive player because she is standing on top of the base/plate without penalty.
69. The look-back rule will be in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out, and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle.
70. In the top of the first inning only, the pitcher and catcher are identified as those players listed on the lineup as the pitcher and catcher; both must face at least the first batter on defense (one pitch). Thereafter, the pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position on defense. The pitcher or catcher must bat and reach base legally (or earn the base) in order to be eligible for a courtesy runner.
71. A player may be a substitute for any player in the half inning that the player ran as a courtesy runner.
72. A courtesy runner may run for another courtesy runner.
73. F2 drops the third strike with two outs. B3 starts towards the dugout but F2 doesn't throw to first base. B3 then makes a quick dash to first base. This is legal.
74. The pitch is not in the strike zone but not entirely inside the batter's box when it hits the batter. The batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit, the ball is dead but the batter is not awarded first base since the batter obviously tried to get hit by the pitch.
75. With the bases loaded, B4, who bats left-handed, hits a ground ball to F3, who is left-handed. The ball is just inside the foul line. F3 throws to F2, but hits B4, who is on the way to first base. B4 is in fair territory but has not reached the 30-foot running lane. There is no violation, unless the batter-runner intentionally interfered with F3's throw.
76. In fast pitch all bats must bear either the USA/ASA 2004 or USA Softball All Games (2019) Certification Mark and not be on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List.

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- 77. All Gorilla Gold Towels are legal in Georgia.
- 78. Teammates of a player who has hit a homerun must remain behind the batter's box lines nearest their dugout.
- 79. When a regular season game is stopped before it becomes a legal game, it is considered to be a "no contest" and any replay will begin from the first inning.
- 80. In order to be used, the tie-breaker procedure for varsity games shall be agreed upon by both teams during the pregame meeting with the umpires. If implemented, the procedure shall begin in the 8th inning (and any subsequent half-inning).