



NCAA Baseball Interpretations January 31, 2018

Rule 9-2-c-Note, Appendix F Argument following a 20-second pitch clock violation

Rule 9-2-c-Note specifically states there is to be no arguing a 20-second violation called on the pitcher or batter. The head coach is responsible for the behavior of himself and his team, so he should have a chance to eliminate this behavior. If, after a warning to the team, there is another violation, the head coach is ejected. Per Appendix F, other team personnel are subject to ejection as well if the arguing continues or if their language is unsportsmanlike.

Rule 9-1-a and b Consistency of Pitching Positions

Proper pitching position as indicated in the rule book should be enforced consistently regardless if there are runners on base or not. The rules only allow 2 pitching positions, the windup and the set, even though there are some variations about things such as the starting positions of the hands when taking a sign in the windup, etc. The only real difference allowed with no runners on base is if the pitcher chooses to use the set position, he doesn't have to come to a complete stop (9-1-b-2 Note).

The biggest complaint received prior to last year was that a runner (especially on 3rd base) had difficulty with some pitchers distinguishing what position he was using, which makes a huge difference in how to lead off and running strategy. However, batters were also experiencing confusion at times because the type of position dictates the motions and type of steps that can be taken by the pitcher. In the interest of consistency, regardless of the number of runners, the pitcher must clearly use one position or the other for each pitch.

The first violation by each pitcher would be a warning if no runners are on base, but it would be a balk if there are runners. Subsequent violations with no runners would be adding a ball to the count if the batter doesn't reach first base on the pitch.

Rule 1-12-Penalty Bat testing protocol

If the bat testing protocol is being used for a game or for a conference series, the bats approved for use would have to have the proper approval sticker on it. Any other bats without the sticker would be illegal. If a player brings an illegal bat to the plate and it is discovered before the first pitch, the batter is out and the bat removed. If discovered after the first pitch, the batter is out, runners cannot advance because of a batted ball, and the bat is removed.

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Rule 7-11-f Exceptions 2 and 3, 8-3-e-Note Batter Interference, Obstruction on Pickoff Play

R2, no outs. Batter squares to bunt but takes the pitch. Batter interferes with catcher's throw down to 2B, the runner is tagged out but is obstructed by the SS blocking the base without possession of the ball.

Regular penalty for batter interference is "The batter is out and all runners return to their bases at the time of the pitch." The exception #2 states "the batter is not out if any runner attempting to advance is put out...". The runner on second base would not be out if the base umpire ruled that he was obstructed going back in to second base. Therefore, the batter is out and runners stay where they were at the time of the pitch UNLESS the batter also struck out on the pitch before interfering with the catcher. Then the runner would also be out for the batter's interference.

Rule 2-25 and 5-7 Scheduling of Doubleheaders

Per Rule 2-25 and 5-7, doubleheaders must be played in immediate succession by the same two teams in order to be scheduled for anything other than 9-inning games. See Example 1 and 2 on page 50 of rule 5-7.