1. (6) Larry is the DH for the pitcher. In the fourth inning, the coach decides to have the pitcher bat for himself. In the sixth inning, the coach decides to have Larry bat for the pitcher again. Before a pitch is thrown to Larry, the defense appeals.

Comment: The writer intended this question to test one’s knowledge of the batting out of order principle and not for illegal substitution. Using batting out of order, if you selected, “since the defense appealed before a pitch was thrown, the offensive team may replace Larry without penalty,” you would be correct.

As written, the correct answer is: If you applied the disqualified player rule and selected, “Larry is called out and disqualified from the game,” your answer is also correct.

Therefore, in fairness, the test was rescored and if you selected either of the two answers above you were given credit.

2. (15) B1, 2-2 count, no runners on base. The PU notices the catcher setting up for the pitch with one foot totally out of the catcher’s box. The defense is not intentionally walking the hitter. The umpire should:

Comment: 1-3b, A.R.—if there is a violation of this rule, the umpire shall call time and have the catcher move to a legal receiving position.

Interpretation: The umpire should enforce the penalty in 2-17, only in an intentional base on balls situation.

3. (22) R1 and R2, no outs. The umpires fail to call an obvious infield fly. The ball drops and the base runners are attempting to advance.

Interpretation: In the situation where we, as umpires, have made the mistake of not calling an obvious infield fly, when in fact, the conditions warrant it (less than two outs and 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd are occupied), call “time” and declare the batter out. Nullify any outs made on the base runners that advanced because they thought they were forced to advance because the ball dropped and no “infield fly” call was made. Return the base runners to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch. Correct a mistake that we as umpires, created.

Comment: Use 3-6b: Each umpire has the authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules.

4. (27) No runners, one out, 2-1 count. The pitcher delivers a pitch to the batter while his pivot foot is not in contact with the pitcher’s rubber. The batter doubles but misses first base. The defense properly appeals and the batter is called out. The offensive head coach claims that a ball should be awarded to the batter because of the illegal pitch and the batter brought back to bat with a 3-1 count since the batter never actually reached first base.
Interpretation: The play stands. When properly appealed the batter is called out for missing first base. See 9-1d, the batter is considered to have reached first base but his failure to touch the base is grounds for the defense to appeal. With no appeal forthcoming, the batter is credited with a double.

5. (29) R2, fewer than two outs. B1 hits a sharp grounder to F6 who runs a few steps toward R2 at second but does not attempt to make a play on R2 as R2 retreats. F6 overthrows first base. At the time of the throw, B1 had already touched first.

Interpretation: The running of a few steps toward R2 and “not attempting to make a play” and the batter-runner having already touched first base before the fielder had released the ball, (time of the throw) allows the umpire to award two bases from the time of the release (time of the throw). 8-3o, A.R. 1

6. (49) R1, R2. B3 bunts the ball that lands directly in front of home plate. F2 has fielded the weak bunt and is in the act of throwing to second base to begin the double play, when B3 pushes the catcher in the back. The ball goes into center field with R2 scoring easily and R1 advancing to third base.

Interpretation: Because the interference was by the batter-runner, the runner nearest home plate and the batter-runner are both called out. This is regardless of where a double play may have taken place. Rule 8-5e

7. (51) R1, R2, R3, two outs. 1-1 count. The next pitch gets past the catcher a short distance. R3 attempts to score. The catcher retrieves the ball and dives in an attempt to tag R3. When the catcher dove, he made contact with the batter, who had never moved out of the batter’s box. R3 was safe.

Interpretation: Once the pitch has crossed the plate, the hitter is required to vacate the live ball area around the plate to allow a defensive player to make a play. Rule 8-5q.

8. (53) R1, R2, one out. Bottom of the 8th. B1’s base hit to centerfield is fielded by F8 and his throw to the plate, in an attempt to retire R2, gets by the catcher and is rolling towards the offensive dugout. The offensive team, who is excited about the run, starts to cheer and run out of the dugout towards home plate to celebrate. A bench player accidentally deflects the ball and the ball rolls into the dugout. At the time the ball entered the dugout, R2 had scored, R1 was advancing to home and the batter was advancing to third base.

Interpretation: This action would be considered “unintentional interference” and since R2 had already touched home plate at the time the ball entered dead ball territory, allow his run to score. Call “time,” call R1 out, and return the batter to the last base he had attained before the ball entered dead ball territory.

If the deflected ball had stayed in the field of play, it would be interference and the ball is dead immediately. If R2 has not touched home, declare R2 out and return R1 and the BR to
the last base they had attained before the ball was declared dead. This is another very good reason to keep players in the dugout during live action. Rule 8-5q.

9. (52) R1, R3, one out. A pickoff from the pitcher gets by F3 and rolls through the coach’s box and towards the dugout. F3, in his attempt to chase down the ball, runs into the first base coach, who made no attempt to avoid the fielder. At the time of the contact, the coach had both feet entirely inside the lines of the coach’s box. R1 and R3 advanced on the wild throw.

Interpretation: The coach must vacate the coaching box once a member of the defensive team is attempting to make a play on the overthrow. Less than two outs, the runner at home plate is called out and any other runners return to the base they occupied (had attained) at the time of the interference. Rule 8-5q.

10. (39) The score is tied. The pitcher walks the first batter in the fifth inning. The coach goes to the mound and brings in F3 to pitch and moves the pitcher to first base. The new pitcher (original first baseman) gets the next two batters out on strikes. The coach returns to the mound and has the pitcher (the relief pitcher or original first baseman) and the first baseman (original pitcher) change positions again. The pitcher walks the first hitter he faces. Now the coach returns to the mound and has the same two switch positions for the third time.

Interpretation: A starting pitcher or relief pitcher, who remains in the game at a defensive position after having been replaced on the mound, may return to the mound one time. In the above scenario, after each player had been on the mound for the first time, each was moved to a defensive position and then brought back to pitch. These moves are legal and the coach is not charged with any trips since he made pitching changes each time he went to the mound. The pitcher, who started the inning but was replaced for a second time, is no longer able to pitch in this game. He may; however, stay in the game at another defensive position. Rule 5-5b, A.R. 1; 7-2c (5) (b) 9-4a (1); 9-4b; 9-4e

11. (63) R1, R3, two outs. Tie score. Strike three is blocked, (not caught) by the catcher and the batter-runner, during his advance to first base, is running outside the running lane during the last 45-feet. After retrieving the ball, the catcher lofts the ball over the head of the batter-runner to avoid hitting him with it. The throw eludes F4 by a few feet.

Interpretation: It must be a quality throw and in the judgment of the umpire, have a reasonable chance to retire the BR and unless F3 had a reasonable opportunity to glove the ball and was hindered by the runner, or the position of the runner, there is no interference. R3 scores and the game is over. Rule: 7-11p, A.R. 1 & A.R. 2
12. (65) R3, one out. F3 fields a fair bouncing ball just inside the foul line, steps on the bag to retire the batter runner, then fires the ball home in an attempt to retire R3. His throw strikes the helmet of the batter-runner, who is running illegally outside the runner’s lane.

**Interpretation:** The play stands since the batter-runner did nothing intentionally to interfere with F3’s throw.

**Comment:** The ball was not being fielded to first base. The throw originated from that area. F3 is guilty of a bad throw. Judge, did the batter runner intentionally change his straight-line path to first base in an attempt to create contact with the ball? Call interference only if the batter-runner’s actions were intentional. Rule 7-11p.

13. (71) R1, no outs. Batter hits a high pop-up to F9. R1 goes part way to second. BR rounds first hard while watching F9 but pays no attention to R1. BR passes R1; then, realizing his error, he heads back to first, passing R1 in the opposite direction. At that point, F9 loses the ball in the sun and cannot make the catch. R1 ends up safely on second and BR at first when the ball is returned to the infield.

**Interpretation:** The BR is out immediately when he passes R1 and the umpire would emphatically declare the BR out the moment he observes the passing. Rule 8-5m

**Comment:** The ball is kept alive and R1 may advance at his own risk.

14. (73) R2, 0-0 count. The pitcher balks but delivers a wild pitch that goes to the screen. B1 swings and misses. R2 aggressively rounds third but decides not to try for an extra base. By this time, the catcher has retrieved the ball and his accurate throw allows F5 to tag out R2 before he can get back to third.

**Interpretation:** R2 is out and the balk is acknowledged” as it relates to the batter. The count stays at 0-0. Rule 9-3m (3) A.R. 3

**Comment:** The runner’s attempt to advance beyond the base that he would have been awarded on the balk is at his own risk. Even though he is attempting to return to the awarded base, he is doing so on his own. The out will stand and the hitter assumes his “pre-balk” count, 0-0.

15. (75) R1, 3-2 count. The batter has taken his stance in the back of the batter’s box. The pitch freezes him and he makes no attempt to get out of the way. The pitch hits him in his elbow, which is outside the batter’s box but is not in the strike zone.

**Interpretation:** Dead ball, R1 moves to second. BR is awarded first because the pitch was ball four. Rule 8-2d (2) (4)

**Comment:** In this case, where the ball was outside the batter’s box and the hitter made no attempt to avoid being hit, the pitch is called a ball and the batter remains at the plate, unless it was ball four. The hitter is not given the benefit of “freezing” (A.R., p. 71) as he would when the ball is clearly inside the lines of his batter’s box.