

PASSAGE II

A Day at the Ballpark

This past January, my Dad took me to a football game, and it was, by far, the most interesting “game” we have ever seen. We believed that we were adequately prepared for what we would see on gameday, but there was one factor we never **12** considered the ice.

Arriving a full hour before kick-off, we saw that the stadium was already filled **13** to capacity. Interestingly, we also saw that the field was completely frozen over. It had not snowed or iced the night before, but pipes in the underground sprinkler system had burst in the cold weather and water covered the field, freezing over as it did and more or less turning the football field into an ice skating rink. In addition to the field being covered in ice, a few of the stadium steps were also **14** covered; the ice made it very dangerous to walk to our seats (no clue why they were icy).

Once we safely reached our seats, the real show began. We watched as the field maintenance crews used power brushes, shovels, and brooms in an attempt to clear the field; **15** as a result, nothing seemed to work. A few of the players took the field for their

**12**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) considered: the ice.
- C) considered. The ice.
- D) considered; the ice.

**13**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) completely
- C) fully
- D) DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

**14**

- Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) covered, and the ice that was covering the steps
  - C) covered, and, in effect, this ice
  - D) covered, which, because the steps were covered, the ice

**15**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) in other words,
- C) regardless,
- D) as such,

pregame warm-up. The **16** guy whose job it was to kick the ball attempted to warm-up on the field, but he couldn't seem to find the proper footing.

Eventually, the players on the team **17** was ready to take the field as well. As they came out of the tunnel, they looked more like amateurs trying to ice skate than talented athletes.

Meanwhile, the groundskeepers made zero progress on the inches of thick ice. The game clearly wasn't taking place, but the official on the sidelines was not ready to cancel the game. The head referee was ready to let the game begin, but not all agreed with him. The two line **18** judges - referees responsible for everything that happens near the sidelines, protested that they would be unable to do their jobs without a clear view of the sideline. Unable to reach a consensus, no decision was made.

As the delay grew longer, the **19** fans' anger began to show. One angry fan began throwing drinks, food, and anything else he could find on the field. **20** This did not make the jobs of the field maintenance crew any easier.

- 16**
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) player deemed responsible for all of the team's kicking duties
  - C) kicker
  - D) one who was attempting to strike the ball with his foot

- 17**
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) is
  - C) are
  - D) were

- 18**
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) judges, referees
  - C) judges are referees
  - D) judges; referees

- 19**
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) fan's
  - C) fans's
  - D) crowds'

**20** At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

The throwing of any objects on a field either before, during, or after the course of play is strictly prohibited.

- Should the writer add this sentence here?
- A) Yes, because it is relevant to the essay's focus.
  - B) Yes, because this information adds needed context to the fan's actions.
  - C) No, because it blurs the focus of this paragraph.
  - D) No, because this information is previously mentioned in the essay.

After two hours of delay, the head referee officially called off the game. Obviously, the fans were not too pleased with the decision, but the teams decided to give the fans their money's worth and "play" the game anyway. They lined-up and attempted to scrimmage each other, sliding all over the field and seeming to have plenty of fun in the process. I have to admit, it was fun to watch. In the end, the home team seemed extremely proud of **21** its performance, even if the real game never happened. **22** In the future, my Dad and I plan to return to the stadium to see another game.

**21**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) his or her
- C) their
- D) there

**22**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) One day,
- C) Eventually,
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

