

**NCAA Baseball Rules Committee
2006 RULES CHANGES**

Rule 1, The Game, Playing Field and Equipment

--Rule 1-12-b

Added wording: "...that at any time a batter has hit with a bat that has a flat side, and this bat is detected by the umpire, the batter is out and no runners may advance as a result of the batter hitting with this illegal bat."

Also, add a penalty to clarify how umpires will handle this situation:

"PENALTY – If detected prior to the first pitch of an at-bat, an altered or flattened bat shall be removed from the game. The batter will be required to use a bat that conforms to the rule. If detected after an at-bat starts, the batter is out and no runners may advance."

Rationale: To clearly define what happens to a batter after using a bat that is considered to be out of specification. Previously, this was not addressed.

--Rule 1-13-c, A.R.

Add New A.R. 2, "The pitcher's glove may not be white or gray in color."

Rationale: Previously, any glove that was not one uniform color was technically against this rule. Many teams and manufacturers make gloves that are two colors (e.g., light brown and dark brown), but these gloves were not considered by the committee to be distracting to the batter, which is the intent of this rule.

Rule 2, Definitions

--Ejection

Add A.R. 2:

"If a situation occurs after the last out of a contest and such conduct would result in an ejection during the normal course of play, the umpire(s) shall issue a post-game ejection. This ejection shall be served in the team's next contest. If the ejected person is an assistant coach, player or other team personnel, the umpire shall inform the head coach of the ejection, either personally or through the home team game management administrator on site. If the head coach is ejected, the umpire shall inform the coach and/or the game management administrator on site of the head coach's ejection. The umpire must contact the supervisor or assigner immediately after the contest to report any post game ejection. Conferences may impose further penalties if necessary. (See Appendix D for full procedures.)"

Also, add notation to see the new appendix relating to ejections.

Rationale: After several interpretations this season concerning post-game ejections, the committee felt it was important to clarify this. The committee feels a person ejected after a game is officially final should be penalized for the next contest.

Infield Fly

Second to last sentence, revise to read, “In the case of a declared or undeclared infield fly, the ball is alive and runners may advance at their own risk.”

Rationale: Clarifies that when an infield fly is in effect, runners may advance, but must do so at their own risk.

Rule 3, Game Personnel and Their Duties

--Rule 3-6-d

Revised penalty to add: “If game management cannot restore order and the game resumed in a reasonable amount of time, the game will be suspended until order is restored.”

Also, remove the phrase: “The umpire-in-chief shall forfeit the game.”

Rationale: The committee feels that forfeits do not help the game. In this situation, and in a very small number of cases, when an ejected person would not leave the field and/or game area, umpires forfeited the contest before attempting to have game management and/or security assist.

--Rule 3-11

Added to this rule: “The use of tobacco is prohibited during practice sessions, game competition or at the site of competition. The umpire’s jurisdiction begins with regard to this rule upon their arrival on the field or dugout in uniform.”

Rationale: The committee added this wording in response to several conference coordinators, who asked for direction in this area.

--Rule 3-11

Change Penalty to read: “Disqualification of the offending individual and head coach from the contest.”

Rationale: This rule was approved in 2005, but did not go into effect until this season.

Rule 5, The Game—Its Beginning and Ending

--Rule 5-2-f

Added sentence: “Any scouting information shall not be transmitted to the playing field or to team personnel.”

Rationale: Clarifies that transferring such information to the field is not allowed.

Rule 5-8-b-(4)

Reworded this section to read: “By conference rule, or mutual consent of both coaches prior to the beginning of the contest, a game may be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs.”

Rationale: This will make this section consistent with the definition in Rule 2.

Rule 5-8-c

Delete “etc.” from the sentence.

Rationale: Including this left the rule open-ended.

Rule 5-8-e

Delete the wording: “The game is over when the umpire declares ‘Game’.”

Rationale: This is an unnecessary step for umpires.

Rule 5-13-b

Delete the words “20 seconds” from the protest procedures.

Rationale: Unneeded wording.

--Rule 5-16-b-(f)

The committee clarified this section to include the process for filing ejection and suspension reports with appropriate authorities.

The wording will read: “The **ejecting** umpire shall file **ejection and/or** suspension reports with the appropriate conference administrator of the **ejected**/suspended player, coach or team personnel, the NCAA national coordinator of umpires and the secretary-editor of the rules committee immediately after the game.”

Also, the committee instructed the secretary-editor and national coordinator of umpires to work with conference offices to find a consistent format to follow and include this as an appendix and in the CCA Umpires Mechanics Manual.

Rationale: There is often confusion when an ejection or suspension is assessed about what the next steps should be for an umpire and an administrator.

Rule 6, *Ball in Play, Out of Play*

Rule 6-2-b and several others

Changed rule reference from 1-11-b-(6) to 1-12-b-(6) to reference the correct rule.

Rationale: Rule reference was incorrect.

--Rule 6-2-d (1)

Delete “interference” and add the words “follow-through hits the catcher...”

New wording: “If the follow through hits the catcher and occurs in a situation where the batter normally would become a runner because of a third strike not held by the catcher, the ball shall be dead and the batter declared out. No runner shall advance on this type of play.”

Rationale: Clarifies this specific situation in response to several interpretations during the season.

--Rule 6-2-d (2)

Delete the entire paragraph and replace with:

“If the catcher is in the act of making a throw to retire a runner and the batter is in the batter’s box and his normal follow through unintentionally strikes the catcher or the ball while the catcher is in the act of throwing, “Time” is called and runners return (unless the catcher’s initial throw retires the runner).”

Rationale: This will allow the umpire some middle ground in a situation where the batter is not intentionally interfering (e.g., a throw to third base), but does so. The offensive team should not be unduly penalized, so the committee felt that returning the runners to the previous base was a good compromise.

--Rule 6-5-h

Delete the words, “hand is lowered signifying “Play.”

Add the words: “...umpire declares, “Play,” or uses some other appropriate signal such as a point toward the pitcher to indicate, “Play,” and that the ball is live. When a batter is getting set, the umpire shall keep one hand up to the pitcher is indicating the ball is dead.”

Rationale: Clarifies the mechanic that is used by most umpires, but makes it uniform for all.

Rule 7, Batting

Rule 7-1-b-(1) and (2)

Delete the word “the” and replace with the word “his” so the rule reads, “The batter shall not leave “his” position in

Rationale: Clarification.

--Add 7-2-c-A.R. 3

Add: “When the designated hitter and the pitcher both enter on defense at the same time, the coach must designate the positions in the batting order of the new pitcher and the previous pitcher.”

Rationale: (1) DH moves to defense: The pitcher must bat in the spot of the replaced defensive player, (7-2-c-1, A.R. 2)

(2) P moves to defense: The old pitcher must bat in the spot of the replaced defensive player. The new pitcher must bat in the spot of the DH. (7-2-c-1-c)

(3) P and DH move to defense at the same time:

The result:

- (a) The old pitcher has never batted,
- (b) The new pitcher has never batted, and
- (c) The DH slot is still occupied.

If both the pitcher and the DH move to defense at the same time, it must be a multiple swap. Only two defensive players entered, and one was the “old pitcher”, and it’s still a multiple swap, in spite of 7-2-c-A.R. 1.

Rule 7-4-e

Revised to read: “A legal pitch that touches the batter when the batter swings and misses; the ball is dead and no runners may advance.”

Rationale: This change will bring this rule in line with 8-2-d (1).

Rule 8, Base Running

--Rule 8-3-o-(4)

Revise to read, “If during an attempt to field a wild pitch, passed ball, or **wild throw on a pickoff attempt**, the catcher or any other fielder deflects the ball into a dead-ball territory, the runner(s) shall be awarded two bases from the base(s) occupied at the time of the pitch.”

Rationale: This was an interpretation given in the past, but clarifies that a pickoff throw that goes out of play has the same penalty as a thrown ball from a fielder.

Rule 8-6-b

Revise to read, “The appeals made under this section...before the pitcher and all **fielders** have left fair territory...”

Rationale: The committee deleted “infielders” and replaced it with “fielders” to allow any fielder to make an appeal.

Rule 8-7-b

Delete the sentence, “The runner is safe and an immediate dead ball shall be called.”

Replace with: “The umpire shall point and call, “That’s obstruction.” The umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in Rule 2. The obstructed runner is awarded at least one base beyond the base last touched legally before the obstruction.”

Rationale: This brings Rule 8-7-b in line with Rule 8-3-e (2), which was changed last year.

Rule 9, Pitching

--Rule 9-1-a

Changed the wind-up rule to read: “The pitcher shall stand facing the batter, with the entire pivot foot on or in front of and touching, but not off the end of the pitcher’s rubber. **The pitcher may have one foot, not the pivot foot, off the rubber and any distance he may desire back of a line which is an extension to the back edge of the pitcher’s plate, but not at either side or in front of the pitcher’s plate.**”

Rationale: The committee is trying to avoid some pitchers deceiving a runner (usually on third base) but simulating the position of the wind-up, but truly starting in the stretch position. The committee also has instructed the secretary-editor and national coordinator of umpires to collect good video examples for umpires to review in this area. This rule comes directly from the Major League Baseball Umpire Manual.

--Rule 9-3-m (2)

Altered to read: “If a balk is immediately followed by a wild throw by the pitcher to a base that permits a runner(s) to advance to or beyond the base to which that runner is entitled, the balk shall be **acknowledged. The umpire will call the balk in the usual manner, but shall not call “Time” until all play has ceased (runners have stopped trying to advance and/or a fielder is in possession of the ball in the infield).**”

Also, the following approved rulings were added:

A.R. 1 – When a balk occurs, the pitch is nullified and the batter will resume the at-bat with the count that existed unless:

- (a) The wild pitch was ball four on which all runners (including the batter-runner) advanced one base.
- (b) The wild pitch was strike three on which the batter and all other runners advanced one base.

In both situations (a) and (b) above, play proceeds **without reference to the balk**, because all runners (including the batter-runner) advanced one base on the pitch following the balk.

A.R. 2 – If the balk is followed by a wild pitch that allows a runner to attempt to go beyond the base that he would have been awarded because of the balk, the runner advances at his own risk; he is either safe or out as a result of the play. The balk is still “acknowledged” as it relates to the batter and he will resume the at-bat with the count that existed when the balk occurred.

Rationale: This revision provides clarity for all umpires when administering the balk provision.

--Rule 9-3-m (3)

Delete the words “**and the pitch is nullified. The batter will resume the at-bat with the same pitch count as before the balk was committed.**”

Rationale: This addition will clarify several questions that were asked during the season.

Other items

--Regulation Games/Doubleheaders. Many early-season tournaments in the past have used the provision to play two seven-inning games; however, in many cases, the games were not between the same two teams – a violation of the rule. The committee clarified the language in the rules book and will add several typical examples and interpretations collected over the past year. The committee has made contact with as many tournament directors as possible and has drafted a letter to all conferences and institutions detailing these rules (attached).

--Travel policy. The committee also approved a provision that allows all conferences to establish a travel policy, when commercial air travel is required. Provided the contest meets the established criteria of a regulation game, the committee feels that returning to campus and reducing missed class time is a valid reason for ending a contest.

Umpire warnings. The committee encouraged the national coordinator of umpires to make a consistent policy for warnings so all umpires are handling this in the same manner. For example, a warning on questioning an umpire’s strike zone will be indicated verbally and by writing on the lineup card, making it clear to both teams what has happened.

Appendix Sections

The following appendix will be included in this year’s rules book:

Procedure to follow after an ejection:

1. The ejecting umpire shall call his conference administrator immediately after the game to report any ejection.
2. The ejecting umpire shall file an NCAA or conference ejection report with his conference coordinator and the NCAA secretary-rules editor as soon as possible after the completion of the contest.

Procedure when an ejection carries a suspension:

1. The ejecting umpire will notify his conference supervisor immediately after the game and will file the applicable suspension report with his supervisor and the secretary-rules editor as soon as possible after the completion of the contest.

2. The ejecting umpire/crew chief shall notify the head coach of the suspension either personally or through the home team game management administrator on site.

Procedure for a post-game ejection:

1. If a situation occurs after the last out to end a game and this conduct would result in an ejection during the normal course of play, the umpire/crew chief will issue a post-game ejection.

2. If the ejected person is an assistant coach, player or other team personnel, the umpire/crew chief is to inform the head coach personally or through the home team game management administrator on site.

3. If the head coach is ejected, the umpire/crew chief is to inform the head coach and the home team game management administrator of the head coach's post game ejection.

4. The ejecting umpire shall file an ejection report with the conference administrator and coordinator noting that the ejection shall be served in that team's next scheduled contest.

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Points of Emphasis

Umpire warnings and procedures

Strike Zone

Tobacco

Sportsmanship

Regulation Games