

## 2020 SOFTBALL STUDY GUIDE

1. 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)
2. In fast pitch all bats shall meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard and have either the 2004, 2013 and All Games USA Certification Mark and not be on the USA Non-Approved Bat List. (Rule 1)
3. A bat with the knob covered with grip tape is legal. (Rule 1)
4. The taper of the bat shall have a solid surface and shall have a conical shape. (Rule 1)
5. 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).
6. In fast pitch all bats must bear either the USA/ASA 2000, 2004 or USA Softball All Games (2019) Certification Mark and not be on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List. (GHSA Policy)
7. There are four types of appeals that can be made. (Rule 2)
8. An appeal on the last play of the game must be made before all infielders leave the field. (Rule 2)
9. A runner may not return to touch a missed base after she has reached a base beyond the base missed when the ball becomes dead. (Rule 2)
10. No outs, R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> Base. B3 gets an extra base hit. R2 misses 3<sup>rd</sup> base and scores. R1 also scores. R2 then runs back to 3<sup>rd</sup> base, touches it and scores. The defense appeals R2 missing 3<sup>rd</sup> base. R2 is out. (Rule 2)
11. Multiple appeals can be made on a runner. (Rule 2)
12. If the pitcher has possession of the ball and is in contact with the pitching plate when making a verbal appeal an illegal pitch is called. (Rule 2)
13. 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)
14. A blocked ball is a live ball that is a batted, pitched or thrown 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)
15. 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)
16. 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 out. (Rule 2; Case Book)
17. A bat that is on the USA Softball Non-Approved bat list, altered or damaged is considered illegal. (Rule 1 & 7)
18. 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 B1, B2 and the coach are ejected. (Rule 2 & 7)
19. 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)

20. B1 hits a fly ball to the infield that falls untouched behind the pitching circle but just in front of 2<sup>nd</sup> base. After hitting the ground, the ball continues to spin and rolls between home and first base and comes to rest in foul ground. This is a foul ball. (Rule 2; Case Book)
21. B1 with a 1-1 count swings and tips the ball. The ball goes directly to F2's mitt, pops into the air, and is caught by F5. B1 is out. (Rule 2; Case Book)
22. 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 between home plate and first base. 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)
23. B1 hits a roller in front of the plate which F2 fields but does not throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base because she would have hit B1 who was outside three- foot running lane. This is not interference. (Rule 2; Case Book)
24. 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)
25. 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)
26. 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 & 3; Case Book)
27. For obstruction to be ruled, the act must be an intentional act, physical or verbal, that impedes the runner's attempt to advance to the next base. (Rule 2)
28. A fielder is considered to be making an initial play if a batted ground ball deflects off the pitcher. (Rule 2)
29. After the lineup card is accepted by the umpire, if a coach must make a change to a 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)
30. 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, B1 is declared out. (Rule 3).
31. In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the Flex bats for the DP without reporting. This is an illegal substitution. (Rule 3; Case Book)
32. In the first inning the DP listed fourth in the lineup doubles. S1 runs for the DP. In the fourth inning, S2 bats for S1. With the count 1 ball and 1 strike, the FLEX replaces S2 at bat. This is an illegal substitute. (Rule 3; Case Book)
33. 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)
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 and must be the same color for each player. However, the color of the lower undergarment and upper undergarment do not 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. (Rule 3; Case Book)
37. 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)

38. Prior to starting the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with one foot or both feet on or partially on the pitcher's plate with hands separated and the ball in either hand. (Rule 6)
39. If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the back swing, it is a dead ball and a ball on the batter. (Rule 6)
40. The pitcher must have the ball in the glove, with the hands separated, when taking a position on the pitcher's plate. (Rule 6)
41. Prior to the pitch, all defensive players must be in fair territory. (Rule 6)
42. 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)
43. 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)
44. After walking B1, F1 walks out of the 16-foot circle and licks her fingers on the throwing hand. With the ball in her glove, she steps on the pitcher's plate and starts her delivery. This is an illegal pitch. (Rule 6, Case Book)
45. 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)
46. 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)
47. R1 on first base. 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. A ball is awarded to the batter and R1 is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (Rule 6)
48. B1 at bat. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base. F1 steps onto the pitching plate and then throws to 1<sup>st</sup> base in an attempt to pick off R1. This is an illegal pitch and immediate dead ball. R1 is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (Rule 6)
49. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base. B3 erroneously bats out of order in place of B2. With the count 2 balls and 1 strike on B3, R1 steals second. The defensive team appeals B3 is batting out of order. The batter that should have batted, B2, is allowed to take the place of B3 and R1 is returned to first base. (Rule 7; Case Book)
50. The batter must take her position with both feet completely or partially within the batter's box within 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher. (Rule 7)
51. As F1 starts her pitch, B1 requests time and steps out of the batter's box. F1 legally delivers the pitch as B1 steps back into the batter's box and hits the ball. This is an immediate dead ball and strike on B1. (Rule 2, 5, & 7; Case Book)
52. 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)
53. 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)
54. The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches. (Rule 7)
55. With two out, R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base and 3-1 count on B4 the pitcher steps on the pitcher's plate with her hands together and the plate umpire signals illegal pitch. F1 starts her windup and R1 leaves 1<sup>st</sup> base early. The base umpire calls dead ball and calls R1 out. B4 would lead off next inning. (Rule 2, 6, 7, & 8; Case Book)

56. With 3 balls and no strikes on B2 and no one on base the next pitch is ball four and goes into the stands. Since it was ball four B2 awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base for the because she walked and then awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base because the pitched ball went into the stands. (Rule 8; Case Book).
57. 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. R1 and B2 is awarded two bases from time of the pitch. (Rule 8; Case Book)
58. 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 & 8)
59. A fly ball that 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)
60. 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)
61. 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)
62. 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)
63. When a fielder intentionally contacts or catches a fair batted ball with any part of the uniform or equipment that is detached from its proper place it is a delayed dead ball and the batter and all runners are awarded three bases from the time of the pitch. (Rule 5 & 8)
64. 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)
65. R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base. B1 singles to right. R9 throws to F5 as R1 attempts to go to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. F5 catches the throw and tags R1 before she touches 3<sup>rd</sup> base. However, F5 loses possession of the ball which rolls into the third base dugout after R1 touches 3<sup>rd</sup> base and B1 rounds 1<sup>st</sup> base. This is a dead ball and R1 is awarded home and B1 is awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> base. (Rule 8)
66. 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 2, & 8; Case Book)
67. 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. It is an immediate dead ball. The batter and all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch. (Rule 8; Case Book)
68. When a fielder intentionally contacts or catches a thrown ball with any part of the uniform or equipment that is detached it is a delayed dead ball and the batter and all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the throw. (Rule 8)
69. No out and nobody on base. B1 swings and misses for strike 3. F2 misses the ball and it lodges in her chest protector. She retrieves the ball as B1 reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> base. This is a dead ball and B1 is returned to 1<sup>st</sup> base. (Rule 8; Case Book)
70. 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. R1 is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (Rule 8)
71. Two outs, R1 on 1<sup>st</sup> base. B2 strikes out but F2 loses the ball and it rolls up the first base line. B2 is rounding 2<sup>nd</sup> base by time F1 chases the ball down. F1 then throws to 3<sup>rd</sup> base attempting to throw out R1. The ball goes into the stands. Both R1 and B2 are awarded home plate. (Rule 5, & 8; Case Book)

72. 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)
73. During a dead ball, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the circle with R1 on second base. R1 dances off second base. R1 is out under the look-back rule. (Rule 8)
74. 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)
75. B1 at bat. R1 on second base and R2 in first base. Both runners legally leave their base on the pitch. F2 returns the ball to F1 in the circle. Both R1 and R2 continue to dance of their base. Both R1 and R2 are out under the look back rule. (Rule 8)
76. R3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base. B1 hits a one-hopper to the pitcher, who catches the ball and holds it motionless in the pitcher's circle while B1 continues to run toward 1<sup>st</sup> base. R3 continues to dance 5 feet off 3<sup>rd</sup> base. R3 is out on the look back rule. (Rule 8; Case Book)
77. With runners on base, F1 is within the 16 foot circle during a live ball. With the ball in her glove she places the glove between her knees to adjust her hair. This releases the runners from the look-back rule restrictions. (Rule 8; Case Book)
78. 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)
79. When a legal substitute replaces a courtesy runner, the courtesy runner has been removed from the game and can no longer be a courtesy runner. (Rule 8)
80. If a courtesy runner fails to report she is considered an illegal substitute. (Rule 8)
81. 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)
82. R1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 1-1 count on B2. B2 swings and misses. F2 drops ball and R1 attempts to steal 3<sup>rd</sup> base. F2 scoops up the ball with her mask and throws R1 out at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. This is a delayed dead ball and R1 is awarded home. (Rule 8)
83. The "look-back" rule is in effect when the batter/runner touches first base, and the pitcher has the ball in the circle. (Rule 8)
84. 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)
85. 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)
86. 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).
87. R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, one out. B3 hits a ball to left field but contacts the catcher's mitt on the swing. R2 scores and B3 is thrown out at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. This is catcher's obstruction, and a delayed dead ball. The run counts and B3 is given 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (Rule 8).

88. 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, & 8)
89. 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 must return to first. (Rule 8)
90. 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)
91. R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, one out. B3 singles to left. R2 rounds 3<sup>rd</sup> and attempts to score. F7 fields the ball and throws to F2 who is in a crouched position 5 feet up the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line fielding the throw. R2 hurdles F2 and lands on the plate before she is tagged by F2. This is a legal play and R2 scores. (Rule 8)
92. B1 bunts a ball that bounces off the plate and rolls in front of the plate. As B1 runs to 1<sup>st</sup> base she has one foot partially touching the foul line and one foot completely in the running lane. F2 fields the ball and her throw to first base hits B1. B1 is out for interference. (Rule 8)
93. The courtesy runner for the catcher is injured while on base. She may be replaced either by the catcher or another courtesy runner. (Rule 8)
94. 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)
95. One out, 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)
96. R1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base, R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. B3 hits a deep fly ball to F8. R1 tags but leaves early. R2 tags legally. F8s throw to 3<sup>rd</sup> base is wild and R2 also scores. The defense appeals R1 leaving early. One run scores. (Rule 2, & 9; Case Book)
97. With 2 outs and R1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> base, R2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and R3 on 1<sup>st</sup> base, B6 walks. R3 touches 2<sup>nd</sup> base and is then tagged off base for the third out before R1 reached home plate. R1's run does not count. (Rule 2, 8, & 9, Case Book)
98. In all circumstances, the scorebook of the home team is the official scorebook. (Rule 9)
99. Umpire jurisdiction begins with the arrival of both of the umpires within the confines of the field. (Rule 10).
100. In two person crews, either umpire may forfeit a game for just cause. (Rule 10)
101. The use of a double first base is recommended at all GHSA games. (GHSA Policy).
102. Teammates of a player who has hit a homerun must remain behind the batter's box lines nearest their dugout. (GHSA Policy)
103. Eye black shall only be used for glare reduction and not as an individual or team expression/adornment. It may be any color but the same color must be used under each eye. (GHSA Policy)
104. Cancer Awareness month is September to recognize Breast, Childhood, and Prostrate cancer. (GHSA Policy)
105. The GHSA Officials Card/Pass only allows the legal bearer (individual named on pass) admission to GHSA events. (GHSA Policy)
106. Cloth facial coverings are required for players and must be a single color with no designs. (NFHS Rules Considerations)

107. While play is suspended, base coaches must stay at least 6 feet from a runner. (NFHS Rules Considerations)
108. If a coach wishes to discuss a rule or a ruling he must do so from the dugout. (NFHS Rules Considerations)
109. The dugout and designated warm-up area can be extended to provide for social distancing. (NFHS Rules Considerations)
110. If a pitcher licks her fingers and then wipes them off it is a “no pitch” and immediate dead ball. The ball and the pitcher’s hands should be sanitized before play continues. (NFHS Rules Considerations)