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MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2012

TO: Baseball Head Coaches, Conference Umpire Coordinators, Conference Administrators and Conference Commissioners.

FROM: Dick Cooke, chair
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee

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

SUBJECT: 2013 NCAA Baseball Rules Changes.

The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel has recently approved the rules proposals submitted by the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee. These changes will take effect in the 2013 season.

The listing of major changes is included in this document. Several minor clarifications or editorial changes have also been made and will be included in the 2013-14 Baseball Rules Book when it is produced in the near future.

Please direct any rules questions to Jim Paronto, secretary-rules editor, at paronto25@aol.com and any umpiring questions to Gene McArtor, national coordinator of umpires, at McArtorE@missouri.edu.

DC/JP:bw

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2013-2014 Baseball Rules Changes (Major Changes)

The following changes were approved by the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. These changes take effect with the 2013 season and will also be used in the 2014 season under the NCAA's two-year rules process.

Subject	Rule	Page	Proposal, Rationale
Portable Mounds	1-9d	19-20	<p>Portable pitcher's mounds are legal. Both teams must agree on their use before the visitors arrive at the game site.</p> <p>Rationale: Legalizes the use of portable mounds in multi-use facilities where construction and reconstruction of a dirt mound is not feasible between baseball and other events that a dirt mound might impact. Also allows for portable mounds to be used where weather becomes a factor in preparing a dirt mound for competition. Particularly on fields that are all synthetic turf except for the pitcher's mound.</p>
Definition of a substitute	2-73 (New)	39	<p>Substitute: A substitute is an eligible roster player who is not one of the nine or ten eligible players in the game and has not been withdrawn or disqualified.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarifies a substitute as it applies to other rules in the present rules book.</p>
Strengthening of penalties after an ejection	3-6d PENALTY (A.R. 2 and A.R. 3)	44	<p>Revise to read: "A three-game suspension, in addition to the ejection or post-game ejection will apply to any individual in violation of this rule.</p> <p>Rationale: Strengthens the penalty for any individual who fails to adhere to the "sight and sound" provision in the current rule. Will diminish the number of ejected individuals who delay a contest by refusing to leave the field or who chose to come back to the playing venue after an ejection.</p>
Defines who is responsible for reporting substitutions	5-5g	57	<p>After having been notified by the Head Coach or another coach in uniform of the team making the substitution, the umpire shall record any substitutions on the lineup card and then announce immediately or cause to be announced, any substitutions.</p> <p>Rationale: Better defines who is responsible for insuring that substitutions properly given to the plate umpire and the process he is to follow.</p>
Travel policy on "get-away day"	5-8 (g)	61	<p>Delete the present rule and replace with the following: "Conferences are allowed to establish their own travel guidelines/restrictions for the get-away or travel day of a series regardless of the mode of transportation. In the case of nonconference games, institutions must agree before the game and preferably in the game contract to avoid confusion."</p>

			Rationale: Allows conferences, whose teams are not traveling by commercial air travel, to establish their own policy for ending a game on the last day of a series.
Strengthening of the Unsportsman-like Conduct Rule .	5-15 Add (4) and revise the PENALTY	66	(4) No member of a team’s personnel may argue or continue to excessively express themselves with prolonged actions or offensive language after an ejection. PENALTY: An additional two-game suspension (See 2-25, A.R. 7) Rationale: Strengthens the Unsportsmanlike-Conduct Rule. Establishes a penalty for participants who continue to argue and/or use gestures or language that further discredits the game of baseball or intercollegiate athletics.
Increasing Penalty for Abusing Game Officials or for Fighting	5-16 PENALTY for a. and b. and PENALTY (1); (2); (3); (4) on p. 69	67 & 69	(1) The first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team’s next four contests. Rationale: Makes this penalty consistent for any team member with that of a pitcher who is ejected from a contest or receives a post-participation ejection. Change penalties to four games on page 69, under c. PENALTY (1); (2); (3); (4)
Argument After A Warning	9-2g	109- 110	(4)—Team personnel may not come onto the playing field to argue or dispute a warning of their pitcher intentionally throwing at a hitter. After a warning, they are subject to an immediate ejection. Rationale: Umpires are directed to act without hesitation in the enforcement of this rule. To throw at a batter’s head is unsafe, highly dangerous and is unsportsmanlike. It is condemned at all levels of baseball.
Replacing the Game Pitcher	9-4f (New Rule)	116	When the game pitcher crosses the foul line on the way to the mound to start an inning, he shall pitch to the first batter until such batter is put out or reaches base, unless a pinch hitter is substituted or the batter or the pitcher sustains an injury or illness, which incapacitates him from continuing. Rationale: Prevents manipulation of the present rule. Equalizes the competition between the offense and the defense. The offense is put at a disadvantage with our present rule when a team is allowed to substitute after the present game pitcher has completed his warm up throws and then is substituted for. A pace-of-play issue as well.
Changing Foul Call to Fair	Appendix E	139	Section C: 8) Changing a call of “foul” to “fair.” Add to Section C, 8): A.R. Umpires may conference, after a batted ball that has passed

		<p>the first or third baseman on the fly, first touches the ground behind a base and has been ruled foul. After consultation with the entire umpire crew, the Crew Chief will place the base runners where the crew believes they would have advanced had the ball been first ruled fair. The Crew Chief and crew should be conservative on their placement of base runners.</p> <p>Section E, A.R. 2: Once umpires have determined a need to conference to review a play, they shall direct the head coach to return to the dugout or coaching box before the crew will begin their discussion.</p> <p>DELETE FROM Section F) “or a ball that is ruled foul.” (part of last sentence in F— Editorial)</p>
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