



# Central Maryland Umpires

## Fact or Fiction Quiz

I believe most of us begin umpiring the same way, by stepping up when no one else will. At least that is how it was for me. It began in a relatively low-pressure clinic program. I had played a fair amount of baseball as a kid and just used the rules I grew up with and let the kids have fun. Sometimes, there was an odd play or two that left me wondering if I got the call right. That prompted the purchase of my first rulebook. I soon found that many of the rules I grew up with were not in the rule book; hhuuummm?!? That is how I learned the difference between rules and myth.

The following quiz presents ten scenarios that, over the years, have drawn a lot of questions from a lot of managers. The questions deal with rules that many of us have “grown up with”. Can you distinguish rules from myth – fact from fiction? Answer each of the following statements True or False based on your understanding of the rules, (Major League – Official Baseball Rules).

- \_\_\_ 1. Batter-runner is out if tagged when he overruns 1st base and turns to his left to return to the bag.
- \_\_\_ 2. Major League rules; two out; bases loaded; dropped third strike. The catcher can get a simple force play on the runner coming home instead on throwing to 1st base.
- \_\_\_ 3. Runners trying to steal, must return to the base they occupied, prior to the pitch, on a foul tip.
- \_\_\_ 4. An improper batter, upon proper appeal, is declared out after he bats out-of-order.
- \_\_\_ 5. The batter cannot be called out for interference as long as he remains in the batter's box.
- \_\_\_ 6. Batter is out if he bats the ball with his foot touching home plate.
- \_\_\_ 7. Pitcher must break contact with the pitching rubber before throwing to pick-off a runner.
- \_\_\_ 8. When a fielder's throw goes out-of-play, base runners get the base they were going to, plus one.
- \_\_\_ 9. A catch is adjudged by the fielder holding the ball long enough to show that possession and control has been established.
- \_\_\_ 10. A base runner touched by a batted fair ball (not deflected) is automatically out.

If you would like the answers with explanations and rule references, look at the Fact or Fiction page at our web site [www.cmumpires.org](http://www.cmumpires.org). If you just can't wait, the answers in embedded in the following:

XAXLXLX XBUXTX XNXUXMBXEXRX XTXWXX XAXRXEX XFXAXLXSXEX. (Hint: very other letter.)