

LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2012 SOFTBALL RULES STUDY QUESTIONS

LHSAA Study Guide questions: The LHSAA test questions are TRUE / FALSE. They will mainly come from the following questions, **Rules Book**, including rule changes, **Points of Emphasis** and the **Case Book**.

NOTE: In the following questions, **F** refers to a **fielder** (**F1**, **F2**, etc. refer to the traditional defensive positions.), **B** refers to a **batter** (**B1**, **B2**, etc. refer to the proper batting order.), **R** refers to a **runner** (**R1** is always the lead runner.) and **S** refers to a **substitute**. All situations and acts are legal, and no errors or mistakes are involved unless otherwise stated.

1. The ball shall be an optic yellow or white sphere. (1-3-1)
2. Gloves shall be a maximum of 2 colors, excluding lacing and manufacturer's logo colors. (1-4-1)
3. Bats made of wood are permitted. (1-5-1d)
4. All batting helmets shall be equipped with a NOCSAE- approved face protector. (1-6-6)
5. Batting out of order can be a live or dead ball appeal. (2-1-2c)
6. A runner may return to the field to touch a missed base, or one left too soon on a caught fly ball after a ball has become dead. (2-1-6)
7. A runner leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball is considered a timing play, and all runs scored by runners in advance of the appeal, and scored before the legal appeal would count. (2-1-12)
8. A runner establishes her own base path when she is not being played upon. (2-3-3, note)
9. A single on-deck batter shall remain in the team's on-deck circle while the opposing pitcher is warming up. (2-5-3)
10. Holding the bat in the strike-zone is considered a bunt attempt. (2-8-2)
11. Team Captains may attend the pre-game conference with umpires and head coaches. (2-14-2)
12. A crow hop is the replant of the pivot foot prior to delivering the pitch, and always results in an immediate dead ball illegal pitch. (2-16)
13. Faking a tag is always considered interference. (2-21)
14. If a forced runner, after touching the next base, except home, retreats for any reason towards the base she first occupied, the force play is reinstated, and she may again be put out if the defense tags the base to which she is forced. (2-24-4)
15. R1 on first base, no outs. Batter B1 hits a ball that ricochets off the catchers mask and is caught in the air by the pitcher, who then throws to first base before the runner returns to tag. Result of play: Double play, both the batter runner B1, and R2 are out. (2-25-1g, 5-1-1d2)
16. 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. (2-56-3)
17. Intentional base-on-balls requires a request from either the catcher or head coach. (2-63-1)
18. A team's line-up card shall include the players first and last name, jersey number and position of all starting players. (3-1-3)
19. At the time of the pitch, the defensive team may have 7 players in the infield. (3-1-5, 6-2-9)
20. A pitcher may not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs which may, in the umpire's judgment, be distracting to the batter. (3-9)
21. Plastic visors, bandannas, and hair beads are permitted provided they are white, black beige or the school colors. (3-2-5)
22. Metal cleats are permitted and shall not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch from the sole of the shoe. (3-11)

23. The plate umpire shall record all substitutions on the line-up card and then announce immediately any change(s) to the opposing team. (3-3)
24. A starter and any substitute for that starter shall not be in the game at the same time. (3-3-5)
25. The DP may play defense at any position. (3-3-6e)
26. A team may use the DP/FLEX option provided it is made known prior to the start of the game. (3-3-6)
27. The DP is always placed in the 10th position of the batting order. (3-3-6b)
28. Placing the FLEX into one of the first 9 positions for someone other than the DP's position is considered an illegal substitution. (3-6-6g)
29. Any player, who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. (3-3-9)
30. Once discovered, an illegal substitute is restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game. (3-4-1, penalty)
31. The game shall not begin until the head or assistant coach attends the pre-game conference and verifies all players are legally equipped, and the line-up card is correct. (3-5-1, penalty)
32. Coaches' uniforms may include jeans. (3-6-3)
33. Cell phones are the only allowable electronic equipment used for coaching purposes during the game. (3-6-11)
34. Arguing balls and strikes or other umpire judgment calls is prohibited, unless a coach calls a conference with the umpires. (3-6-15)
35. Each team while on defense may not be granted more than three charged conferences without penalty during a 7-inning game to permit coaches or their representatives to confer with a defensive player or players. (3-7-1)
36. Each team while on offense may not be granted more than two time outs per inning to confer with the any batter, runner, or on-deck batter. (3-7-1)
37. The home and visiting coaches shall decide together whether the grounds and other conditions are suitable for starting a game. (4-1-1)
38. During the pre-game conference no balls shall be thrown or batted in live ball territory. (4-2a)
39. A regulation game must have been at least 6 ½ innings to be official. (4-2-2)
40. The ball becomes dead immediately when a pitch touches a batter or the batters clothing. (8-1-2b, 5-1-1a)
41. Prior to pitching the pitcher must take a position with the ball in hand or glove, and the hands separated. (6-1a)
42. The pitcher may take a position on or near the pitchers plate without having possession of the ball. (6-1e)
43. In the pitching delivery, Any step backwards shall begin before the hands come together. (6-1-2b)
44. Once the ball is returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch, she has 15 seconds to release the pitch. (6-2-3)
45. At the beginning of each half inning, no more than one minute may be used to deliver no more than 5 balls to the catcher or other teammate. (6-2-5)
46. When the ball slips from a pitchers hand during forward or backward swing, it is considered no-pitch and all runners must return to their original base before the pitch (6-2-6)
47. A fielder shall not take a position in the batter's line of vision, or with deliberate unsporting intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. (6-3-8)
48. When several players bat out of order before discovery so that a player's time at bat occurs while she is a runner. Such player remains on base, but she is NOT out as a batter. (7-1-6)
49. The penalty for batter delay is one strike. (7-3-1)

50. After entering the batters box, the batter leaves it at the risk of being charged with delay. (7-3-1, effects)
51. The batter is out if a team is playing with one less than the starting number in the batting order, and her turn to bat is reached. (7-4-1)
52. The batter is out if she disconcerts the pitcher by stepping out of the box on one side of home plate to the box on the other side of home plate while the pitcher is in position to pitch. (7-4-3)
53. When interference is with a fair batter of foul fly ball, the batter is out. When, in the judgment of the umpire, the interference prevented a double play, the runner closest to home shall also be declared out. (7-4, penalties)
54. A runner is considered outside the running lane if both feet are completely outside the lane and in contact with the ground. (8-2-5)
55. The batter is out and an immediate dead ball is called if a batter runner steps back towards home plate to avoid or delay a tag by a fielder. (8-2-8)
56. If a spectator reaches into the field of play and interferes with a fielder's opportunity to catch a fly ball, the batter runner is out. (8-2-12)
57. The runner is out and the ball is dead if a runner runs the bases in reverse order to confuse the defense or make a travesty of the game. (8-3-6)
58. Bases left too soon on a caught fly ball may or may not be retouched prior to advancing to awarded bases. (8-3-10)
59. If an obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the base she would have reached had the obstruction not occurred, a dead ball is called. (8-3b, penalty)
60. If an obstructed runner is put out after passing the base she would have reached if there was no obstruction, the obstructed runner will be called out, and the ball remains live. (8-3b, penalty)
61. If in the judgment of the umpire, a fielder intentionally kicks, carries, throws, or pushes a live ball from playable territory to dead ball territory, each runner is awarded two bases from the last touched base at the time the ball was pushed, thrown, kicked or carried into dead ball territory. (8-4j-penalty)
62. A runner is entitled to advance when a batter, better-runner, or runner is called out for interference. (8-5-3)
63. A runner must return to the last base legally occupied when the Plate Umpire, or any part of the plate umpires clothing interferes with the catchers attempt to throw out a runner stealing, or an attempted pick off play, unless the runner was thrown out. (8-5-6)
64. A runner is out when running to any base runs more than three feet from the base path to avoid being touched by the ball in the hands of a fielder. (8-6-1)
65. A runner passing a preceding obstructed runner, is out. (8-6-5)
66. The runner is out when the batter-runner legally overruns first base, attempts to run to 2nd, and is legally touched while off the base. (8-6-8)
67. A runner is out if any coach or member of the offensive team, other than a runner, interferes with a defensive players opportunity to make a play. (8-6-16)
68. While the pitcher has the ball in the circle; A batter-runner who overruns first base towards right field, turns left and immediately stops, must then return non-stop to first or attempt to advance to 2nd base. (8-7-4b)
69. A runner is out if they run in front or behind a fielder and outside the base path in order to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on the ball. (8-8-1)
70. A runner is not out if hit with a fair, untouched batted ball that has passed an infielder, (excluding the pitcher), and in the judgment of the umpire no other fielder had a chance to make an out. (8-8-4)
71. A runner is out if they are hit by a fair batted ball while on a base. (8-8-13)
72. Players who are substitutes or were previously in the game may serve as courtesy runners. (8-9-3)
73. The courtesy runner is not permitted to run as a courtesy runner for the Designated Player (DP). (8-9-5)

74. A courtesy runner does not need to be reported to the plate umpire. (8-9-7)
75. The scorebook of the home team shall be the official scorebook, unless the plate umpire rules otherwise. (9-2-2)
76. Umpire jurisdiction begins upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field of play. (10-1-2)
77. Heather grey or Navy blue slacks are proper uniform for LHSAA umpires. (10-4-2)
78. If an undershirt is worn under an umpires powder blue shirt, it shall be white and short sleeved.
79. If a team protests a game, immediately suspend play, and call your Assignment Secretary. (LHSAA Handbook)
80. Headwear (Caps, Visors, Headbands, Ribbons, etc.) may be mixed, but if worn must be white, black, beige, or school colors. ((3-2-5)
81. The batter is out if the batter enters the box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat and the infraction is detected before the next legal or illegal pitch. (7-4-2)
82. When a batter uses an illegal bat which is altered or non-approved, both the batter and the head-coach are ejected. (7-4-2, penalty)
83. A pitcher may begin with one or two feet on the pitching plate. (POE, 1A)
84. Either umpire may call an illegal pitch when a pitcher starts or ends her delivery outside the 24" width of the pitching plate. (POE 1B)
85. Umpires are required to check bats and helmets prior to each contest. (POE 2A)
86. A pitcher wearing an optic yellow knee pad shall be removed if in the umpires judgment, would distract the batter. (POE 2B)
87. In a lightning situation When thunder is heard, or a cloud to ground lightning bolt is seen, suspend play and take shelter immediately for no less then 20 minutes. (Appendix E)
88. Any athlete who has blood on their uniform must not be allowed to play until the uniform is changed. (Appendix D)
89. F1 steps on pitchers plate, brings her hands together and after pausing one second, removes the ball from her glove with her throwing hand and swings her arm backward to approximately shoulder height. She continues forward in a windmill delivery, releasing the ball the second time it crosses her hip. Ruling: Legal (6-1-4 cb)
90. While behind the pitching plate the pitcher proceeds to take the catcher's signal with the ball in her glove and the other hand at her side. Ruling: Legal (6-1-1 cb)
91. B1 steps into the batters box with a bat that is on the ASA's non-approved list. The pitcher, in position with a live ball, is standing on the pitchers plate. Ruling: B1 is out. B1 and the head coach are ejected from the game.
92. With runners on 1st. 2nd and 3rd B3 bunts the ball high in the air to the pitcher. Ruling: Infield fly Rule, B3 is out by rule. (2.30 cb)
93. B2 hits a grounder to F6. Just as F6 starts to throw to first base, R1 on the way to 3rd base, yells at F6, which startles F6, causing the ball to be thrown over F3's head into dead ball territory. Ruling: All runners advance 1 base from where they were at the time of the throw.(2.32.1 cb)
94. R1 is stealing 2nd when B2 receives a fourth ball. R1 over slides second and is tagged. Ruling: R1 is out since the ball does not become dead on ball four. (2.40C cb)
95. B2 hits a pop fly to the infield, R1 who is on 3rd base, is running with the pitch and touches home plate. R1 then realizes the ball was not caught by the pitcher and starts back to 3rd base, where she is tagged by the pitcher. Ruling: R1 is out. (2.47.3 cb)
96. F1 is removed from game and replaced by S1. After S1 has faced two batters, F1 re-enters the game in the same position. F1 is not entitled to any warm up pitches. (3-2-2)

97. In the 5th inning, L. Jones enters the game as the DP and is placed at the end of the batting order.
Ruling: Illegal. (3.3.6)
98. S1 who has no re-entry eligibility is discovered in the game. Ruling: An out is called and the player is ejected. (3.4.1)
99. During the pre-game conference the assistant coach certifies that the line-up card is correct and all players are properly equipped according to NFHS standards. Ruling: Improper procedure. The head coach must attend the pre-game conference and verify compliance. 3.5.1
100. R1 is on third base with no out. B1 hits a fly ball towards left field. While the ball is in flight, the 3rd base coach pushes R1 back towards 3rd base. F7 makes the catch. Ruling: R1 is out for being aided, and B2 is out on the catch. The Ball is live and in play. (2-32, 8-6-5)
101. Team A has one of its players in the bleachers behind home plate, or the bleachers along the 3rd base line. Ruling: Legal
102. The home coach while his/her team is on defense turns a bucket upside down and sits on it just outside the dugout to get a better view of the field action. Ruling: Legal
103. As B1 steps into the batters box, the umpire notices she is using smokeless tobacco. Ruling: The umpire shall eject B1.
104. After hitting a line drive toward F5, B1 intentionally throws her bat. Ruling: B1 and the coach are warned for unsporting behavior.
105. An ejected coach goes to the bus. The coach uses his/her cell phone to communicate with the assistant coach. Ruling: Such an act could lead to the game being forfeited.
106. The coach of the offensive team requests time to confer with three base runners, the batter, and the on deck batter simultaneously. Ruling: Time may be granted for this purpose, provided it is the first one of the half inning for that team.
107. Team A is leading 40-0 in the bottom of the 2nd inning. Both coaches and the plate umpire agree to end the game early. Ruling: Legal. The game may be terminated at any time by the plate umpire with agreement of both coaches.
108. With two strikes on B3, B3 swings and misses a pitch. The pitch strikes her arm or person. Ruling: Dead ball strike. Batter is out if the pitch was strike 3.
109. During pre-game conference both coaches agree to use a tiebreaker to speed the game along. Ruling: An international tie-break procedure should be used after the 9th inning in Louisiana.
110. After A1 has started delivery, B1 steps out of the batters box without requesting time. Ruling: If the pitcher delivers a legal pitch, it should be called a strike.
111. With R1 attempting to steal, the umpire interferes with the catchers throw. Ruling: Umpire signals delayed dead ball. If R1 is not put out, she must return to the base previously occupied before the interference.
112. R1 in advancing to 2nd base interferes with F4 to prevent a double play. Ruling: Both R1 and B1 are declared out.
113. F1 takes her position on the pitching plate with both hands together. Ruling: Illegal\
114. While in her delivery, F1 fails to bring her hands together for one second, and then delivers the pitch to B3 who hits into a double play. Ruling: Illegal pitch. All runners advance 1 base and a ball is awarded to the batter unless the coach of the team batting decides to accept the double play.
115. F1 delivers a ball outside the strike zone to B1 with no runners on base. F2 throws to B5. Ruling: The umpire shall award a ball to the batter.
116. F1 has both feet on the pitching plate. F1 removes one foot by stepping backwards as she delivers the pitch. Ruling: Illegal.
117. S1 replaced B3, who is 3rd in the batting order. S1 can bat in any position in the batting order as designated by her coach.

118. With one out and R1 on 3rd base, B3 interferes with F2 as R1 makes an attempt to score.
Ruling: R1 is out and B3 continues her at-bat.
119. The umpire calls ball four on B1 who does not go immediately to first base, but enters the dugout. Ruling: B1 is out.
120. R1 is on first base when B2 hits a line drive that bounds off F4's glove and is caught by F8. R1 leaves first after F4 touched the ball before the catch. Ruling: Legal advance by R1, B2 is out.
121. At the beginning of each half-inning or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than 3 pitches to the catcher or other teammates.
122. A foul ball is a batted ball that while over foul territory, touches the person of an umpire, a player or any object foreign to the natural ground.
123. A fair fly shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line.
124. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion must be immediately removed from the game until cleared by the coach.
125. A timing play is a play when the last out of an inning is not the result of a force out and the exact time of the out may or may not allow a run to score.
126. A run is cored when an offensive player legally or illegally advances to and touches home plate.
127. The pitch must be delivered at a moderate speed underhand, below the hip, with a perceptible arch of at least 5 feet and not more than 6 feet at its highest point from the ground.
128. Prior to starting the delivery, the pitcher shall take a position with both feet on the top surface of the pitcher's plate.
129. When a fielder loses possession of the ball, such as on an attempted tag, and the ball enters the dead-ball area or becomes blocked, each runner is awarded one base from the last base touched at the time the ball entered the dead-ball area or becomes blocked.
130. The catcher must be in and remain within the boundaries of the catcher's box until each pitch reaches home plate or is batted.
131. A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when the team is late in appearing or in beginning play after umpire calls, "Play Ball".
132. If there are unusual conditions, such as spectators or obstacles too near the playing field, the umpire shall propose special ground rules.
133. At the time of the pitch, all fielders shall be on fairground except the pitcher and catcher.
134. Shoes are required equipment.
135. One American flag (2inch x 4 inch maximum) may be worn on each item of uniform apparel, and either commemorative or memorial patch.
136. A batter is out when she enters the batters' box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat.
137. A runner is out when she remains on her feet and maliciously crashes into a defensive player.
138. A pitcher can wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs which may, in the umpire's judgment, be distracting to the batter.
139. No more than one appeal may be made on a play, to prevent from having a guessing game.
140. Once a game has started, if it is discovered by or brought to the attention of the umpire that the pitching distance, base distances or batter's boxes are incorrect, the correction shall be made immediately.
141. The base line is the traditional path traveled by a runner who is attempting to advance to the next base.
142. A legal slide must be either feet first; not head sliding is legal.
143. All exposed undergarments shall be black, white, gray or a solid school color

144. Team personnel shall not participate in a fight or leave his/her position/bench area when a fight has broken out or may break out.
145. After the first inning, the first batter in each inning shall be the player whose name follows that of the last batter who completed her time at bat in the preceding inning.
146. A batter shall take her position in the batter's box within 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch.
147. 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.
148. The runner is out when she is hit with a fair, untouched batted ball that has passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher.
149. Umpires working the plate in fast pitch shall wear a throat protector that is part of or attached to the mask and extends far enough to adequately protect the chest.
150. A team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or the catcher during the same inning.
151. A batter-runner is not out if she runs outside the three-foot lane and , in the judgment of the umpire, interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first.
152. A ball shall be called when the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the backswing or forward motion, it is a pitch.
153. A courtesy runner that has violated the courtesy-runner rule must be restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.
154. metal toe plates are not permitted in the game of high school softball.
155. A contest of no game shall be called if the game is called before completion of the number of innings and weather conditions, or darkness occurs.
156. Bases shall be 60 feet apart for games using the 12-inch ball and 70 for games using the 11-inch ball.
157. 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.
158. A crow hop is the replant of the pivot foot prior to delivering the pitch.
159. A foul ball is a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt or hand and is legally caught by the catcher.
160. Prior to the start of the game at the pregame conference, an assistant coach shall be responsible for verifying to the plate umpire that the lineup card is correct.
161. Electronic communication devices, television monitors and/or replay equipment can be used for coaching purposes during the course of the game.
162. Arguing ball and strike calls or other umpire judgment calls is prohibited.
163. The pitcher may not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate without having possession of the ball.
164. Once the hands are brought together and are in motion, the pitcher shall not take more than one stop which may be backward, and simultaneous with the delivery.
165. A batter shall be called out when she fails to bat in her proper turn and another batter completes a time at bat in her place.
166. A runner may advance with liability to be put out when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on the delivery.
167. Not more than three bats shall be used when warming up on the on-deck circle.
168. The catcher shall wear a catcher's helmet and mask combination that meets the NOCSAE standard.

169. Non-adult bat/ball shaggers are not required to wear batting helmets while in live-ball area, even if the ball is dead.
170. If a runner passes first base before the throw arrives, she is considered to have touched the base unless an appeal is made.
171. A catch is the act of a fielder who, with her hand(s) and/or glove/mitt, securely gains possession of a batted, pitched or thrown ball.
172. A player who re-enters the game in the wrong position in the batting order is considered an unreported substitute.
173. The team's line-up card shall include first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order of each starting player and shall include each eligible substitute.
174. 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.
175. A team may use the DP/FLEX option provided it is made known prior to the coach reporting the player.
176. When either team has a charged conference, the other team players must remain on the bases, thus not delaying the game.
177. Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch, she has 20 seconds to release the pitch.
178. A fielder shall not take a position in the batter's line of vision or, with deliberate unsporting intent, act in a manner to distract the batter; a pitch does not have to be released.
179. Placing the FLEX into one of the first nine positions for someone other than the DP's position is considered an illegal substitution.
180. A player who is not listed as an eligible substitute on the lineup card shall not be prohibited from playing.
181. After the lineup card has been submitted to and verified by the umpire and a change is subsequently made to a player/substitute name or number, or if a player/substitute is added to the lineup card, the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved. Any further changes made to a player/substitute name or number results in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.
182. A pitcher may be removed as a pitcher and return as a pitcher only once per inning provided the return does not violate either the substitution or charged conference rule.
183. The EP may be substituted for at any time, either by a pinch runner or a courtesy runner.
184. A thrown live ball accidentally touches a base coach in the coach's box or a pitched or thrown ball touches an umpire, the ball is live and in play.
185. The umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach if a player fakes a tag without the ball.
186. After a dead-ball situation, the ball become live when it is held by the pitcher on the pitcher's plate.
187. Any pitch that touches the plate shall be called a ball if the batter does not strike at it.
188. The runner is out if the catcher drops the third strike and is legally put out prior to reaching first base with two outs or less than two outs and first base is not occupied at the time of the pitch.
189. When any obstruction occurs, the umpire will signal a delayed dead ball. The ball will become dead.
190. The runner is out if he leaves a base to advance to another base before a caught fly ball has touched a fielder, provided the ball is returned to the infield and properly appealed.
191. A delayed dead ball is called when a batter is hit by a pitched ball, unless forced to advanced because of the batter being awarded first base.

192. A courtesy runner may not be a substitute for any player in the half inning that she ran as a courtesy runner.
193. A courtesy runner is not permitted to run as a courtesy runner for the DP if the DP is only batting, and not playing defense, for the pitcher or the catcher.
194. The umpire should ignore the batter leaning over home plate, by stepping out of the batter's box, by making any movement which hinders action at home after the pitch reaches the catcher of the catcher's attempt to play on a runner.
195. The bat shall be one piece, multi-pieces and permanently assembled, or two pieces with interchangeable barrel construction.