Sample Chapters

The book as a reader will see it: the Contents, How to Play, Chapter 1: Errors, Putouts & Assists and Chapter 7: Interference & Obstruction.

66 content pages | Current review materials

Print on US Letter paper at Actual Size (100%).
Book pages sit centered at their true 6 x 9 inch trim size.
Print single-sided to keep each section together.

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BEFORE YOU START

How to Play

More than a third of the questions cover official scoring (errors, earned runs, hits and RBIs, wins and saves, the box score), and five chapters are devoted to it entirely. The rest is the working knowledge of umpires, players, managers and grounds crews. Even the pros would have a tough time running the table.

Want to make a game of it? Here's how the scoring works.

1 · MAKE THE CALL

Every question has a YOUR CALL box. Write your answer in it before you turn the page, since committing to an answer is what separates knowing a rule from thinking you know it. Use a pencil so you can erase and play again, or pass the book along to a friend. Playing alone? You can just say your answer out loud.

2 · FREE PRINTABLE SCORECARDS

Scan the code below, or go to hardballrules.com/scorecards, to download chapter and season scorecards. Print as many as you need, one per player for every trip through the book.

3 · WHAT EACH QUESTION IS WORTH

Rookie 1 point · Veteran 2 · All-Star 3 · Hall of Famer 5. Answers sit at the end of each tier, never under the question. Add up the points for the tier (a correct Veteran answer is worth 2, and so on), write the total in the subtotal box and move up a level.

4 · MAKE PAR

Every chapter's scorecard shows a par score, the number to shoot for. It works out to about 70 percent of the points you could earn in that chapter. Make par and you've earned an All-Star rank. Playing alone? Par is the score to reach.

5 · THREE OUTS (a harder way to play)

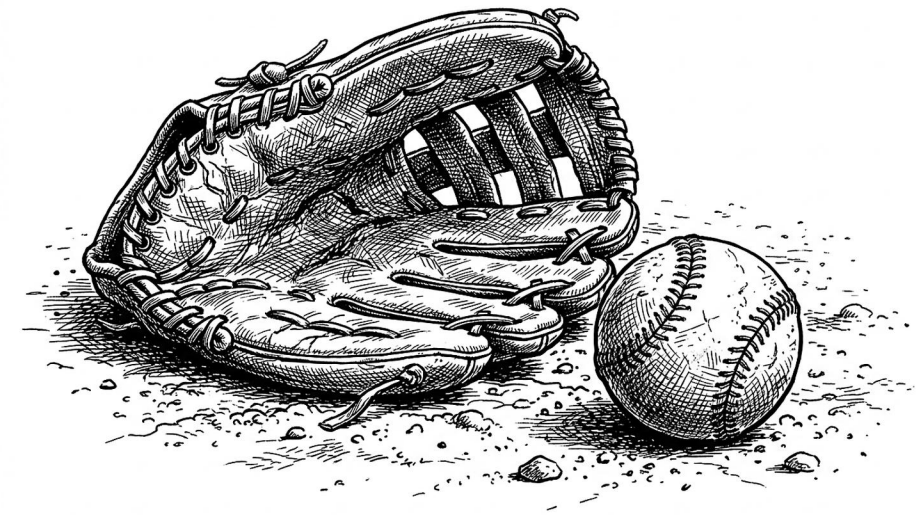
Forget the points. Answer one tier at a time, then check it in order, and every wrong answer counts as an out. If your third out falls in that tier, note the question where your inning ended. Otherwise, move up to the next tier.

6 · PLAYING WITH OTHERS

Every scorecard has room for up to three people. In the simplest format, everyone works the same tier at once, writing down a call on scrap paper and keeping it covered. Then read the answers aloud together, with each player tallying their own points and entering the tier total in their column. Since everyone answers every question, the scoring is fair, and par and rank mean the same thing for each player. The highest chapter total wins. In a full-book season, a tied chapter is shared and you keep going. When you're playing a single chapter on its own, break a tie with sudden death: the tied players all answer the same unseen Hall of Famer question from a chapter you won't be playing, round by round, and anyone who misses while another tied player gets it right drops out until one is left. If you run out of fresh questions, the tie stands and you share the win. For more than three players, or to keep the book clean, print extra scorecards (see step 2).

7 · KEEP THE SEASON

Carry each chapter total over to the Season Scorecard at the back for one book-wide rank, and check off the Achievements as you go.



CHAPTER 1

Errors, Putouts & Assists

The word "error" sounds simple until you have to score one. Most of us know one when we see it, or at least we think we do. Under Rule 9.12, though, an error has little to do with how ugly a play looked. It comes down mostly to two questions. Could ordinary effort have made the play, and did the misplay let a batter or runner stay alive or move up? Fumble the ball and still get your man, and as long as nobody else takes an extra base on the bobble, it isn't an error.

ROOKIE — 1 POINT EACH

1. Runner on second, fewer than two outs. The shortstop cleanly fields a grounder and could easily retire the batter-runner at first with ordinary effort, but instead throws to third, where the runner beats the throw. What is the ruling for the batter?

A. Base hit
B. Error on the shortstop
C. Batter isn't charged with an at-bat
D. Fielder's choice

YOUR CALL ☐

2. Which of these plays normally earns the catcher an assist?

A. A runner is caught stealing
B. A batter bunts a ball foul with two strikes
C. A foul pop out
D. A batter is out for being hit by his own fair batted ball

YOUR CALL ☐

3. How many putouts are credited to the fielder who turns an unassisted triple play?

A. 2
B. 1
C. 0
D. 3

YOUR CALL ☐

4. Which of these is ordinarily an error when it lets a batter reach or a runner advance?

A. An umpire's mistake
B. A grounder that takes a bad hop over the third baseman's shoulder
C. A line drive into the gap that no fielder can get to
D. A routine popup dropped by a fielder

YOUR CALL ☐

5. True or False? Strike three isn't caught, and the catcher throws the batter-runner out at first base. The pitcher gets an assist.

A. True
B. False

YOUR CALL ☐

6. Error or no error? No outs, bases empty. The batter flies out to left, but the fielder, thinking there are three outs, tosses the ball into the stands.

A. Error
B. No error

YOUR CALL ☐

7. Bases empty. The batter lines one into the right-center gap and reaches second before the right fielder picks it up. The fielder then bobbles the ball, and the batter takes third. How is the play scored?

A. Single, plus an error on the right fielder
B. Triple, no error
C. Double, plus an error on the right fielder
D. Double, with the batter taking third on a fielder's choice

YOUR CALL ☐

8. Bases empty. The second baseman bobbles a ground ball but recovers in time to retire the batter at first anyway. Is an error charged?

A. Yes; any bobble is an error
B. Yes, if a clean play would have been routine
C. No; only a bad throw is an error on an infield grounder
D. No; he recovered in time to get the out

YOUR CALL ☐

9. A pitch bounces in the dirt and skips past the catcher, and a runner moves up. Is it an error on the catcher?

A. Yes, always
B. Yes, if the runner later scores
C. No; wild pitches and passed balls are charged separately, not as errors
D. Only if the ball touched the catcher's glove first

YOUR CALL ☐

10. The shortstop's throw arrives chest-high, on target and in time to retire the batter, but the first baseman drops it and the batter is safe. Who is charged with the error?

A. No error; it's a hit
B. The first baseman, for the muffed catch
C. The shortstop, for the throw
D. Both fielders share it

YOUR CALL ☐

11. The catcher holds on to strike three on a swinging strikeout. Who is credited with the putout?

A. The catcher
B. The pitcher
C. The pitcher and catcher share the putout
D. Nobody; a strikeout isn't a putout

YOUR CALL ☐

12. The first baseman catches the shortstop's throw well ahead of the batter-runner but never touches the base and never tags the runner. The umpire calls the batter-runner safe. What's the ruling?

A. No error; the batter is credited with an infield hit
B. An error on the shortstop, whose throw drew the first baseman off the bag
C. No error, because the first baseman handled the ball cleanly
D. An error on the first baseman for failing to tag first base or the batter-runner

YOUR CALL ☐

13. Runners on first and second at the time of the pitch. The third baseman fields a grounder, and his wild throw pulls the first baseman off the bag and skips out of play. The batter-runner is awarded second, the runner from second scores, and the runner from first is awarded third. How many errors are charged on that throw?

A. Two, one for each base the batter-runner advanced
B. Three, one for each runner affected by the throw
C. None, because the ball left the field of play and the base awards were automatic
D. One

YOUR CALL ☐

14. Up by six runs in the ninth, the defense makes no attempt to hold or throw out a runner who jogs from first to second. How is the advance scored?

A. A stolen base
B. An error on the catcher for making no throw
C. It isn't scored; the runner is just shown at second
D. A fielder's choice (defensive indifference, or DI)

YOUR CALL ☐

15. The catcher takes a legal pitch and throws out a runner trying to steal second. Under Rule 9.10(b)(2), does the pitcher get an assist?

A. Yes, the pitch is part of the play
B. Yes, but only on a pickoff, not on a caught stealing
C. No, the pitch alone doesn't earn one
D. Only if the pitcher covers a base on the play

YOUR CALL ☐

16. Bases empty. A routine fly drifts toward the left fielder, who pulls up short, and the ball plops onto the grass a few feet in front of him. The batter coasts into second. The fielder never laid a glove on it. How does the official scorer rule?

A. Double, because no fielder touched the ball
B. Error on the left fielder
C. Single, with the batter taking second on the play
D. Fielder's choice

YOUR CALL ☐

1. D — Fielder's choice

Fielder's choice. There was no physical misplay, and the shortstop had a sure out at first, so Rule 9.05(b)(4) denies the hit. There's no error either. Choosing the wrong base, on its own, isn't charged as one under the Comment to Rule 9.12(a)(1).

Rule 9.05(b)(4) · Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment · Definitions of Terms (Fielder's Choice)

2. A — A runner is caught stealing

A runner caught stealing. The catcher fields the pitch and throws to the fielder who makes the tag, and that throw is the assist. The other three ordinarily end in a putout with no assist for the catcher.

Rule 9.10(a)(1) · Rule 9.09(b)

3. D — 3

Three putouts, one for every out he records on his own.

Rule 9.09(a)

4. D — A routine popup dropped by a fielder

The dropped routine popup. When it lets the batter reach or a runner advance, it's an error under Rule 9.12(a)(1). An umpire's decision isn't a fielding play, and the bad hop and the liner into the gap that nobody can reach are clean hits, because no fielder misplayed anything.

Rule 9.12(a)(1)

5. B — False

False. The catcher earns the assist and the first baseman the putout. Scorers write that as 2-3, the position numbers for the catcher (2) and the first baseman (3). Throwing strike three doesn't earn the pitcher an assist.

Rule 9.10(b)(1) · Rule 9.09(a)(2)

6. B — No error

No error. Nobody was on base.

Rule 9.12(a)(1) · Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

7. C — Double, plus an error on the right fielder

Double, plus an error on the right fielder. Under Rule 9.06(a), the hit is worth the base the batter reached on his own, and Rule 9.12(a)(1) charges the bobble that let him take third. The extra base belongs to the misplay, not the hit.

Rule 9.06(a) · Rule 9.12(a)(1)

8. D — No; he recovered in time to get the out

No. He recovered in time to retire the batter, and the bobble gave the offense nothing. Rule 9.12(a)(1) charges an error only when a misplay extends an at-bat, keeps a runner on base who should've been out, or lets a runner move up, so there's no error on this play.

Rule 9.12(a)(1) · Rule 9.12(d)(4)

9. C — No; wild pitches and passed balls are charged separately, not as errors

No. Rule 9.12(f) charges no error when a runner advances on a wild pitch or a passed ball, since each is its own scoring category under Rule 9.13. (For earned runs, a passed ball is removed in reconstruction, while a wild pitch is the pitcher's own doing and counts toward earned runs.)

Rule 9.12(f) · Rule 9.13 · Rule 9.16

10. B — The first baseman, for the muffed catch

The first baseman. Under Rule 9.12(a)(1), the fielder who muffs an accurate throw takes the error; a true throw keeps the thrower clean.

Rule 9.12(a)(1)

11. A — The catcher

The catcher. Rule 9.09 credits him with the putout on a strikeout he holds; the strikeout itself goes in the pitcher's column under Rule 9.15.

Rule 9.09(b)(1) · Rule 9.15(a)(1)

12. D — An error on the first baseman for failing to tag first base or the batter-runner

Error on the first baseman. Rule 9.12(a)(3) charges a fielder who takes a throw or fields a grounder in time to retire the batter-runner, then neither touches the bag nor tags the runner.

Rule 9.12(a)(3)

13. D — One

One. Rule 9.12(b) limits a wild throw to one error, even when several runners advance. The two-base awards described here are measured from the time of the pitch under Rule 5.06(b)(4)(G), and they don't change the one-error limit.

Rule 9.12(b) · Rule 5.06(b)(4)(G)

14. D — A fielder's choice (defensive indifference, or DI)

A fielder's choice. Under Rule 9.07(g), a runner who advances only because of the defense's indifference gets no stolen base, and the scorer records a fielder's choice (commonly marked DI).

Rule 9.07(g) · Definitions of Terms (Fielder's Choice)

15. C — No, the pitch alone doesn't earn one

No. Under Rule 9.10(b)(2), delivering a legal pitch that the catcher receives and turns into an out isn't an assist, because the catcher's throw made the out. The pitcher could still earn one with a separate play on the runner, but the pitch alone never counts.

Rule 9.10(b)(2)

16. B — Error on the left fielder

Error on the left fielder. A fielder doesn't have to touch the ball to be charged with one. Under the Comment to Rule 9.12(a)(1), when a fly ball drops untouched that an outfielder at his position would have caught with ordinary effort, the scorer hangs the error on him.

Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

ROOKIE SUBTOTAL *of 16 pts* ☐

VETERAN — **2 POINTS EACH**

17. In a lengthy rundown, the shortstop throws the ball three times, then tags the runner out himself. How many assists does the official scorer credit to the shortstop?

A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4

YOUR CALL ☐

18. True or False? A fielder is camped under a pop fly when another fielder runs into him, and the ball drops in fair territory. The fielder who caused the collision is charged with the error.

A. True
B. False

YOUR CALL ☐

19. Runner on first, nobody else aboard. He breaks for second with the pitch. The catcher's throw is wild, and the runner reaches second safely but goes no farther. How is it scored?

A. Stolen base, no error on the throw
B. No stolen base, error on the catcher's throw
C. No stolen base, runner advances on a fielder's choice
D. Runner is caught stealing but reaches on the errant throw

YOUR CALL ☐

20. Earned or Unearned? Two outs, runner on third. The catcher drifts under a routine foul pop that should end the inning, and it clanks off his mitt. On the next pitch, the batter singles in the run.

A. Earned
B. Unearned

YOUR CALL ☐

21. Runners on second and third. The shortstop smothers a grounder and can't make a play at first, but he throws to third to get an out while a run scores. How is the play scored for the batter?

A. Base hit, RBI
B. Fielder's choice, RBI
C. Sacrifice, RBI
D. Fielder's choice, no RBI

YOUR CALL ☐

22. An infielder fields a grounder cleanly but holds the ball, unsure where to throw, and the batter beats it out. What's the ruling?

A. Base hit for the batter
B. Error on the infielder
C. Fielder's choice
D. No hit; he'd have been out on a prompt throw

YOUR CALL ☐

23. One-and-two count. The first baseman drops a routine foul pop-up, and the batter strikes out on the next pitch. Is an error charged?

A. No; the batter was retired anyway
B. Only if a runner advanced during the play
C. Yes; an error is charged for prolonging the at-bat
D. No; foul balls can never be errors

YOUR CALL ☐

24. An infield fly is declared, and the fair ball drops untouched. Who gets the putout?

A. The fielder the scorer judges could have made the catch
B. No putout is recorded
C. The pitcher
D. The nearest umpire designates a fielder

YOUR CALL ☐

25. For fielders to be credited with a double play, what must be true of the sequence between the two outs?

A. The outs must be on different runners at different bases
B. No error or misplay may intervene between the putouts
C. Both outs must be force plays
D. The same fielder must record both putouts

YOUR CALL ☐

26. The first baseman ranges far to his right and fields a grounder cleanly, but the pitcher never breaks for the bag. With nobody there to take the throw, the batter-runner is safe. What does the official scorer do?

A. Charge an error to the first baseman for not beating the runner to the bag
B. Charge no error to either fielder; it goes down as a hit
C. Charge an error to the pitcher for failing to cover first base
D. Charge an error to whichever fielder the scorer judges was nearest the base

YOUR CALL ☐

27. Runners on first and third. The second baseman fields a routine grounder and, for no apparent reason, throws to third, where the runner is already standing. Everybody is safe. Is an error charged for the poor decision?

A. Yes, an error is charged to the second baseman

B. Yes, an error is charged to the third baseman for failing to make a play

C. No, a bad decision alone isn't charged as an error

D. Yes, but only if a run scores as a result of the misdirected throw

YOUR CALL ☐

28. A fielder uncorks a needless throw to a base where no play existed and nobody was covering. The ball skips away, and a runner advances. Who is charged with the error?

A. The fielder who should have been covering the base

B. Nobody; there was no occasion for the throw, so no error can be charged

C. The fielder who threw the ball

D. The pitcher, as the fielder responsible for backing up the play

YOUR CALL ☐

29. A runner is obstructed rounding second base, but in the official scorer's opinion the obstruction didn't change the play in any way. Is an error charged?

A. Yes, one error against the obstructing fielder in every case

B. Yes, but only if the umpire verbally announced the obstruction

C. No, the obstructing fielder isn't charged with one

D. No error, but the runner's advance is recorded as a fielder's choice

YOUR CALL ☐

30. Bases empty. The third baseman charges a slow roller and throws wildly past first, but in the scorer's judgment even a perfect throw wouldn't have retired the speedy batter-runner. The batter-runner stops at first anyway. What's the ruling?

A. An error on the third baseman, because the throw was in fact wild

B. A hit for the batter plus an error on the first baseman for failing to corral the throw

C. No hit and no error; the play is recorded as a fielder's choice

D. No error; the batter-runner is credited with a base hit

YOUR CALL ☐

31. In which of these spots is the official scorer barred from charging an error?

A. A first baseman drops a routine, chest-high throw

B. An outfielder lets a catchable fly ball fall to the grass untouched

C. A catcher's wild throw on a steal of second base allows the runner to continue on to third base

D. Strike three gets by the catcher for a passed ball, and the batter reaches first safely

YOUR CALL ☐

32. Bases empty, full count. Ball four bounces in the dirt well in front of the plate and skips past the catcher to the backstop, and the batter-runner never breaks stride, reaching second base. How is the play scored?

A. A wild pitch only; the base on balls is superseded by the advance

B. A base on balls only, with the extra base recorded as a fielder's choice

C. Both a base on balls and a wild pitch

D. A base on balls plus an error charged to the catcher

YOUR CALL ☐

33. A batter is called out because his own batted ball struck him. Which fielder is credited with the putout?

A. The catcher
B. The pitcher
C. The fielder nearest the ball when it struck the batter
D. No putout is credited on that kind of out

YOUR CALL ☐

34. A sharply hit ground ball strikes the runner on second base, and he is called out. Who is credited with the putout?

A. The shortstop, who covers that area of the infield by default
B. The fielder nearest the ball
C. The catcher, as an automatic putout
D. The pitcher, as the fielder who last had possession

YOUR CALL ☐

35. Runner on first. The batter appears to line a clean single to right, but the forced runner never touches second base and is called out on a proper appeal. How is the batter's turn at bat recorded?

A. The batter is charged with a time at bat but no hit
B. The batter keeps the hit; the appeal out is unrelated to his at-bat
C. The batter is credited with a hit and the appeal out is scored as a fielder's choice
D. The batter is charged with neither a time at bat nor a hit

YOUR CALL ☐

36. A runner veers more than three feet from his established base path to avoid a tag, and the umpire calls him out. Under Rule 9.09(c)(3), who is credited with the putout?

A. The pitcher
B. The fielder nearest the runner when he left the base path
C. The fielder whom the runner avoided
D. The fielder covering the base the runner was approaching

YOUR CALL ☐

37. A batter-runner passes the runner ahead of him between first and second and is called out. Under Rule 9.09(c)(4), who is credited with the putout?

A. The fielder nearest the point of passing
B. The first baseman
C. The pitcher
D. The fielder who last touched the ball

YOUR CALL ☐

38. Bottom of the ninth, tie game, bases loaded, one out. The batter draws a walk, but the runner on third stays glued to the bag and never heads home. After a reasonable time, the umpire disallows the run and calls him out. Who gets the putout?

A. The third baseman, at the base the runner never left
B. The pitcher, who threw ball four
C. The catcher
D. No one; a runner who refuses to advance isn't put out by a fielder

YOUR CALL ☐

39. Bases empty. A sharp grounder up the middle ticks off the tip of the pitcher's glove, but the scorer judges the touch neither slowed the ball nor changed its direction. The shortstop fields it and throws out the batter. Does the pitcher get an assist?

A. Yes; any fielder who touches the ball before the putout gets an assist
B. No; contact that doesn't slow or redirect the ball isn't an assist
C. Yes, but only because the out was made at first
D. No; only the final throw before the putout earns an assist

YOUR CALL ☐

40. Bases empty, one out. The batter chops a grounder to the shortstop, but the plate umpire has already called him out for an illegally batted ball, and the ball is dead. Who gets the putout?

A. The shortstop, who fielded the grounder
B. The catcher
C. The first baseman, who was waiting for the throw
D. The pitcher, who threw the pitch

YOUR CALL ☐

41. Runner on second, two outs. The batter singles to right, and the third-base coach waves the runner home. The right fielder charges and throws, but the ball sails well up the first-base line, out of the catcher's reach. The pitcher, backing up the plate, gloves it as the run scores, and the batter-runner stays at first. The scorer judges a good throw would have nailed the runner by a few steps. Is the right fielder charged with an error?

A. No error, because the runner was going on the hit and nobody advanced past the base he would have reached anyway
B. No error, because an outfielder's throw to cut down a runner at the plate is exempt, like a catcher's throw on a steal
C. An error on the catcher, for failing to stop a throw that gave him a chance at the out
D. An error on the right fielder, because a good throw would have retired the runner at the plate

YOUR CALL ☐

42. Bases empty. The third baseman fields a routine grounder with time to spare, but his throw hits the dirt a few feet short of first base and caroms off the first baseman's glove. The batter-runner is safe, and the scorer judges a good throw would have retired him easily. Who is charged with the error?

A. The third baseman
B. The first baseman, for failing to dig it out
C. Nobody; the batter gets an infield hit
D. Both fielders, one error apiece

YOUR CALL ☐

43. Runners on first and third, one out. The batter lifts a fly to medium right that is caught, and both runners tag up. The right fielder's throw home is on line, but the runner from third slides in ahead of the tag, and nobody cuts the ball off. The runner from first moves up to second on the throw. How is his advance scored?

A. A fielder's choice
B. A stolen base
C. An error on the right fielder
D. Nothing; moving up after a caught fly isn't scored

YOUR CALL ☐

44. Runner on first, one out, and he isn't stealing. After the pitch, the catcher fires a snap throw behind the runner, who has wandered off the bag, but the throw sails past the first baseman into foul ground down the right-field line. The runner scrambles up and makes it to second. How does the scorer handle the catcher's throw?

A. No error; the runner is credited with a stolen base
B. An error on the catcher
C. A passed ball on the catcher
D. No error; the advance is scored as a fielder's choice

YOUR CALL ☐

17. A — 1

One. Rule 9.10(a)(1) allows each fielder a single assist in a rundown that ends in a putout, however many throws he makes. The shortstop also gets the putout for the tag.

Rule 9.10(a)(1) · Rule 9.09(a)(3)

18. A — True

True. A fielder who hinders a catch by causing a collision is the one charged with the error.

Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

19. A — Stolen base, no error on the throw

Stolen base, no error. The wild throw gave the offense nothing extra: the runner stopped at second and nobody else was on base, so he keeps the steal and the catcher stays out of the error column.

Rule 9.07(b) · Rule 9.12(d)(1)

20. B — Unearned

Unearned. The scorer replays the inning as if the misplay never happened, and in that version the foul pop is the third out. The run never crosses the plate, so it can't count against the pitcher as earned.

Rule 9.16 · Rule 9.16(a) Comment ex. (1) · Rule 9.16(a) Comment ex. (3)

21. B — Fielder's choice, RBI

Fielder's choice, RBI. The shortstop had no play at first, but he did record an out, so the batter can't be credited with a hit. He reaches on a fielder's choice and still drives in the run.

Rule 9.05(b)(3) · Rule 9.04(a)(1)

22. A — Base hit for the batter

Base hit. The Comment to Rule 9.12(a)(1) says slow handling without a mechanical misplay isn't an error, and its example fits this play: a clean pickup with no throw to first in time. He fielded the ball cleanly, so the delay doesn't earn an error.

Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

23. C — Yes; an error is charged for prolonging the at-bat

Yes. Rule 9.12(a)(2) charges an error whenever a fielder muffs a catchable foul fly and extends the at-bat. The strikeout that follows doesn't wipe it off the books, and neither would a base hit.

Rule 9.12(a)(2)

24. A — The fielder the scorer judges could have made the catch

The fielder who, in the scorer's judgment, could have caught it. Rule 9.09(c)(1) awards him an automatic putout when a declared infield fly falls untouched.

Rule 9.09(c)(1)

25. B — No error or misplay may intervene between the putouts

Rule 9.11 credits a double or triple play only when no error or misplay comes between the putouts.

Rule 9.11

26. B — Charge no error to either fielder; it goes down as a hit

No error at all. Failing to cover the bag is a mental lapse, and the Comment to Rule 9.12(a)(1) expressly keeps it out of the error column. The pitcher who never broke for first isn't charged, and neither is the first baseman, who fielded the ball cleanly. The batter-runner gets a hit.

Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

27. C — No, a bad decision alone isn't charged as an error

No. The Comment to Rule 9.12(a)(1) keeps mental mistakes and misjudgments out of the error column unless a specific rule says otherwise, and its example is a fielder throwing to the wrong base.

Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

28. C — The fielder who threw the ball

The fielder who threw it. Rule 9.12(a)(8) usually charges the fielder who fails to stop an accurate throw, but its Comment makes one exception: when the scorer judges there was no occasion for the throw, the error goes to the thrower instead.

Rule 9.12(a)(8) Comment

29. C — No, the obstructing fielder isn't charged with one

No error. Obstruction normally costs the offending fielder one under Rule 9.12(c), but the Comment lets him off when the scorer judges it didn't change the play.

Rule 9.12(c) Comment

30. D — No error; the batter-runner is credited with a base hit

No error. Under Rule 9.12(d)(2), a wild throw isn't an error when, in the scorer's judgment, an accurate throw with ordinary effort still wouldn't have gotten the runner, as long as the throw doesn't hand somebody an extra base. The batter stopped at first, so it's a base hit.

Rule 9.12(d)(2)

31. D — Strike three gets by the catcher for a passed ball, and the batter reaches first safely

The dropped third strike. Rule 9.12(e) rules out an error whenever the batter reaches first because of a wild pitch or passed ball, just as it does for a walk or a hit batter. The catcher is charged with a passed ball instead, and the pitcher still gets his strikeout (Rule 9.13). The dropped throw, the untouched fly ball and the wild throw that lets a runner take third are all ordinary error territory under Rule 9.12(a).

Rule 9.12(e)

32. C — Both a base on balls and a wild pitch

Both a base on balls and a wild pitch. Rule 9.12(f)(1)(A) has the scorer record both when ball four gets away and carries the batter-runner past first. The same pitch produces two entries in the scorebook.

Rule 9.12(f)(1) · Rule 9.12(f)(1)(A)

33. A — The catcher

The catcher. Rule 9.09(b)(4) lists this among the automatic putouts awarded to the catcher. Nobody made a play on the ball, but the scorebook still needs someone credited with the out, so it goes to the man behind the plate, exactly as on a called third strike.

Rule 9.09(b)(4)

34. B — The fielder nearest the ball

The fielder nearest the ball. When a fair batted ball hits a runner and the umpire calls him out, Rule 9.09(c)(2) gives the putout to the closest fielder. Nobody handled the ball, so there's no assist.

Rule 9.09(c)(2)

35. A — The batter is charged with a time at bat but no hit

A time at bat, no hit. Under Rule 9.05(b)(2), when a batter seems to have singled but the forced runner never touches the base he was headed for and is retired on appeal, the hit comes off the books.

Rule 9.05(b)(2)

36. C — The fielder whom the runner avoided

The fielder whom the runner avoided. Rule 9.09(c)(3) gives him the automatic putout, since he had the ball and was denied the tag.

Rule 9.09(c)(3) · Rule 9.10(a)(2)

37. A — The fielder nearest the point of passing

The fielder nearest the point of passing. Rule 9.09(c)(4) awards him the automatic putout, and Rule 9.09(c) allows no assist on such plays except as specified.

Rule 9.09(c)(4)

38. C — The catcher

The catcher. Rule 9.09(b)(8) hands the catcher an automatic putout when a runner on third is called out for declining to head home. The out and the erased run come from the Rule 5.08(b) Penalty, and play resumes.

Rule 9.09(b)(8) · Rule 5.08(b)

39. B — No; contact that doesn't slow or redirect the ball isn't an assist

No. The Comment to Rule 9.10(a)(1) says mere ineffective contact isn't an assist. A deflection counts only if it slows the ball or changes its direction and helps produce the out. The shortstop earns an assist, and the first baseman the putout.

Rule 9.10(a)(1) Comment

40. B — The catcher

The catcher. The umpire had already called the batter out, and Rule 5.06(c)(4) makes an illegally batted ball dead, so nothing the shortstop does afterward counts. With no live play to credit, Rule 9.09(b)(2) hands the automatic putout to the man behind the plate.

Rule 9.09(b)(2) · Rule 5.06(c)(4) · Rule 6.03(a)(1)

41. D — An error on the right fielder, because a good throw would have retired the runner at the plate

Error on the right fielder. Rule 9.12(a)(5) charges a fielder whose wild throw lets a runner reach safely when the scorer believes an on-target throw would have gotten him, and home plate is a base like any other. The no-error break in 9.12(d)(2) covers only throws that had no real shot at the runner, and this wasn't a throw to prevent a stolen base or complete a double or triple play, so those exceptions don't apply.

Rule 9.12(a)(5) · Rule 9.12(d)(2)

42. A — The third baseman

The third baseman. Rule 9.12(a)(5) charges a fielder whose wild throw lets a runner reach safely when a good throw would have retired him. The Comment to Rule 9.12(a)(1) treats a throw that strikes the ground the same as one that is high or wide, and it puts the error on the player who made the throw. The thrower owns the short hop, and the first baseman isn't charged for failing to scoop it.

Rule 9.12(a)(5) · Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

43. A — A fielder's choice

A fielder's choice. The Definitions of Terms (Fielder's Choice) apply the term to a runner who advances, other than by a steal or an error, while the defense is trying to retire a different runner. The right fielder went after the lead runner with a good throw, and the trailing runner helped himself to a free base.

Definitions of Terms (Fielder's Choice) · Rule 9.07

44. B — An error on the catcher

An error on the catcher. The special treatment Rule 9.12(d)(1) gives a catcher's wild throw covers only a throw made to prevent a stolen base, and nobody was stealing. A pickoff throw is judged like any other throw under Rule 9.12(a)(1). This one was wild, and it let the runner move up a base.

Rule 9.12(d)(1) · Rule 9.12(a)(1)

VETERAN SUBTOTAL *of 56 pts* ☐

ALL-STAR — **3 POINTS EACH**

45. The runner from first is called out for an illegal slide to break up a double play, and the batter-runner is also called out because of the interference. Who is credited with the putout on the batter-runner?

A. Second baseman
B. Catcher
C. No putout is awarded
D. First baseman

YOUR CALL ☐

46. The wrong batter singles, and the defense appeals in time. The proper batter is called out. Who gets the putout?

A. Pitcher
B. First baseman
C. Catcher
D. No one gets credited with a putout

YOUR CALL ☐

47. On a double-play try, which of these misfires does NOT get charged as an error?

A. The relay to first sails wide and pulls the first baseman off the bag. The batter-runner, who would have been out on a good throw, is safe but stays at first.

B. The relay to first skips past the first baseman into foul ground, and the batter-runner hustles into second.

C. The shortstop's feed to second is on target with time to spare, but it pops out of the glove of the fielder covering second and everybody is safe.

D. With runners on first and second, the relay to first gets away, and the lead runner, who had pulled into third, trots home.

YOUR CALL ☐

48. A runner tries for third on a single. The left fielder's throw is dead accurate, but it hits the third-base bag and caroms into foul ground, letting the runner get up and score. How is the play scored?

A. An error charged to the left fielder

B. No error, because the throw was accurate

C. An error charged to the third baseman for failing to block the base

D. No error; the advance to the plate is credited as a fielder's choice

YOUR CALL ☐

49. Runner on first. On a steal attempt, the catcher's throw to second is accurate, but neither middle infielder moves to cover. The ball rolls into center field, and the runner takes third. How does the scorer handle it?

A. No error is charged, since no fielder ever touched the ball

B. An error on the middle infielder who should have covered second

C. An error on the catcher, whose throw wasn't caught by anyone

D. One error charged jointly to the second baseman and the shortstop

YOUR CALL ☐

50. Runner on second, one out. Strike three gets away from the catcher, who recovers it and throws out the batter-runner at first. Meanwhile, the runner from second reaches third. How is that runner's advance scored?

A. A wild pitch charged to the pitcher
B. A stolen base credited to the runner
C. A passed ball charged to the catcher
D. A fielder's choice

YOUR CALL ☐

51. The left fielder's wild throw toward third base gets past everyone, and the runner breaks for home. The third baseman retrieves the ball and throws to the catcher, who tags the runner out. Does the left fielder get an assist?

A. Yes, because his throw set in motion the sequence that produced the out
B. Yes, an assist is credited to every fielder who handles the ball during continuous play
C. Yes, because the runner was retired before he could score
D. No, because his wild throw let the runner move up

YOUR CALL ☐

52. Runner on third, one out. The shortstop fields a grounder, glances at the runner to hold him, then throws to first a step too late. Hit or no hit?

A. No hit; a time at bat and a fielder's choice
B. No hit, plus an error on the shortstop for the delay
C. A base hit; the look at the runner doesn't change it
D. A base hit only if the runner on third subsequently scores

YOUR CALL ☐

53. Which of these actions can earn a fielder an assist?

A. Backing up a base on an overthrow

B. Being the fielder nearest a runner who is called out for passing another runner

C. Receiving a throw that completes a force play

D. Throwing or deflecting the ball on a play where a runner is declared out for interference or running out of line

YOUR CALL ☐

54. Runner on second, one out, nobody else aboard. Between pitches, trying to confuse the defense, the runner sprints back toward first, and the umpire calls him out for running the bases in reverse. The shortstop was covering second. For the scorebook, who gets the putout?

A. The first baseman, at the base the runner ran to

B. The shortstop, covering the base the runner left

C. The catcher, as an automatic putout

D. Whichever fielder was standing closest to the runner

YOUR CALL ☐

55. Bases empty. The batter drives one into the gap and misses first base on his way to second. With the ball live and the play still unfolding, the center fielder throws to the second baseman, who fires to the first baseman, who steps on first on appeal. The umpire calls the runner out. Who gets assists?

A. Only the pitcher

B. Only the second baseman, who made the final throw

C. The center fielder and the second baseman

D. No one; an out on appeal carries no assists

YOUR CALL ☐

56. Bases empty, two outs. Strike three bounces in the dirt and squirts away from the catcher toward the first-base side. The pitcher pounces on it and throws to first in time to retire the batter-runner. How is the out credited?

A. Putout to the catcher, since every strikeout goes to him
B. Putout to the first baseman, assist to the catcher
C. Putout to the first baseman, with no assist on a strikeout
D. Putout to the first baseman, assist to the pitcher

YOUR CALL ☐

57. Bases empty. When the pitch is released, the second baseman has both feet on the outfield grass, an illegal infield alignment. The batter grounds right to him, and he throws the batter out. The umpire enforces the shift penalty, awarding the batter first base, and the offense keeps the award. How does the scorer charge it?

A. No error; the batter is credited with a base hit
B. One error on the second baseman
C. No error; a positioning penalty isn't a fielding misplay
D. One error charged to the pitcher

YOUR CALL ☐

58. Runner on second, two outs. The batter lines a single to right, and the runner tries to score. The right fielder's throw comes in on one hop, right on the money, with the runner still a good 20 feet up the line. The catcher drops it, and the run scores. Does the right fielder get an assist?

A. Yes; his throw would have produced the putout but for the catcher's error
B. No; no out was recorded, so there's no assist to credit
C. No; the catcher's drop makes it a new play, which erases the throw
D. Only if the catcher recovers the ball and retires a runner later in the play

YOUR CALL ☐

59. Runner on first, one out, and he's off with the pitch. The batter lines one to center, where the center fielder makes a running catch. The runner is already well past second, so the center fielder fires to the shortstop, the cutoff man, who relays to first. Hung up in no-man's-land, the runner gets chased back toward second, and the first baseman flips to the second baseman, who tags him out. Nobody bobbles a thing. Which fielders are credited with taking part in the double play?

A. Only the center fielder and second baseman, the two who recorded putouts

B. The center fielder, first baseman and second baseman, since a cutoff man's relay doesn't count

C. The center fielder, shortstop, first baseman and second baseman

D. Only the first baseman and second baseman, who handled the rundown

YOUR CALL ☐

60. Bases loaded, one out. The pitcher fields a comebacker and fires home with time to spare. The catcher, set up a step in front of the plate, gloves it a good stride ahead of the runner from third, but, forgetting it's a force, he never touches the plate and instead lunges up the line for a tag. The runner slides around him and touches home, and everybody is safe. Is an error charged?

A. No, because forgetting the force is a mental mistake, not a physical misplay

B. Yes, on the catcher, who had the ball in time but touched neither the plate nor the runner

C. Yes, on the pitcher, for not taking the sure out at first instead

D. No, because the catcher at least made a play on the runner

YOUR CALL ☐

45. D — First baseman

The first baseman. When a preceding runner's interference gets the batter-runner called out, Rule 9.09(c)(7) awards that putout to the first baseman. The sliding runner's own putout is a separate matter under 9.09(c)(6).

Rule 9.09(c)(7) · Rule 9.09(c)(6) · Rule 6.01(j) · Rule 6.01(a)(6)

46. C — Catcher

The catcher. Because the wrong batter reached base, Rule 9.03(d) charges the proper batter with a time at bat, gives the catcher the putout and wipes out everything that got the improper batter to first. Had the wrong batter made an out instead, that putout and any assists would stand as played.

Rule 6.03(b) · Rule 9.03(d) · Rule 9.09(b)(6)

47. A — The relay to first sails wide and pulls the first baseman off the bag. The batter-runner, who would have been out on a good throw, is safe but stays at first.

Only the wide relay that costs nothing more than the out. Under Rule 9.12(d)(3), a fielder who throws wild while trying to finish a double play gets a pass, as long as no runner ends up past the base he would have reached on a good throw. In the first option the relay costs the out, but the batter-runner gets no farther than first, so nobody is charged. In the second and fourth options the wild throw hands a runner an extra base, which brings the error back into play. The third option involves no wild throw at all, just a muffed catch of a good feed that keeps a runner on base, and 9.12(a)(1) charges that to the fielder who drops it.

Rule 9.12(d)(3) · Rule 9.12(a)(1)

48. A — An error charged to the left fielder

Error on the left fielder. Rule 9.12(a)(7) charges the thrower when his throw touches a base or takes an unnatural bounce and lets a runner advance. The Comment applies it even when it seems unfair to an accurate thrower, because every base a runner gains has to be accounted for.

Rule 9.12(a)(7) · Rule 9.12(a)(7) Comment

49. B — An error on the middle infielder who should have covered second

An error on whichever middle infielder had the bag. Rule 9.12(a)(8) charges the fielder who lets an on-target throw get past him and a runner move up, provided there was reason to make the throw. On a throw to second, the scorer decides whether it was the second baseman's or the shortstop's coverage and charges that man. The catcher threw a strike, so he's in the clear.

Rule 9.12(a)(8)

50. D — A fielder's choice

A fielder's choice. Rule 9.12(f)(2) spells out the scoring: when the catcher retrieves strike three and retires the batter-runner, the scorer books the strikeout, the putout and any assists, and the runner who moved up from second gets a fielder's choice. It doesn't go down as a steal, a wild pitch or a passed ball.

Rule 9.12(f)(2)

51. D — No, because his wild throw let the runner move up

No. Rule 9.10(b)(3) denies an assist on a throw that sails and lets a runner move up, even if that runner is retired later in the same continuous action. Everything after a misplay counts as a new play, and the fielder who misplayed earns an assist only if he takes part in it.

Rule 9.10(b)(3)

52. C — A base hit; the look at the runner doesn't change it

Base hit. Rule 9.05(b)(4) takes away the hit when a fielder fails trying to retire a lead runner and the batter could have been thrown out at first. But the Rule 9.05(b) Comment exempts a fielder who only glances or fakes at another base first. A look isn't an attempt, so the batter keeps his single.

Rule 9.05(b)(4) · Rule 9.05(b) Comment

53. D — Throwing or deflecting the ball on a play where a runner is declared out for interference or running out of line

Rule 9.10(a)(2) allows an assist when a throw or deflection contributes to an interference or running-out-of-line ruling. It covers the odd case where the out comes from an umpire's call instead of a tag or a force, so the fielder still gets credit even though nobody physically retired the runner.

Rule 9.10(a)(2)

54. B — The shortstop, covering the base the runner left

The shortstop. This is pure bookkeeping under Rule 9.09(c)(5): when a runner is retired for reverse baserunning, the putout goes to the fielder who was covering the base the runner abandoned when he turned around. Here that's second base, so the shortstop gets credit without making a throw or a tag. The first baseman, standing at the runner's destination, gets nothing.

Rule 9.09(c)(5)

55. C — The center fielder and the second baseman

The center fielder and the second baseman. Under the Comment to Rule 9.10(a)(1), when an appeal out comes in the natural course of play, every fielder whose action led to it gets an assist except the one making the putout. The first baseman takes the putout per the Comment to Rule 9.09(a)(2).

Rule 9.10(a)(1) Comment · Rule 9.09(a)(2) Comment

56. D — Putout to the first baseman, assist to the pitcher

First baseman putout, pitcher assist. Rule 9.10(b)(1) normally bars a pitcher's assist on a strikeout, unless he fields the uncaught third strike himself and his throw produces the out. The first baseman, who took the throw and touched the base, gets the putout under Rule 9.09(a)(2).

Rule 9.10(b)(1) · Rule 9.09(a)(2)

57. B — One error on the second baseman

One error, on the second baseman. Rule 9.12(c) treats a shift violation like interference or obstruction: when the umpire awards a base for it, the scorer charges an error to the offending fielder. Since the violator was first to touch the ball, the Rule 5.02(c) penalty puts the batter on first and erases the out.

Rule 9.12(c) · Rule 5.02(c)

58. A — Yes; his throw would have produced the putout but for the catcher's error

Yes, the right fielder gets an assist. Under Rule 9.10(a)(1), his throw earns an assist because it would have produced an out if the catcher hadn't dropped it. The catcher takes the error under Rule 9.12(a)(1), because his drop let the runner reach the plate.

Rule 9.10(a)(1) · Rule 9.12(a)(1)

59. C — The center fielder, shortstop, first baseman and second baseman

All four of them. The center fielder gets a putout for the catch and an assist for his throw. The shortstop and first baseman each get an assist, and the second baseman gets the other putout. Rule 9.11 gives all four double-play credit because no error or misplay interrupted the sequence. In scorebook shorthand, that's 8-6-3-4: center fielder (8) to shortstop (6) to first baseman (3) to second baseman (4).

Rule 9.11 · Rule 9.10(a)(1) · Rule 9.09(a)(1) · Rule 9.09(a)(3)

60. B — Yes, on the catcher, who had the ball in time but touched neither the plate nor the runner

Yes, on the catcher. Rule 9.12(a)(4) calls for an error when a fielder has the ball in time to retire a runner on a force play and then touches neither the base nor the runner. The Comment to Rule 9.12(a)(1) does keep mental misjudgments out of the error column, but only "unless a specific rule prescribes otherwise." This is one of those rules.

Rule 9.12(a)(4) · Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment

ALL-STAR SUBTOTAL	*of 48 pts*	

61. A runner misses second base on his way to third. The play ends, and the pitcher takes his position with the ball. He then steps off and throws to the second baseman, who tags the base; the umpire upholds the appeal and the runner is out. How is the out credited?

A. Putout to the second baseman, with assists to every fielder who handled the ball during the preceding play.
B. Putout to the second baseman, with no assist, because an appeal isn't a play.
C. Putout to the second baseman, with an assist to the pitcher and to no one else.

YOUR CALL ☐

62. One out, runner on third. A foul fly drifts toward the third baseman, who, in the official scorer's judgment, deliberately lets it drop untouched so the runner can't tag up and score. How does the scorer rule?

A. No error is charged to the third baseman or anyone else
B. An error is charged to the third baseman because the batter's time at bat was prolonged
C. An error is charged to the third baseman, since ordinary effort would have caught it
D. An error is charged, but only if the batter subsequently reaches base

YOUR CALL ☐

63. A runner is called out for interfering with the second baseman just as the second baseman is in the act of throwing to first base. How does the scorer credit the out?

A. Putout to the second baseman, with no assist credited
B. Putout to the second baseman, assist to the first baseman
C. Putout to the first baseman, assist to the second baseman
D. Putout to the first baseman, with no assist credited

YOUR CALL ☐

64. The batter flies out to right for the second out. The ball goes back to the pitcher, who takes his position on the rubber, then steps off and throws to third to appeal that the runner left early. The appeal is upheld for the third out. Is a double play credited?

A. Yes, an appeal after the pitcher has the ball can still count

B. No, the play ended once the pitcher had the ball

C. No, because outs recorded on appeal are never part of a double play

D. Yes, but only if he appeals before taking the rubber

YOUR CALL ☐

65. Runner on second, one out. The batter singles to left, and the runner from second heads for third. The left fielder throws there, but the scorer judges the runner would have been safe even with a good throw. The throw sails wide of the bag into foul ground; the lead runner holds at third, and the batter-runner, who would have stopped at first, takes second. How is it scored?

A. A single, with no error since a good throw wouldn't have retired the runner

B. A double for the batter

C. A single, plus an error on the third baseman for not stopping the throw

D. A single, plus an error on the left fielder

YOUR CALL ☐

66. Runner on second, none out. The batter grounds to the third baseman, and the runner, caught leaning, dives back toward second. The throw to the shortstop covering second is on time and on target, but he drops it; the scorer judges ordinary effort would have tagged the runner out. Everyone is safe. What does the batter get?

A. A time at bat and no hit, with an error on the shortstop

B. A single, with an error on the shortstop

C. A single, with no error charged

D. A fielder's choice, with no error charged

YOUR CALL ☐

67. Runner on first, nobody out. The batter grounds to short, and the shortstop's feed to second, with time to spare for the force, sails wide of the bag and rolls into right-center field. The runner from first picks himself up and heads for third. The shortstop hustles out to short center as the cutoff man, takes the center fielder's throw and relays it to third, where the third baseman tags the runner out. Who is credited with assists on the out at third?

A. The center fielder only, because the shortstop's wild throw let the runner advance

B. The center fielder and the shortstop

C. Neither; an error on the play wipes out all assists

D. The center fielder and the shortstop, with a second assist to the shortstop for the original feed

YOUR CALL ☐

68. Runner on first, nobody out. The second baseman fields a grounder, and just as he cocks his arm to throw to the shortstop covering second, the runner from first deliberately barrels into him to break up the double play. The umpire calls both the runner and the batter-runner out. How many assists does the second baseman get?

A. None, because his throw never left his hand

B. One

C. Two, one for each out his throw would have produced

D. One, plus a second if the scorer judges the double play would have been turned

YOUR CALL ☐

61. C — Putout to the second baseman, with an assist to the pitcher and to no one else.

Putout to the second baseman, assist to the pitcher alone. The Comment to Rule 9.09(a)(2) gives the putout to the fielder who takes the throw and touches the base on appeal. The Comment to Rule 9.10(a)(1) sorts out assists by timing: on an appeal within the natural course of play, every fielder whose action led to the out gets an assist, except the one making the putout. Once the play is over and the pitcher starts a fresh one to make the appeal, only the pitcher gets an assist.

Rule 9.09(a)(2) Comment · Rule 9.10(a)(1) Comment

62. A — No error is charged to the third baseman or anyone else

No error. A misplay that prolongs a batter's time at bat normally draws one, but Rule 9.12(a)(1) makes an exception for this play: with a runner on third and fewer than two out, a fielder who deliberately lets a foul fly drop so the runner can't tag and score isn't charged.

Rule 9.12(a)(1)

63. C — Putout to the first baseman, assist to the second baseman

Putout to the first baseman, assist to the second baseman. Rule 9.09(c)(6) normally gives the putout to the fielder who was interfered with. If he was in the act of throwing, though, the putout goes to the intended receiver and the assist to the thrower.

Rule 9.09(c)(6)

64. A — Yes, an appeal after the pitcher has the ball can still count

Yes. Rule 9.11 normally limits double-play credit to outs made before the ball next becomes dead or the pitcher holds it in a pitching position, but its Comment extends credit to an appeal made after the pitcher has the ball, as long as it produces an additional putout.

Rule 9.11 · Rule 9.11 Comment

65. D — A single, plus an error on the left fielder

Single, plus an error on the left fielder. Rule 9.12(d)(2) excuses a wild throw at a runner who would have been safe anyway, but that break goes away when the throw lets any runner advance past the base he would otherwise have reached. The batter-runner's extra base came on the throw, so Rule 9.12(a)(6) charges the thrower.

Rule 9.12(d)(2) · Rule 9.12(a)(6)

66. A — A time at bat and no hit, with an error on the shortstop

A time at bat and no hit. Rule 9.05(b)(3) withholds a hit when an infielder handles the batted ball and, with ordinary effort, would have retired a runner returning to his original base but for a fielding error. The shortstop's drop goes in the books as an error under Rule 9.12(a)(1).

Rule 9.05(b)(3) · Rule 9.12(a)(1)

67. B — The center fielder and the shortstop

The center fielder and the shortstop. Rule 9.10(b)(3) denies an assist to a fielder whose wild throw lets a runner advance and treats whatever follows a misplay as a new play. The same rule gives the misplaying fielder an assist if he takes part in that new play, and the shortstop did, with the relay. The center fielder's throw also earns one under Rule 9.10(a)(1). The wild feed itself brings the shortstop nothing but an error under Rule 9.12(a)(5), since a good throw would have forced the runner.

Rule 9.10(b)(3) · Rule 9.10(a)(1) · Rule 9.12(a)(5)

68. B — One

One. A fielder hit while in the act of throwing can earn an assist even though the ball never gets there. The umpire calls both runners out under Rule 6.01(a)(6). Rule 9.09(c)(6) gives the second baseman an assist for the interrupted throw, and 9.09(c)(7) prevents a second assist on the same play.

Rule 9.09(c)(6) · Rule 9.09(c)(7) · Rule 6.01(a)(6)

HALL OF FAMER SUBTOTAL	*of 40 pts*	

SCORECARD

Errors, Putouts & Assists

PLAYERS P1 _____ P2 _____ P3 _____

TIER	PTS	P1	P2	P3
ROOKIE	1 x 16			
VETERAN	2 x 28			
ALL-STAR	3 x 16			
HALL OF FAMER	5 x 8			
CHAPTER TOTAL	*of 160*			

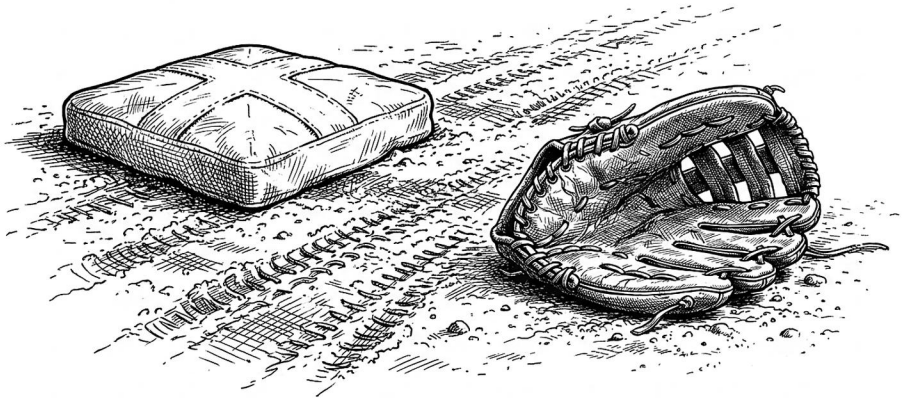
PAR 112 *the score to reach: about 70% of the possible points*

YOUR RANK

- **Hall of Famer** 136–160 pts
- **All-Star** 112–135 pts
- **Veteran** 80–111 pts
- **Rookie** 0–79 pts

SCORER'S NOTES

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CHAPTER 7

Interference & Obstruction

The rulebook keeps interference and obstruction strictly apart, each with its own meaning and its own penalties. Interference is usually the offense getting in a fielder's way, though a catcher who gets in the batter's way is guilty of it too. Obstruction is a fielder, without the ball and not in the act of fielding it, getting in a runner's way. As we'll see, the penalties usually cut in opposite directions. Batting out of turn and doctored bats show up here too.

ROOKIE ◆ 1 POINT EACH

1. True or False? A fielder reaches over the railing into the stands, and a fan there keeps him from making the catch. Interference is called.

A. True
B. False

YOUR CALL ☐

2. Which of the following is NOT umpire interference?

A. A wild pitch hits the umpire

B. The plate umpire hinders the catcher's throw on an attempted steal

C. The umpire interferes with the catcher's throw back to the pitcher when time hasn't been called

D. A fair batted ball, untouched by any fielder, hits an umpire in fair territory before passing an infielder other than the pitcher

YOUR CALL ☐

3. Obstruction is...

A. Any contact between a runner and a fielder

B. The act of a fielder who, without the ball and not fielding it, impedes a runner

C. An act by the team at bat that hinders a fielder making a play

D. A runner going more than three feet out of his base path to avoid a tag

YOUR CALL ☐

4. Each of the following would be ruled spectator interference except...

A. A fan reaches over the railing and impedes a routine catch

B. A fan yells loudly at a player trying to make a catch

C. A fan goes on the field to interrupt play

D. A fan throws an object that hits a fielder trying to make a play

YOUR CALL ☐

5. Strike three gets past the catcher, and the batter-runner clearly hinders him as he tries to field the ball. Under Rule 6.01(a)(1), what's the ruling?

A. Nothing; a batter-runner can't interfere on an uncaught third strike

B. The ball is dead, the batter-runner gets first, and runners hold

C. The batter-runner is out, but the ball stays live

D. The batter-runner is out, the ball is dead, and runners return

YOUR CALL ☐

6. One out, runner on third. The batter hinders a fielder who is making a play at home plate. Under Rule 6.01(a)(3), who is declared out?

A. The batter
B. Both the batter and the runner
C. The runner
D. Nobody; the ball is simply dead and runners return

YOUR CALL ☐

7. The on-deck batter, standing near the plate, gets in the way of a fielder trying to field a thrown ball. Under Rule 6.01(b), what's the ruling?

A. The ball stays live; nobody is out
B. The ball is dead; the runner being played on is out
C. The ball is dead; the batter is out
D. The ball is dead; each runner gets one base

YOUR CALL ☐

8. A thrown ball that accidentally touches a base coach stays alive and in play. What happens if the coach deliberately interferes with a thrown ball?

A. The runner is out
B. The batter is declared out
C. The ball is dead and all runners return to the last base touched
D. The coach is ejected, but the ball stays alive and the play stands

YOUR CALL ☐

9. A batter being intentionally walked steps completely out of the batter's box, with both feet planted outside it, reaches out and lines the pitch into right field. What's the ruling?

A. The pitch is simply a ball and the at-bat continues
B. The ball is dead and it's scored a foul ball
C. The hit stands, since only contact with home plate matters
D. The batter is out

YOUR CALL ☐

10. With the pitcher already in position and ready to pitch, a switch-hitter hops from one batter's box to the other. What's the ruling?

A. It's legal at any point before the ball is released
B. The batter is out
C. The umpire calls "Time" and returns the batter to his original box
D. It's a balk if there are runners on base

YOUR CALL ☐

11. The plate umpire notices that an improper batter has stepped into the box. What does the Comment to Rule 6.03(b)(7) require of him?

A. He must call "Time" and correct the batting order himself
B. He must quietly inform the defensive manager
C. He must inform the offensive manager only
D. He doesn't alert anyone to the mistake

YOUR CALL ☐

1. B — False

False. A fielder who reaches over a railing to make a play does so at his own risk. It's spectator interference only if the fan reaches out onto the playing-field side of the railing.

Rule 6.01(e) Comment

2. A — A wild pitch hits the umpire

The wild pitch. A pitch that simply hits the umpire isn't umpire interference; under Rule 6.01(f) the ball stays alive (though under 6.01(a)(1), an uncaught pitch the umpire accidentally deflects near the plate is dead). Umpire interference covers the plate umpire hindering the catcher's throw, an umpire blocking the catcher's return throw to the pitcher, and an untouched fair ball hitting an umpire in fair territory before it passes an infielder other than the pitcher. Once a fielder, the pitcher included, has touched the ball, a later touch of the umpire leaves it in play (5.05(b)(4)).

Rule 6.01(f) · Rule 6.01(f) Comment · Rule 6.01(a)(1) · Rule 5.05(b)(4)

3. B — The act of a fielder who, without the ball and not fielding it, impedes a runner

A fielder impeding a runner when he has no ball and isn't fielding one. That's the rulebook's definition, and Rule 6.01(h) sets the penalty. The third choice defines offensive interference. Contact alone is neither. And a runner who strays more than three feet from his base path to dodge a tag is out under a different rule entirely, 5.09(b)(1).

Definitions (OBSTRUCTION) · Rule 6.01(h)

4. B — A fan yells loudly at a player trying to make a catch

The yelling fan. Spectator interference means a fan, or something a fan throws, hinders a player trying to make a play on a live ball by coming onto the field or reaching out over it. Yelling, however loud, does neither.

Definitions (INTERFERENCE (d)) · Rule 6.01(e)

5. D — The batter-runner is out, the ball is dead, and runners return

The batter-runner is out, the ball is dead and every other runner returns to the base he held when the pitch was thrown.

Rule 6.01(a)(1)

6. C — The runner

The runner. Under Rule 6.01(a)(3), before two are out with a runner on third, a batter who hinders a fielder making a play at home gets the runner called out, not himself.

Rule 6.01(a)(3)

7. B — The ball is dead; the runner being played on is out

The ball is dead and the runner being played on is out, with the others returned to the base they held when it happened. Rule 6.01(b) splits the penalty by the kind of ball: hinder a play on a batted ball and the batter is out, with runners sent back to where they stood at the pitch; hinder a play on a thrown ball, as the on-deck hitter did here, and the out goes to the runner.

Rule 6.01(b)

8. A — The runner is out

The runner is out. Rule 6.01(f) turns on whether the contact was accidental: a throw that happens to clip a base coach stays alive and the play stands, but a coach who actually interferes with a throw costs his side an out.

Rule 6.01(f)

9. D — The batter is out

The batter is out. Rule 6.03(a)(1) retires a hitter who makes contact while either foot is planted fully outside the box. Its Comment tells umpires to watch a batter's feet during an intentional pass, precisely because he can't jump or stride out of the box to reach the pitch.

Rule 6.03(a)(1)

10. B — The batter is out

The batter is out. Once the pitcher is in position and ready to pitch, Rule 6.03(a)(2) bars the hitter from switching boxes.

Rule 6.03(a)(2)

11. D — He doesn't alert anyone to the mistake

Silence. The Comment to Rule 6.03(b)(7) bars the umpire from tipping off anybody, either dugout included, that the wrong hitter has stepped in. Catching a batting-order mistake is the teams' job, and the rule is drafted that way on purpose to keep both sides alert.

Rule 6.03(b)(7) Comment

ROOKIE SUBTOTAL *of 11 pts* ☐

VETERAN — **2 POINTS EACH**

12. A batter bats out of turn and reaches base. To get the proper batter declared out, when must the defense appeal?

A. After the completion of the next at-bat
B. Before the next pitch, play or attempted play
C. At the end of the inning
D. Before the improper batter comes up again

YOUR CALL ☐

13. True or False? On an infield fly, the lead runner bumps the shortstop and interference is called. The ball is caught in fair territory, so both the batter and the interfering runner are out.

A. True
B. False

YOUR CALL ☐

14. A batter carries a corked bat into the batter's box, but the bat is discovered to be illegal before he faces a pitch. What's the umpire's ruling?

A. Replace the bat; no other penalty
B. Eject the batter; no out is recorded
C. Call the batter out; he stays in the game
D. Call the batter out and eject him

YOUR CALL ☐

15. A player bats out of turn and singles. The defense never appeals, and a pitch is thrown to the next batter. What happens to the batting order for the rest of the game?

A. The improper batter permanently takes over the skipped batter's spot
B. The lineup stands; next up is whoever follows the improper batter
C. The improper batter is an automatic out the next time he comes up
D. The proper batter is an automatic out the next time he comes up

YOUR CALL ☐

16. A hitter bats out of order, and the defense makes a timely, successful appeal. Which advance by a runner already on base is wiped out?

A. An advance on the batted ball
B. An advance on a stolen base
C. An advance on a wild pitch
D. An advance on a passed ball

YOUR CALL ☐

17. On a double-play attempt, which of these is one of the requirements for a legal ("bona fide") slide into second base?

A. Slides in feet first
B. Makes no contact with the fielder
C. Begins his slide before reaching the base
D. Touches the base with both hands or both feet

YOUR CALL ☐

18. One out, runner on first breaking for second. The batter swings through strike three and unintentionally hits the catcher on the backswing. What's the ruling?

A. The batter is out, and the runner can't advance
B. The batter is out, and the runner goes to second
C. A strike, and the runner takes second
D. It counts as a foul ball, and the runner can't advance

YOUR CALL ☐

19. Runner on first, one out. The runner breaks for second, and the batter steps across the plate and impedes the catcher's throw. The throw is late, and the runner slides in safely. What's the call?

A. The runner keeps second, since the throw was late
B. Catcher's interference; the batter is awarded first
C. The batter is out, and the runner returns to first
D. No call, since the batter never touched the catcher

YOUR CALL ☐

20. A fielder without the ball blocks the basepath while a play is being made on the runner he obstructs. What's the ruling?

A. Dead ball; he's awarded at least one base
B. Play goes on; the umpire fixes it once the action ends
C. Dead ball; the runner returns to his last base
D. Nothing, unless the runner is tagged out

YOUR CALL ☐

21. A runner rounding first is obstructed while no play is being made on him. When is the obstruction penalty resolved?

A. It isn't obstruction without a play on him
B. After the play ends, if a penalty is needed
C. Only if the runner is put out
D. Right away; the ball is dead

YOUR CALL ☐

22. A runner crosses the plate to score, then hinders the defense's next play on another runner. Under Rule 6.01(a)(5), what's the ruling?

A. The runner being played on is out
B. Nothing; once he scores, he's out of the play
C. His run is wiped off the board
D. Both he and the runner being played on are out

YOUR CALL ☐

23. Runner on third, one out. The batter lifts a fly ball deep to the outfield, and a spectator clearly interferes with the outfielder trying to catch it. The umpire calls the batter out for spectator interference. What happens to the runner on third?

A. He's out too; there's no catch for him to tag up on
B. He goes back to third, because the ball is dead at the call
C. He may score, if the umpire judges he'd have tagged and scored
D. He's awarded home, one base for the interference

YOUR CALL ☐

24. The umpire rules that the batter-runner deliberately got in a fielder's way while he was handling a batted ball, trying to break up a double play. Under Rule 6.01(a)(7), who is called out?

A. The batter-runner only

B. The batter-runner and the runner on whom the play was being made

C. The batter-runner and the runner who had advanced closest to home plate

D. The batter-runner and the lead runner, but only if a force play was in effect

YOUR CALL ☐

25. The catcher is fielding a batted ball in front of the plate when the pitcher, who isn't playing the ball, gets in the way of the batter-runner heading up the line. What does the Comment to Rule 6.01(a)(10) call for?

A. Nothing at all; fielders near a batted ball have the right of way

B. Interference on the batter-runner, who is declared out

C. The ball is dead and the pitch is replayed

D. Obstruction is called, and the runner is awarded first base

YOUR CALL ☐

26. A runner caught in a rundown between third and home is called out for offensive interference. The trailing runner has already moved up and is standing on third. Where does the umpire put him?

A. He is sent back to second base

B. He remains on third base, which he had legally reached

C. He is declared out as well

D. He keeps third base only if he reached it before the interference occurred

YOUR CALL ☐

27. Before the pitcher delivers the ball, the catcher accidentally bumps the batter and disrupts his stance. What does the Comment to Rule 6.01(c) call for?

A. The batter is awarded first on catcher's interference
B. Time is called, and the pitch starts over
C. Catcher's interference, but only if the batter swings
D. The pitch counts as a ball, and play goes on

YOUR CALL ☐

28. A ball attendant in foul territory ends up in contact with a live ball. Which of these would the umpire rule intentional interference?

A. Getting hit by a throw while trying to dodge it
B. Stepping aside, only to have the ball clip his shoe
C. Turning away as the ball rolls into his stool
D. Scooping up a live ball he thinks is out of play

YOUR CALL ☐

29. An improper batter is up with a count of two balls and one strike when the offense catches its own mistake. Under Rule 6.03(b)(2), what happens?

A. The proper batter steps in and takes over the 2–1 count
B. The proper batter steps in with a fresh 0–0 count
C. The improper batter finishes, since pitches have been thrown
D. The proper batter is called out, and the next batter starts fresh

YOUR CALL ☐

30. Runner on third, one out, with the third baseman playing back. The batter pops a soft fly into foul ground just past the bag, and the wind starts pushing it back toward fair territory. The runner, leading off in foul ground, reaches up and swats it toward the stands with his bare hand before it comes down. No fielder had a chance at it. What's the call?

A. Interference; the runner is out and the ball is dead

B. Foul ball; the swat would matter only if the ball had come down fair

C. No call, because no fielder was hindered on the play

D. Fair ball, because a runner touched it before it landed

YOUR CALL ☐

31. The shortstop's throw sails past first base. The first-base coach drops flat to the ground to avoid being hit, and the first baseman, chasing the ball down, runs right into him. The batter-runner winds up on third. If the umpire judges that the coach did all he could to stay out of the way, what's the call?

A. Interference; the batter-runner is out

B. No interference; the batter-runner keeps third

C. Interference; the batter-runner goes back to first

D. Obstruction; the batter-runner is awarded home

YOUR CALL ☐

32. Runner on second, one out. A wild pitch skips past the catcher and rolls toward the low wall in foul ground behind first base. A fan leans over the railing and scoops it off the warning track before it reaches the seats. What's the ruling?

A. Nothing; the ball stays live, since it never reached the stands

B. One base for the runner, as if it had gone into the seats

C. Two bases for the runner, measured from the time of the pitch

D. Spectator interference; the umpire decides where the runner ends up

YOUR CALL ☐

12. B — Before the next pitch, play or attempted play

Before the next pitch, play or attempted play. Rule 6.03(b)(3) sets a short window: before a pitch to the next hitter on either side and before any play or attempted play. Miss it (Rule 6.03(b)(5) and the Comment to 6.03(b)(7)) and the improper batter's at-bat becomes legal, so whatever he did stands.

Rule 6.03(b)(1) · Rule 6.03(b)(3) · Rule 6.03(b)(5) · Rule 6.03(b)(7) Comment

13. A — True

True. With the ball caught in fair territory, batter and runner are both out. If the ball had been ruled foul, only the runner would be out and the batter would return to bat, even if the fielder caught it.

Definitions (INFIELD FLY) Comment · Rule 6.01(a)

14. D — Call the batter out and eject him

Out, and gone. Rule 6.03(a)(5) covers a bat doctored to add distance or make the ball react unusually, and a corked bat is the classic case. Its Comment says carrying one into the box counts as trying to use it, so no pitch is needed. The batter's out and ejected, and the Commissioner's office can tack on more.

Rule 6.03(a)(5) · Rule 6.03(a)(5) Comment

15. B — The lineup stands; next up is whoever follows the improper batter

The lineup card stands. Once a pitch is made to the next batter without an appeal, the improper batter is legalized, and under Rule 6.03(b)(7) the order simply continues with the name listed after him.

Rule 6.03(b)(5) · Rule 6.03(b)(7) · Rule 6.03(b)(7) Comment

16. A — An advance on the batted ball

The advance on the improper batter's batted ball. A timely, successful appeal makes the proper batter out and nullifies any advance that came directly from that batted ball. A stolen base, wild pitch or passed ball didn't come from it, so those advances stand.

Rule 6.03(b)(3) · Rule 6.03(b)(4)

17. C — Begins his slide before reaching the base

Beginning the slide before reaching the base. Rule 6.01(j) lists three more requirements: he has to be able to reach the base with a hand or foot and try to, be able to stay on it afterward and try to, and slide within reach of the bag without changing his path to go after the fielder. None of the other choices is a requirement. A head-first slide can qualify, one hand or one foot is enough, and contact that comes from a legal slide isn't interference.

Rule 6.01(j)

18. A — The batter is out, and the runner can't advance

Batter out, runner stays put. With first base occupied and fewer than two out, strike three retires the batter whether or not the catcher holds it (Rule 5.09(a)(3)). The backswing contact is a strike only, not interference (Comment to Rules 6.03(a)(3) and (4)), and the ball is dead.

Rule 6.03(a)(3) and (4) Comment · Rule 5.09(a)(3)

19. C — The batter is out, and the runner returns to first

Batter interference: under Rule 6.03(a)(3), the batter is out, the ball is dead and runners return. But if the catcher retires the runner anyway, that out stands and the batter is not out (Comment to Rules 6.03(a)(3) and (4)).

Rule 6.03(a)(3) · Rule 6.03(a)(3) and (4) Comment

20. A — Dead ball; he's awarded at least one base

Dead ball. Because a play was being made on the obstructed runner, Rule 6.01(h)(1) kills the ball at once, and he gets at least one base beyond the last base he legally touched.

Rule 6.01(h)(1)

21. B — After the play ends, if a penalty is needed

After the action. With no play on the obstructed runner, Rule 6.01(h)(2) keeps the ball live. The umpire signals obstruction, lets the play finish, then calls "Time" and makes whatever adjustment undoes its effect.

Rule 6.01(h)(2)

22. A — The runner being played on is out

The runner being played on is out. Rule 6.01(a)(5) reaches players who are technically done with the play: a batter or runner just put out, or a runner who has just scored. If one of them hinders a following play on a runner, that runner is out for his teammate's interference.

Rule 6.01(a)(5)

23. C — He may score, if the umpire judges he'd have tagged and scored

He may score if, in the umpire's judgment, he would have scored after the catch. Rule 6.01(e) tells the umpire to impose whatever penalties nullify the interference, and the Comment's worked example lets the runner score on a ball hit that deep. On a fly interfered with a short distance from home plate, that might not be the case.

Rule 6.01(e) · Rule 6.01(e) Comment

24. C — The batter-runner and the runner who had advanced closest to home plate

The batter-runner and the runner closest to home. Rule 6.01(a)(7) kills the ball, retires the batter-runner and takes a second out on the runner nearest to scoring, wherever the double play was headed. Nobody advances.

Rule 6.01(a)(7)

25. D — Obstruction is called, and the runner is awarded first base

Obstruction, and the runner gets first. The Comment to Rule 6.01(a)(10) says contact between a catcher playing the ball and the batter-runner is usually nothing, because the fielder on the ball has the right of way. Here the pitcher got in the runner's way while someone else was fielding the ball. That's obstruction, and the runner is awarded first.

Rule 6.01(a)(10) Comment

26. A — He is sent back to second base

Back to second. The Comment to the Penalty for Interference in Rule 6.01(a) addresses this rundown directly: when the runner caught between third and home is called out for offensive interference, the trailing runner standing on third returns to second. A runner holds his base until he legally reaches the next one, so the runner in the rundown still owned third. The same applies between second and third.

Rule 6.01(a) Penalty for Interference Comment

27. B — Time is called, and the pitch starts over

No interference. Per the Comment to Rule 6.01(c), catcher contact before the pitcher delivers the ball isn't interference on the batter under Rule 5.05(b)(3). The umpire calls "Time," and the pitcher and batter start that pitch over, with no award and no penalty.

Rule 6.01(c) Comment

28. D — Scooping up a live ball he thinks is out of play

Scooping up the ball. The Comment to Rule 6.01(d) judges intent by the act itself, so what the attendant believed doesn't matter. Trying to get out of the way and getting touched anyway is unintentional, and the ball stays live. Picking it up, catching it, or pushing or kicking at it is intentional: the ball is dead, and the umpire imposes whatever penalty erases the act.

Rule 6.01(d) · Rule 6.01(d) Comment

29. A — The proper batter steps in and takes over the 2–1 count

The proper batter steps in and inherits the count. Rule 6.03(b)(2) lets the offense fix its own mistake at no cost, as long as it does so before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out. The rulebook's own Approved Ruling uses the same 2–1 count, with Abel replacing Baker.

Rule 6.03(b)(2) · Rule 6.03(b) Approved Ruling

30. A — Interference; the runner is out and the ball is dead

The runner is out and the ball is dead. Under Rule 6.01(a)(2), deliberately changing the path of a foul ball is interference, however he does it and even when no fielder could have caught it.

Rule 6.01(a)(2) · Rule 6.01(a) Penalty for Interference

31. B — No interference; the batter-runner keeps third

No interference. The Comment to Rule 6.01(d) describes this play and leaves it to the umpire's judgment: a coach who did everything he could to avoid the play gets a pass, and the batter-runner keeps third. If the umpire thought the coach was only putting on a show of getting out of the way, it would be interference. Compare Rule 6.01(f), where a coach who actually interferes with a thrown ball gets the runner called out.

Rule 6.01(d) Comment · Rule 6.01(f)

32. D — Spectator interference; the umpire decides where the runner ends up

Spectator interference. The Comment to Rule 6.01(e) says a pitched ball can draw that penalty too, when a wild pitch stays in play and a fan gets his hands on it. This fan reached over the railing and grabbed it off the warning track, which the Comment treats as intentional, so the ball's dead and the umpire puts the runner where he'd have ended up. Had the pitch rolled straight into the seats, it would have been a routine one-base award under 5.06(b)(4)(H).

Rule 6.01(e) · Rule 6.01(e) Comment · Rule 5.06(b)(4)(H)

VETERAN SUBTOTAL	*of 42 pts*	

33. A runner on third is stealing home. As the pitch comes in, the catcher jumps out in front of home plate without the ball and makes contact with the batter. What's the call?

A. Catcher's interference; the batter gets first, and the runner returns to third
B. A balk; the runner scores, and the batter stays at the plate
C. Dead ball; the runner returns to third, and the pitch is replayed
D. Balk and catcher's interference; the runner scores, batter to first

YOUR CALL ☐

34. True or False? A runner in a rundown between second and third is obstructed while a throw is already in flight, and the throw sails into the dugout. The most he can be awarded is third base.

A. True
B. False

YOUR CALL ☐

35. A pitch deflects off the catcher and then hits the batter-runner as he starts up the line toward first. How does the Comment to Rule 6.01(a)(1) treat it?

A. Interference, and the batter-runner is out
B. Dead ball, and the batter-runner is awarded first
C. Interference only if the deflection was in fair territory
D. Interference only if he clearly hinders the catcher

YOUR CALL ☐

36. One out. A runner standing on second base, which he legally occupies, hinders the shortstop as he tries to field a batted ball. Under the Comment to the Penalty for Interference in Rule 6.01(a), when is the runner out, and what's the penalty if the umpire judges the hindrance intentional?

A. He's out either way, and with one out the batter is too
B. Out only if intentional; then the runner and batter are both out
C. He can't be out while on the base; the ball is just dead
D. Out only if intentional; then only the batter is out

YOUR CALL ☐

37. An infielder dives for a ground ball, the ball gets past him, and he stays sprawled on the dirt long enough to hold up a runner. Under the Comment to Rule 6.01(h), what's the likely ruling?

A. No call; the fielder still has the right of way
B. Obstruction on the infielder
C. Interference on the runner
D. A dead ball, with the runner sent back

YOUR CALL ☐

38. Runner on third, one out. A line drive is caught, and the runner, who had wandered a few steps off the bag, is grabbed by the jersey and pulled back to third by his base coach before any throw arrives. No fielder was touched or hindered. What's the call?

A. Nothing; the coach never got in a fielder's way, so there's no interference
B. The runner is out, because his coach physically helped him return to third
C. The coach is ejected, but the runner stays at third
D. The umpire warns the coach, and the next such act puts the runner out

YOUR CALL ☐

39. One out, runner on first, no infield fly. A pop-up drifts between the first baseman and the second baseman, and the umpire judges the second baseman is the one entitled to field it. The runner, heading to second, bumps into the first baseman, and the ball drops. Is the runner out for interference?

A. No; only the second baseman was protected
B. Yes; both fielders were protected while chasing it
C. Yes, since the ball dropped after the contact
D. No; the runner has the right of way there

YOUR CALL ☐

40. Runner on first, none out. On a 6-4-3 double-play try, the runner hits the dirt well short of second, slides in a straight line within reach of the bag, trying to get to it and stay on it. As he arrives, though, he deliberately raises his leg and kicks the second baseman above the knee, and the relay sails into the dugout. What's the call?

A. A legal slide, since all four bona fide slide requirements were met; the batter-runner gets two bases on the wild throw
B. Only the runner is out; the batter-runner stays at first
C. The runner and the batter-runner are both out, and nobody advances on the wild throw
D. No call, because the runner was going to be forced out anyway

YOUR CALL ☐

41. Runners on second and third, one out. On a play at the plate, the catcher has the ball and is set up off to the side, leaving the runner a clear lane. The runner from third makes no effort to touch the plate, lowers his shoulder and plows into the catcher. The ball pops loose, and the runner touches home. The runner from second had already reached third when the collision happened. What's the call?

A. The run counts, because the catcher dropped the ball

B. The runner is out, and the trailing runner goes back to second

C. Obstruction on the catcher; the run counts, and the trailing runner stays at third

D. The runner is out, the ball is dead, and the trailing runner stays at third

YOUR CALL ☐

42. Runner on first, nobody out. The batter chops a two-hopper to short, and the infield turns a tidy 6-4-3 double play. On contact, though, the bat splits open and cork spills onto the dirt in front of the plate. What's the ruling?

A. The batter is out and ejected, but the runner goes back to first, since nothing may change on a play made with an illegal bat

B. Both outs stand, and the batter is ejected

C. Both outs stand, but the batter stays in the game, and any discipline is left to the league office

D. The defensive skipper may choose between the double play and an out on the batter alone with the runner returned to first

YOUR CALL ☐

43. Runner on third, one out. On a fly to medium-deep center that's caught, the runner tags and heads home. The catcher gloves the throw and sets up in front of the plate. The runner dives head first, his body hits the dirt a stride before he reaches the catcher, and his momentum carries him into the catcher's shin guards. The ball pops loose, and the runner's hand slaps the plate. What's the call?

A. Out; a head-first slide into the catcher is an illegal collision
B. Out; he made the contact, so the dropped ball doesn't matter
C. Dead ball; the runner goes back to third
D. Safe; his slide was legal, so the run counts

YOUR CALL ☐

33. D — Balk and catcher's interference; the runner scores, batter to first

Balk and catcher's interference. Under Rule 6.01(g), on a steal of home or squeeze, a catcher or other fielder can't step on or in front of the plate without the ball, or touch the batter or bat. Doing so is a balk and catcher's interference at once, so the runner scores and the batter gets first.

Rule 6.01(g)

34. B — False

False. Under the Comment to Rule 6.01(h)(1), a throw that's already in flight when the obstruction happens still earns the runners their wild-throw award. The rulebook uses this very rundown as its example, and it sends the runner home.

Rule 6.01(h)(1) · Rule 6.01(h)(1) Comment

35. D — Interference only if he clearly hinders the catcher

Interference only if the umpire judges the batter-runner clearly hindered the catcher. Under the Comment to Rule 6.01(a)(1), a pitch that caroms off the catcher or umpire and then hits the batter-runner doesn't count as interference by itself.

Rule 6.01(a)(1) Comment

36. B — Out only if intentional; then the runner and batter are both out

Touching a base he legally occupies protects the runner from an interference call for accidental hindrance, per the Penalty for Interference Comment. If it's intentional, with fewer than two out it retires both him and the batter. With two out, only the batter is called out.

Rule 6.01(a) Penalty for Interference Comment

37. B — Obstruction on the infielder

Very likely obstruction. Obstruction is impeding a runner without the ball and while not in the act of fielding it, and the Comment to Rule 6.01(h) says that protection ends the moment a fielder goes for a ball and misses. The rulebook describes the same scene, a diving infielder still lying in the runner's path, and says he "very likely has obstructed the runner." It isn't an automatic call, though, since the same Comment leaves it to the umpire's judgment when a fielder counts as fielding.

Rule 6.01(h) Comment

38. B — The runner is out, because his coach physically helped him return to third

The runner is out. Rule 6.01(a)(8) makes it interference when the first- or third-base coach touches or holds a runner to physically help him return to or leave a base, and the Penalty for Interference in 6.01(a) calls the runner out with the ball dead. The coach's help is interference even though no fielder was hindered.

Rule 6.01(a)(8) · Rule 6.01(a) Penalty for Interference

39. A — No; only the second baseman was protected

No interference. When two or more fielders go after a batted ball, Rule 6.01(a)(10) has the umpire pick the one fielder who gets the protection, and the runner can't be called out for contact with any other. The second baseman was the protected fielder, so bumping the first baseman isn't interference. That doesn't give the runner the right of way, though; had he run into the second baseman, he'd be out.

Rule 6.01(a)(10)

40. C — The runner and the batter-runner are both out, and nobody advances on the wild throw

Two outs. Under Rule 6.01(j), a slide stops being bona fide when the runner deliberately initiates contact by raising and kicking his leg above the fielder's knee (a roll block does the same). The penalty is both the runner and the batter-runner out, and since interference kills the ball, the throw into the dugout earns no bases.

Rule 6.01(j) · Rule 6.01(a)

41. D — The runner is out, the ball is dead, and the trailing runner stays at third

The runner is out, and the trailing runner keeps third. Under Rule 6.01(i)(1), a runner trying to score can't veer off his direct path to hit the catcher, or otherwise start an avoidable collision. If he does, he's out whether or not the catcher holds on to the ball, the play is dead, and every other runner goes back to the last base he touched when the collision happened. Two of the signs listed in the Comment show up here: no effort to touch the plate and a lowered shoulder. With a clear lane, the blocking exception doesn't help the runner, and the dropped ball doesn't save the run.

Rule 6.01(i)(1) · Rule 6.01(i)(1) Comment

42. B — Both outs stand, and the batter is ejected

Both outs stand. Rule 6.03(a)(5) calls the batter out for using a doctored bat, and its penalty wipes out any advance the bat produced. The outs are another story: every one recorded on the play counts. So the double play holds, and the batter is ejected. The Commissioner's office can add more discipline.

Rule 6.03(a)(5)

43. D — Safe; his slide was legal, so the run counts

Safe, and the run counts. Rule 6.01(i)(1) bars a runner from initiating an avoidable collision with the catcher, but a runner who slides into the plate appropriately can't be found in violation. Per the Comment, a head-first slide qualifies when the body hits the ground before contact (for a feet-first slide, the buttocks and legs). His slide was legal, and the catcher lost the ball before he could make the tag, so the run counts.

Rule 6.01(i)(1) · Rule 6.01(i)(1) Comment

ALL-STAR SUBTOTAL *of 33 pts* ☐

HALL OF FAMER — **5 POINTS EACH**

44. One out, runner on third. The batter bunts down the third-base line. The third baseman throws home, and the runner scores. The catcher then fires to first, where the batter-runner, still a few steps short of the bag, is called out for running to the right of the three-foot line and interfering with the first baseman taking the throw. What happens to the run?

A. The run comes off the board, and runners return to their pre-pitch bases.

B. The run counts, because it scored on the earlier play at the plate.

C. The run counts only if the lane violation was unintentional.

D. The runner from third is out too, since nobody scores on interference.

YOUR CALL ☐

45. Bases loaded, one out. A slow roller goes to the first baseman, who throws home. Waiting on the throw, the catcher sets up straddling the plate, squarely in the runner's path. He gloves it with his foot on the plate while the runner from third is still several strides away. What's the call?

A. The runner is safe, because a catcher without the ball may not block the runner's path to the plate

B. The runner is safe, because the catcher wasn't reacting to the direction of the throw

C. The runner is out on the force, because the plate-blocking rule doesn't apply to force plays at home

D. The runner is out only if the umpire judges he could have avoided the catcher by sliding

YOUR CALL ☐

46. Runner on second, two out. On a single to left, the runner tries to score on a tag play. Before the throw arrives, and not reacting to the throw's direction or hop, the catcher straddles the plate without the ball, blocking the runner's path. The throw beats the runner by so much that the umpire judges he would have been out even with an open lane. The catcher applies the tag. What's the call?

A. Out; the runner was out anyway, so he wasn't hindered

B. Safe; blocking the plate without the ball gives up the run

C. Safe; a catcher who straddles the plate is in violation

D. Out; a completed tag cancels any earlier plate-blocking violation

YOUR CALL ☐

44. B — The run counts, because it scored on the earlier play at the plate.

The run counts. Rule 6.01(a)'s general interference penalty would normally erase it, since a batter-runner who never reached first sends everyone back to their pre-pitch bases. But the same paragraph makes an exception for this order of events: with fewer than two out, if a runner crosses the plate on an intervening play and only afterward the batter-runner is called out for running-lane interference, the run stands. Rule 5.09(a)(11) supplies the out. Since MLB's 2024 change, the legal lane on the last half of the trip to first includes the dirt between the foul line and the infield grass as well as the traditional marked lane.

Rule 5.09(a)(11) · Rule 6.01(a) Penalty for Interference

45. C — The runner is out on the force, because the plate-blocking rule doesn't apply to force plays at home

Out, on the force. Rule 6.01(i)(2) normally bars a catcher without the ball from blocking the runner's path, but its Comment says it doesn't apply to force plays at home. With the bases loaded, the runner was forced, so a catch with a foot on the plate gets him. The sliding and reacting-to-the-throw exceptions never come into it.

Rule 6.01(i)(2) · Rule 6.01(i)(2) Comment

46. A — Out; the runner was out anyway, so he wasn't hindered

Out. Under the 6.01(i)(2) Comment, a catcher violates the rule only if he blocks the plate without the ball and also hinders the runner. Here he blocked the path and wasn't reacting to the throw, but the umpire judged the runner would have been out anyway, so he wasn't hindered and the tag stands. Had the catcher gotten in his way, the tag wouldn't have saved the out.

Rule 6.01(i)(2) · Rule 6.01(i)(2) Comment

HALL OF FAMER SUBTOTAL	*of 15 pts*	

SCORECARD

Interference & Obstruction

PLAYERS P1 _____ P2 _____ P3 _____

TIER	PTS	P1	P2	P3
ROOKIE	1 x 11			
VETERAN	2 x 21			
ALL-STAR	3 x 11			
HALL OF FAMER	5 x 3			
CHAPTER TOTAL	*of 101*			

PAR 70 *the score to reach: about 70% of the possible points*

YOUR RANK

- **Hall of Famer** 85–101 pts
- **All-Star** 70–84 pts
- **Veteran** 50–69 pts
- **Rookie** 0–49 pts

SCORER'S NOTES

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