



# Blue's News On-Line Update

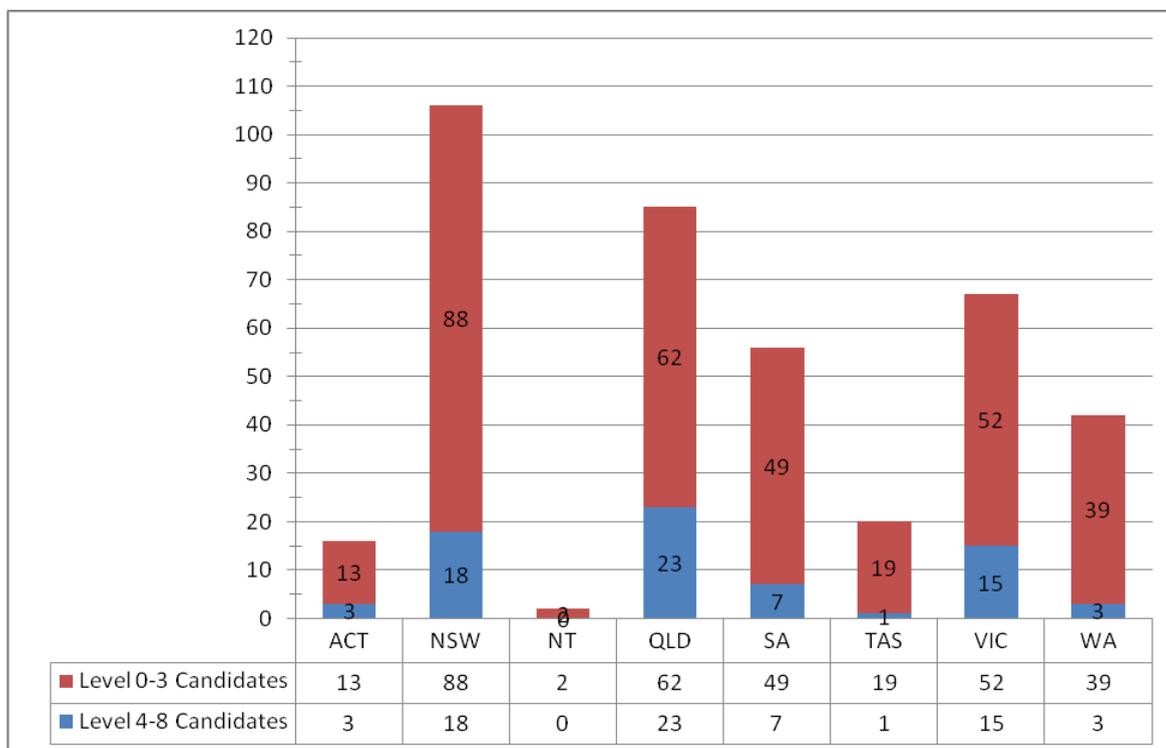


Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

September 2011

## 2011 RULES EXAMINATION AND TECHNICAL REPORT

A total number of 394 candidates at all levels sat the 2011 Australian Umpire Theory Examination this was an increase of 4.2%. A state by state breakdown of candidates who sat the exam is as per the below table:



The 2011 exam was developed by Leigh Evans and proof read and edited by Darren Sibraa, Darrell Shephard and Alan McAuliffe.

The development of this year's Basic Exam was supervised by Darren Sibraa, with assistance provided by Jesse Smith and Mark Toft.

Thanks should be extended to Graham Bancroft and Robert Harris who were involved in the updating of the supplementary exams with new rules and on-line reference exams.

Graham is also currently working with the Rules data base.

Thanks also to Matt Gowty who developed the exam analysis program which has the capability of producing informative charts and data which was used extensively when reviewing the results of the examination.

For this year's open exam, the average mark for Levels 0-3 was 68.7 the average for Levels 4-8 was 84.6 and the overall average for all candidates was 71.5, all up from last year.

### National Umpiring Program

Website: [www.softball.org.au](http://www.softball.org.au) go to umpiring



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## QUESTIONS THAT CAUSED DIFFICULTY

The ten (10) questions that caused most difficulty Australia wide **AT ALL LEVELS** were:-

<u>Qstn No</u>	<u>% Incorrect</u>	<u>Qstn No</u>	<u>% Incorrect</u>
78	71%	17	61%
81	70%	77	59%
10	65%	56	58%
71	65%	83	55%
41	64%	79	55%

The below is a summary of these questions with reasoning and discussion points. Thanks to David Casey from Queensland for helping to compile the following report.

**Q78.** F1 uses his bat to knock in a peg at the pitcher's plate prior to the game starting and this puts several burrs in the barrel of the bat. The umpire notices this so inspects the bat and discovers the burrs. RULING: The umpire should now declare the bat to be an altered bat.

FALSE Rule 1 Sec 1

*A bat is altered when the physical structure of a legal bat has been changed. Examples of altering a bat are: replacing the handle of a metal bat with a wooden or other type handle, inserting material inside the bat, applying excessive tape (more than two layers) to the bat grip, or painting a bat at the top or bottom for other than identification purposes.*

Rule 3 Sec 1(l) states that a '*...metal bat shall be free of burrs and cracks*'. As the bat in question does not comply with this section, Rule 1 Sec 42 comes into effect. This section defines that an **illegal bat** is one that does not meet the requirements of Rule 3 Sec 1'. Therefore on this occasion, the bat in question would be an **illegal bat** not an **altered bat**. The batter is out when he enters the batter's box and is discovered using an altered or illegal bat. If found using an **altered bat**, the batter is also ejected from the game.

**Q81.** The batting order is Brown, Black, Smith, Jones and so on. James comes in to bat for Black in the 5<sup>th</sup> innings without being announced to the plate umpire. The defensive team then appeals to the umpire that James was an illegal player, the umpire removes James and declares him ineligible. The offensive team leaves Black in the offensive line up. Later in the



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6<sup>th</sup> innings Anderson replaces Black legally. In the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> innings the offensive coach re-enters Black.

RULING: This is considered legal as Black is the starting player.

FALSE Rule 4 Sec 8g Effect 2-4 Note 2

*After an upheld appeal for an unreported substitute or an illegal re-entry, the original starting player or his substitute is considered to have left the game.*

On this occasion, Black was considered to have left the game when illegally substituted by James in the 5<sup>th</sup> innings. The action of the coach leaving Black in the game is deemed to be a re-entry. When Anderson replaces Black in the sixth innings, Black has been substituted from the game a second time. The coach's action in then re-entering Black a second time would be deemed an illegal re-entry. The penalty for an illegal re-entry is the ejection of both the coach and the illegal substitute.

**Q10.** When a batter is called out for interference, all runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch.

FALSE Rule 7 Sec 9k & Effect

Effect - Sec 9k states *'The ball is dead and each runner must return to the base that, in the umpire's judgment, was touched at the time of the interference.'*

If the batter has been called out for interference, then all base runners must return to the base last touched at the time of the interference. Conversely, when it is the batter-runner that causes the interference, then the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and all other runners must return to the last base held at the time of the pitch.

**Q71.** A helmet worn by a defensive player, other than the catcher, must have two ear flaps.

FALSE Rule 1 Sec 40c

*A helmet worn by a defensive player does not need earflaps.*

If a defensive player wishes to wear a helmet while fielding, it does not need to have earflaps. The ear flaps are there to protect batters from wild pitches hitting the batters temple, as helmets are not mandatory for fielders the ear flaps are naturally not mandatory.

**Q41.** When a fielder carries a live ball into the dugout to tag a player, he is considered to have intentionally carried it out of play.

FALSE Rule 8 Sec 7j Note

Note to Sec 7j. *A fielder carrying a live ball into the dugout, or team area, to tag a player, is considered to have unintentionally carried it there.*



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In this case the fielder is making a play on a player to make an out, they are not intending to take any advantage from this action. When this is the case, the ball is dead and all base runners are awarded one base from the last base touched at the time the fielder entered into dead territory.

**Q17.** Before pitching, the pitcher must bring his whole body to a complete stop with the ball held in the hand or glove in front of the body. This position must be held for not less than two (2) seconds and not more than (10) seconds, before starting the pitch.

FALSE Rule 6 Sec1e

*Before commencing the delivery (pitch), the pitcher...must, after taking the signal, bring his whole body to a full and complete stop with the ball held in the hand or glove with both held together in front of the body. This position must be held for not less than two (2) seconds and not more than **five (5) seconds**, before starting the pitch.*

The pitcher cannot hold this position in excess of five (5) seconds before starting the pitch. If held longer than five seconds, it is deemed to be an illegal pitch.

**Q77.** R1 on 1<sup>st</sup>, with B2 in the batter's box. On the next pitch, which is declared illegal by the umpire, B2 hits safely to F7. R1 reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> base but B2 is tagged out attempting to advance to 2<sup>nd</sup>.

RULING: The manager of the offensive team has the option of (a) taking the award for the Illegal Pitch, or (b) taking the result of the play.

FALSE Rule 6 Effect Sec 1-7 3 Exception

*If the batter reaches first base as a result of a hit or a dropped third strike, and all other runners have advanced at least one base on the play, the illegal pitch is nullified. All actions as a result of the play stand and no option is given.*

In this scenario, B2 has safely reached first base and R1 has advanced at least one base, therefore the coach is not given an option. If B2 did not reach first base safely or R1 were not to advance one base, then the coach would then have been given the option of taking the award of the illegal pitch or the result of the play.

**Q56.** The batter's on-deck circle is a 1.52m (5 ft) radius circle, placed at the end of the player's bench, or dugout area, closest to home plate.

FALSE Rule 2 Sec 4 & Appendix 1a

*The batter's on-deck circle is placed adjacent to the end of the player's bench or dugout area closest to home plate. (Appendix 1a displays the radius of the on-deck circle as **0.76m (2 ft 6 inches)**).*

The batter's on-deck circle is a 0.76m (2ft 6 inches) radius circle.



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**Q83.** R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> with one out. R1 leaves for 2<sup>nd</sup> on the pitch, as B2 hit's a fly ball to F8. R1 thinking the ball will be caught, returns part way to 1<sup>st</sup>. The ball is dropped by F8, as B2 rounds 1<sup>st</sup> and passes R1. The ball is then thrown to 2<sup>nd</sup> in an attempt to retire R1 who believing he is forced is now advancing to 2<sup>nd</sup>.

RULING: B2 is out for passing a preceding runner, before that runner has been called out, and R1 returns to 1<sup>st</sup>, because the ball is dead.

FALSE Rule 8 Sec9f & Effect

*The runner is out when he physically passes a preceding runner, before the runner has been called out. The ball remains **alive**.*

In this scenario, the batter is out for passing a preceding runner. As the ball remains **alive**, R1 is entitled to advance and with liability to be put out as well.

**Q79.** When a fielder catches a foul fly ball in his cap, the batter-runner and all runners are awarded three bases.

FALSE Rule 8 Sec7f

*Runners are entitled to advance without liability to be put out...when a fielder intentionally contacts or catches, a fair batted, thrown, or pitched ball, with his cap, helmet, mask, protector, pocket, detached glove or any part of his uniform that is detached from its proper place on his person.*

*Effect - Sec 7f*

*All runners, including the batter-runner, shall be entitled to...three (3) bases from the time of the pitch, if on a batted ball.*

In this scenario, runners are not advanced as it wasn't a fair batted ball. It would be deemed that the batter has hit a foul ball and would resume his turn at bat.