

## 2009 NAIA PLAYING RULE MODIFICATIONS

Official baseball rules (professional) with NAIA-BCA modifications shall be applied for all contests when both institutions are members of the NAIA. Modifications are made each January in conjunction with the ABCA meetings.

The Official Professional Baseball Rulebook can be downloaded from the following MLB website:

[http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official\\_info/index.jsp](http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/index.jsp)

**NEW for 2009 season - Base coaches ARE required to wear helmets while coaching. Prior to the start of the game, the umpire may check equipment.**

### **RULE:**

#### **1.10**

The bat may be either wood or non-wood. The wood bat is described in the Official Baseball Rules, Sec 1:10 (a), (b), (c), and (d).

The non-wood bat shall have:

- (a) a maximum diameter of 2 5/8 inches and be round with a constant radius
- (b) maximum length of 36 inches
- (c) a weight of not more than minus 3 ounces weight to length ratio (e.g., 34 inches, 31 ounces)
- (d) an exit speed of no greater than 97 miles per hour
- (e) must be marked accordingly with BESR stickers/stamps.

The non-wood bat that can be used during region tournaments and the World Series only shall have:

- (a) a maximum diameter of 2 5/8 inches and be round with a constant radius
- (b) maximum length of 36 inches
- (c) a weight of not more than minus three ounces weight to length ratio

The penalty for (a), (b) or (c) would be any bat in the umpire's judgment which does not conform to the above standards or has been altered in such a way to improve the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the baseball shall be removed from the game. If the infraction occurs after the batter has completed his turn at bat, he shall be declared "out", and base runners shall not advance.

- (d) a knob and end plug firmly attached
- (e) no foreign substance more than 18 inches from the end of the handle

Penalty for (d) and (e) - The bat shall be removed from the game and the player warned. Another infraction and the player will be removed from the game.

#### **3.03**

Any of the starting players, with the exception of the pitcher and the designated hitter, may withdraw from the game and re-enter **once**, provided such players occupy the same batting position whenever they re-enter the lineup. Starting pitchers and designated hitters who change positions later in the same game are NOT eligible to re-enter; because their original starting position was either pitcher or designated hitter.

A defensive substitution cannot be made unless the team wanting to make the substitution is playing defense at the time.

#### **3.04 A.**

Teams have the option to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher/designated hitter or catcher at any time. For speed-up purposes, it is **recommended** that the courtesy runner be used with two men out in all games.

The courtesy runner, although never officially in the game, will be credited with the following:

- A. Run scored
- B. Stolen base
- C. Caught stealing

The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch hitter for the catcher ~~or pitcher~~ unless the catcher ~~or pitcher~~ has been re-entered. **However, it is permissible to re-enter a catcher for his pinch-hitter and subsequently use the courtesy runner. (2004 modification)**

A team **may not** use the same runner for the pitcher/designated hitter and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter. A player removed from the game **may not** be used as a courtesy runner.

Should the courtesy runner pinch hit, pinch run or enter the game at any position, he will no longer be eligible to be a courtesy runner.

#### **3.04 B.**

If a player incurs an injury which results in an open bleeding wound and/or saturation of any portion of the uniform with blood, play should be stopped and the player given appropriate medical treatment. This should be done at the direction and discretion of the umpiring crew. If the player can be treated without undue delay, play should be stopped until the player has received proper treatment. A player may not return until the umpiring crew and coaching staffs are satisfied that no danger remains to other players from the transfer of blood-related disease due to contact with the injured player.

If more extensive treatment or time is required, the following rules shall apply:

A **designated courtesy player** will be allowed to enter the game for the injured player and remain in the game until the injured player has re-entered or such time as:

- 1) the injured player's position in the batting rotation is due, **or**
- 2) the injured pitcher must be ready to assume his position on the mound by the next inning.

At that time, the **designated courtesy player** must be:

- a) entered into the game as an official substitute for the injured player, **or**
  - b) removed from the game for another player who then becomes the official substitute for the injured player,
- or**
- c) removed from the game with the originally injured player reinserted into the contest with no penalty to either player.

The **designated courtesy player**, although never officially in the game, will be credited with all offensive and defensive statistics he produces.

A player removed from the game may not be used as a designated courtesy player.

#### **4.10**

Teams may adopt a rule providing that one or both games shall be seven (7) innings in length. In such games, any of these rules applying to the ninth inning shall apply to the seventh inning. The 9-inning rule may be waived and shortened to 7 innings prior to the game if both coaches agree to the waiver. If both coaches do not agree, the 9-inning rule will be in effect. This applies to regular season games only. *(This new modification was added at the 2006 NAIA-BCA business meeting in January and passed by the CAA prior to the beginning of the '06 season because the Rules Committee felt that 1.) the original rule implied doubleheaders and did not address single games; and 2.) the original rule did not address "three-ways" or early-season tournaments that could not be considered doubleheaders.)*

The 10-Run Rule shall be in effect at the end of five innings or any inning thereafter in a seven-inning game. It shall also be in effect at the end of seven innings or any inning thereafter in a nine-inning game.

The 10-Run Rule may be waived, if prior to the game, both coaches agree to a waiver. If both coaches do not agree to the waiver, the 10-Run Rule will be in effect. This applies to regular-season games only.

#### **6.08**

On an intentional walk, the batter is waved to first base (no pitches to be thrown).

A batter must be on deck when his turn at bat comes around.

## **6.10**

The Designated Hitter Rule is in effect as follows:

A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game. A designated hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game and must be included in the line-up card presented to the umpire-in-chief.

It is permissible for the pitcher to remain as the designated hitter after he is removed as a pitcher **PROVIDED** he was listed as the designated hitter prior to the start of the game.

The starting pitcher may be designated prior to the start of the game as the designated hitter.

It is not mandatory that a team designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game, precludes the use of a designated hitter for that game.

Pinch hitters for a designated hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a designated hitter becomes the designated hitter. A replaced designated hitter shall not re-enter the game in any capacity.

The designated hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made, and the coach then must designate their spots in the batting order.

A runner may be substituted for the designated hitter and the runner assumes the role of designated hitter. A designated hitter may not pinch run.

A designated hitter is "locked" into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the designated hitter.

Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to another defensive position, this move shall terminate the designated hitter's role for the remainder of the game.

Once the game pitcher bats for the designated hitter, this move shall terminate the designated hitter's role for the remainder of the game.

## **7.09 A.**

A runner must slide or move in a direction away from the play in a force play situation at all bases, including home plate. **It is permissible to slide beyond the base, if no contact is made.**

If the fielder, in his attempt, is moving **DIRECTLY** down the line between the two bases and proper contact is made, interference shall not be called.

Contact is allowable if the runner is on the ground at the time. The runner may not use a rolling, cross-body block or pop-up slide, or slash or kick the fielder with either leg; the raised leg must be no higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position. "On the ground" can be either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.

**NOTE: A base runner need not slide directly into a base as long as he slides in direction AWAY from the infielder attempting to make a play.**

On force plays, coaches are urged to teach their players to avoid contact and slide directly into the base as if they were being forced out as the third out of an inning.

On a force play, with a two-man umpiring system, if the plate umpire does not have a potential play at the plate, he should move toward the base to observe the runner going into second or third base. In this situation, the base umpire must follow the throw and may not see the true effect of the lead runner's action. **(The plate umpire should call interference if he sees that the runner's action causes the fielder to change his pattern of play, which prevents a throw or an attempt to complete a double play.)**

If the runner's action (sliding, running) is flagrant, he shall be ejected from the game.

If the batter-runner intentionally interferes with his batted ball or the fielder fielding it, with a double play obvious, the umpire shall rule the batter-runner out and also the runner closest to home plate, regardless of where the double play may have taken place.

**7.09 B.**

When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball or is in the act of fielding a thrown ball, the umpire shall judge:

1. whether the collision by the runner was avoidable or unavoidable; and
2. whether the runner was attempting to reach the plate (base) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

If, in the umpire's judgment:

- a.) the runner could have avoided the collision or was attempting to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball shall be declared dead and runners will return to the last base that was legally touched before the collision.
- b.) the collision by the runner was flagrant, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the game.
- c.) the collision was unavoidable, or if the runner executes a proper slide as described in Rule 7.09 (a), it will be considered a legal play.

**Coaches' note:**

Teach runners to execute proper slides and avoid unnecessary collisions. Also, teach infielders to allow the advancing runner a portion of the plate (base) and discourage blocking the plate (base).

**8.02**

A pitcher is permitted to go to his mouth on the dirt portion of the mound as long as he is not on the rubber and that he wipes off before going to the rubber.

**9.06 A.**

Initial participants involved in a fight will be ejected from that contest and will be suspended for his team's next contest. Umpires will report names to the appropriate conference/region chairs.

**9.06 B.**

Players leaving their position or bench area to participate in an altercation shall be ejected from that game and serve a one game suspension. Umpires will report names to the appropriate conference/region chairs.

**10.19**

The Must Pitch Five Complete Innings Rule, in respect to the starting pitcher, shall be in effect for all games of eight or more innings. In a seven-inning game or less, credit the starting pitcher with a game won only if he has pitched at least four complete innings and his team not only is in the lead when he is replaced, but remains in the lead the remainder of the game.