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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

September 11, 2008

TO: Baseball Head Coaches and Conference Umpire Coordinators.

FROM: Tim Corbin, chair
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee

Jim Paronto, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Approved Rules Changes.

The Baseball Rules Committee has received approval for the attached rules changes during its annual meeting in July. These rules changes were approved by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) on a recent conference call.

All changes were approved by PROP as submitted. Thank you for your attention to this information.

TC/JP:nkb

Enclosure

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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**NCAA BASEBALL RULES COMMITTEE
2009 RULE CHANGES**

Major Rules Changes

Rule 1-3-c-A.R. Add **“At the time of the pitch, a coach must position himself no closer to home plate than the front edge of the coach’s box and no closer to fair territory than the edge of the coach’s box nearest the field.”**

PENALTY: Warning on the first offense; a further violation shall result in the coach being ejected.

“Rule 1-3-c. It is required that base coaches wear some form of NOCSAE approved head gear. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met.”

***Rationale: To enhance the safety of base coaches, who often are assisting runners and may not be directing their attention to the batter at the time of the pitch. Additionally, base coaches that are outside of the coaching area are in jeopardy of interfering with a live play.*

Rule 3-6-f, A.R. 2: “If a coach leaves the dugout or their position to argue **a ball or strike call (including a checked swing)**, the coach may be ejected without warning.”

***Rationale: Clarifies that no one should be allowed to argue a ball or strike call which includes a check swing.*

Rule 3-6-a, A.R.1: “An umpire first may warn any violator **or team** before ejecting the individual(s) from the game.

PENALTY: Ejection after either warning.”

***Rationale: Clarification that a warning can be issued individually or for the entire team.*

Rule 3-6-k: “Jurisdiction on personal confrontations and conduct towards the officiating staff does not end until the umpires have left the parking lot.”

***Rationale: Clarifies when an official’s jurisdiction ends with regard to the officiating crew.*

Rule 5-16-b. Any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, bumping, kicking, spewing, spitting....

***Rationale: that any type of spitting or spewing that is directed at an official will be cause for an additional suspension.*

Rule 9-4a and 6-5-f: Each team shall be allowed three (3) offensive and (3) defensive conferences per game. If the game goes into extra innings, the team will receive one (1) extra free conference plus any unused ones from the first nine innings.

***Rationale: An attempt to improve pace of play.*

Rule 1-12-b-PENALTY for a. and b: "...cause an unusual reaction on the baseball shall be removed from the game. If detected after the first pitch the batter shall be declared..."

***Rationale: Clarifies when a batter should be called out for using an illegal bat.*

Rule 2, Ejection; 3-6-d; and Appendix D:

"3-6-d: A.R. 1, Sight and sound shall mean that the ejected person(s) cannot view the contest, cannot communicate with their team nor be where the umpires may hear them. It may still be possible for the ejected person(s) to be able to hear the sounds of the game; however, they must have left the confines of the playing field and the grandstands.

A.R. 2, The ejected individual is not allowed to return to the dugout, field or grandstands until the umpiring crew has been escorted to their dressing area by security or game management.

PENALTY: A minimum of a one game suspension, in addition to the post-game or post-participation ejection, will apply to any individual in violation of this rule."

***Rationale: Assists game management and the umpires in identifying what the Committee defines as "sound" as well as defines where an ejected individual must go and sets penalties for violations of 3-6-d.*

Also, change wording in A.R 3 and A.R. 4.

Rule 5-2-f, A.R. 3: T.V's shall be turned off in the Clubhouse during a game.

Revise the penalty for "F" to read: ...shall be removed from the stands **or shall receive a post participation ejection.**

***Rationale: Brings the regular-season code in line with all post-season play regulations.*

Rule 7-7-e, p. 81: "Hits the batter in the batter's box or hits the dirt or home plate and then hits the batter or the bat, **which is in the hand or hands of the batter**, while the batter is still in the batter's box; or . . ."

***Rationale: Clarifies that when the batter is still holding the bat, a ball should be ruled foul that rebounds from the ground and hits the batter while the batter is still in the batter's box.*

Rule 8-6-b (1) (b): "... return the ball to the base **and the fielder may tag the runner or the base.**"

***Rationale: Eliminates the ambiguity between 8-6-a and 8-6-b, both rule sections now allow the defensive player the same type of defensive response when playing on a runner.*

Rule 9-4-b, A.R. 1: "If after ...the coach goes to the plate umpire to announce a pitching change, the second trip is charged (**when the change is recorded on the official line-up card**). If moved to a defensive position, the removed pitcher shall not return to pitch."

***Rationale: Clarifies when the second trip is officially charged.*

Rule 9-4-d: A trip to the mound, that may include a conference with the infielders ... **begins when the coach crosses the foul line** and shall be concluded when the ... "

***Rationale: Clarifies when a defensive conference begins.*

Appendix B:

Section A-1-a: Delete "replays showing balls or strikes"; add: **Allow in-stadium replays of swinging third strikes, if shown immediately and prior to the next batter of either team.**

***Rationale: Clarifies the time frame that swinging third strikes may be shown on the video board.*

Section A-3: Add to the existing sentence, “Any instance in which an umpire has made a judgment call may be replayed only one time at regular speed **and must be replayed prior to the next batter (for either team) entering the dirt area around home plate.**”

***Rationale: Defines when a judgment call may be replayed and sets a definite time frame for the replay.*

Rule 3-6-e: “... decision and seek its reversal.” Coaches are not entitled to a second opinion simply because they dispute a call. [See Appendix E, (c) 1-7]

A.R.: After a request for an umpire conference has been granted, coaches are not allowed to continue to argue a call once the final decision has been made. If a call is reversed, coaches are entitled to an explanation.

PENALTY: Ejection.

***Rationale: Clarification for Appendix E.*

Appendix E: Add to F), Line 5: Add: “Also some calls cannot be reversed without creating larger problems. Examples include a “catch/no catch” with multiple runners **or a ball that is ruled foul.**”

***Rationale: The addition defines that a ball that is ruled foul cannot be changed.*

EDITORIAL CHANGES

Number the sections in **Rule 2-Definitions** as all other rules are numbered.

***Rationale: Provides for consistency throughout entire rulebook, makes it easier to reference back to Rule 2 by number.*

Note: There are 80 definitions and would begin with 2.01 and run consecutively through 2.80.

Rule 2—Ejection, A.R. 2: If a situation occurs after the last out of a contest or after a player is no longer eligible to participate and such conduct would result in an ejection during the normal course of play, the umpire(s) shall issue a **post-participation** ejection. This ejection shall be served in the team's next regularly scheduled contest ...”

***Rationale: Editorial*

Rule 5-2-c, PENALTY: Add to read, PENALTY for “**c**” and d.—

Rule 5-2-d—Last sentence of that paragraph, “Team personnelshall not enter the dirt “**area**” [delete “circle” and replace with “area” since on some fields the area around the plate is not in the shape of a circle].

Rule 5-16 a & b, PENALTY: “If a player, coach or team representative is ejected from a contest because of physically abusing an “**umpire**” [delete, “official” in the old wording].