

# 2009 GHSA SOFTBALL EXAM

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TAKING THE TEST – Do not start the test until the test monitors tell everyone to start. Do not write answers on the test form. ALL test forms are to be returned to the test monitor upon completion of the test. Individuals are NOT to discuss the test while taking it. Violations will result in the test being picked up, and the guilty individuals failing the test. Please leave the testing facility upon completion of the test.

## SCANTRON ANSWER FORM

1. NAME/SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - Write your name and social security number in the boxes provided, and fill in the corresponding bubble boxes.
  2. ASSOCIATION/SPORT/DATE – Write in your association, the sport, and today's date in the appropriate boxes.
  3. EXAM – Bubble in the “Part II Exam” in the exam area
  4. BLANK AREAS – The “Code”, “Exam Number”, and “Test Form” areas are to be left BLANK.
  5. BUBBLE PROCESS – Bubbles MUST be filled in completely with a pencil (per the example on the form). Completely erase changes. Partial erasures and other marks will be read as multiple answers and therefore scored “incorrect”.
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1. Prior to the delivery of the pitch, the pitcher's pivot foot must be on or partially on the top surface of the pitching plate.
2. Prior to the delivery of the pitch, the pitcher's non-pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate.
3. Any step backward by the non-pivot foot must take place prior to the pitcher's hands coming together.
4. It is considered an illegal step if the pitcher slides her pivot foot across the pitcher's plate even if she maintains contact.
5. The 20-second regulation for the pitcher starts when she enters the pitching circle.
6. A 2 X 3 American Flag is permitted on all gloves/mitts.
7. When a double base is used at 1<sup>st</sup> base, either base may be white or a contrasting color.
8. All batting/catching helmets must have a NOCSAE approved face protector with the NOCSAE Standard phrase on it.
9. All bats must meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard and bear the 2000 and 2004 ASA certification stamp.
10. All uniforms must be worn as designed by the manufacturer, but may be altered when extreme heat conditions exist.

11. If a school has a "Senior Night" scheduled and the JV game is terminated due to weather, the varsity can be played when the fields are playable.
12. Effective January 1, 2009 the "dynamic stiffness" of the ball cannot exceed 7,500 pounds/inch and must be stamped on the ball.
13. If a batted ball hits the pitcher's plate and rolls into foul territory it should be ruled fair ball.
14. When an unreported sub is recognized the offending coach shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
15. All headwear may have one logo/school mascot and they must match in color with all teammates wearing them.
16. Jewelry may be worn as long as it is not visible or covered by tape.
17. Following a team warning for illegal jewelry, the next player observed to be wearing jewelry in the game shall be restricted to the dugout along with the head coach.
18. Beginning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the State Tournament, all games will be played at a single neutral site by classification.
19. In two-person mechanics with a runner at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, the base umpire has tag-up responsibility.
20. Obstruction shall be called if a defender blocks the base even though the runner is not impeded.
21. Even though he/she may be in the coach's box, it is the responsibility of the coach to avoid interfering with a defender attempting to make a play.
22. A running lane violation shall be called regardless of the accuracy of the throw, if the batter/runner is out of the running lane to 1<sup>st</sup> base.
23. When obstruction is called, it is the judgment of the umpire to determine whether the runner(s) would have advanced, and how far, had the obstruction not occurred.
24. There is no restriction on the number or thickness of bat grips/wraps.
25. A batter/runner who rounds 1<sup>st</sup> base must attempt to advance or immediately return to 1<sup>st</sup> base.
26. The "look-back" rule is in effect when the batter/runner has touched 1st base, regardless of whether the pitcher is in the circle or not.

27. A runner at 3<sup>rd</sup> base is subject to the “look-back” rule, following ball four being assessed to the batter, as soon as the pitcher is in possession of the ball in the circle.
28. Gloves/mitts may be a maximum of any two colors as long as the lacing is any color other than that of the ball.
29. The on-deck batter may choose either side to stand as long as she is located at a safe distance from home plate.
30. All substitutions must be reported to the plate umpire.
31. The batter must assume a position in the batter’s box within 20-seconds of the pitcher obtaining possession of the ball.
32. Photographers/videographers are not allowed to assume a position in live-ball territory.
33. During the pre-game conference with the coaches and umpires it is legal for the players to warm-up as long as they are beyond the infield dirt.
34. It is illegal for a player in the game to wear a hard cast or a brace with exposed metal hinges even though they may be properly padded.
35. It is illegal for a coach in the coach’s box to use a cell phone or an electronic statistics device.
36. While in the batter’s box, the batter must make an attempt to get out the catcher’s way when the catcher is attempting to throw out a runner.
37. The batter shall be called out if after hitting the ball she drops the bat, which then rolls into fair territory and makes contact with the ball.
38. The ball remains live if a batted ball rolls into a bat that is in fair territory.
39. In two-person mechanics, the plate umpire has tag-up responsibility at 2<sup>nd</sup> base when both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base are occupied.
40. In two-person mechanics with a runner at 1<sup>st</sup> base, the base umpire shall obtain a position 2-3 feet behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> base side.
41. In two-person mechanics with bases loaded, the base umpire shall obtain a position 2-3 feet behind the shortstop, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> base side.
42. In two-person mechanics, it is the plate umpire’s responsibility to look for a “swipe tag” or pulled foot on throws to 1<sup>st</sup> base.
43. In two-person mechanics with runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases, the plate umpire is responsible for the initial throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base.

44. Interference does not apply with regard to the “step and reach” rule on an initial play.
45. In three-person mechanics, the plate umpire always has tag-up responsibility at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
46. In three-person mechanics, the 1<sup>st</sup> base umpire has fly ball responsibility from right field and center field.
47. In three-person mechanics, the base umpires position themselves midway between their respective base and home plate between innings.
48. In three-person mechanics, with no one on base the plate umpire should trail the batter/runner.
49. Game balls must have the NFHS and GHSA authenticating marks to be used in GHSA sanctioned contests.
50. It is not necessary for a coach or player to make an appeal request if an umpire observes a runner missing a base.
51. Coaches are allowed to make only one appeal per play.
52. Players are not allowed to use illegal, altered, or non-approved bats
53. One or both feet must be on the ground and entirely outside the lines of the batter’s box for an illegally batted ball to be called.
54. The same courtesy runner may run for both the pitcher and catcher.
55. Accepting a varsity level assignment without having taken the current year rules clinic and rules exam is illegal and will be penalized.

**RETURN TEST FORMS ALONG WITH YOUR COMPLETED ANSWER FORM TO THE TEST MONITOR IMMEDIATELY UPON COMPLETION AND EXIT THE FACILITY.**

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## ANSWER GUIDE

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|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1.  | T | 35. | F |
| 2.  | F | 36. | F |
| 3.  | T | 37. | T |
| 4.  | F | 38. | T |
| 5.  | F | 39. | T |
| 6.  | T | 40. | F |
| 7.  | F | 41. | F |
| 8.  | T | 42. | T |
| 9.  | F | 43. | F |
| 10. | F | 44. | T |
| 11. | F | 45. | F |
| 12. | F | 46. | F |
| 13. | F | 47. | F |
| 14. | F | 48. | T |
| 15. | T | 49. | F |
| 16. | F | 50. | F |
| 17. | T | 51. | F |
| 18. | F | 52. | F |
| 19. | F | 53. | T |
| 20. | F | 54. | F |
| 21. | T | 55. | T |
| 22. | F |     |   |
| 23. | T |     |   |
| 24. | F |     |   |
| 25. | T |     |   |
| 26. | F |     |   |
| 27. | F |     |   |
| 28. | F |     |   |
| 29. | F |     |   |
| 30. | T |     |   |
| 31. | F |     |   |
| 32. | T |     |   |
| 33. | F |     |   |
| 34. | F |     |   |