

# NCAA Baseball Playing Rules Interpretations

May 2014

1. Rule 1-6, 1-7, 1-8—May the bases, home plate, pitching rubber be painted a color other than white to promote a particular awareness?

Interpretation: No, the rules are quite specific as to the color white.

It is suggested that the bases be painted the particular “awareness” color for batting practice and pregame infield practice. The mound and home plate should not be painted at all. Exchange the painted bases for white ones once the practices have been concluded and field prep has begun. Make any appropriate field markings as long as the color “white” is used sparingly or not at all. Keep field markings out of the line of sight between the hitter and the pitcher.

2. Rule 5-2f—Use of radar guns should be confined to areas outside the dugout and playing field. Operators may sit in the stands, cannot be in uniform, cannot communicate or relay information during the course of the game to anyone. They may keep information on their opponents but cannot communicate this information while the game is in progress.
3. Rule 5-9e—when a game is halted, it shall be the first game the following day. If a double header is scheduled for the following day, it shall be the first game of three games unless there is a television commitment. If there is such a commitment, it shall be the last game of the day. It cannot be scheduled as a seven inning game for another day. There should not be any “stand alone,” seven inning games.
4. 7-2b (3) and 7-2b (11)—10 player lineup—when the DH is ejected, the coach does not have to name his DH immediately but may wait until that spot comes up in the batting order.

Interpretation—since the coach did not name an immediate substitute, the pitcher now becomes the new P/DH. When that spot in the batting order comes up, the coach may substitute a new DH but the pitcher can no longer enter the lineup on defense, but may remain as the pitcher.

5. 7-10 —*an illegally batted ball is: A ball hit fair or foul, by the batter when either one or both of the batter’s feet are upon the ground entirely outside the lines of the batter’s box [or when touching home plate].* It should be understood that home plate has nothing to do with the batter being out of the batter’s box. When the entire foot is

2014 NCAA Baseball Playing Rules Interpretations, May, p. 2

touching the ground outside the box after hitting the ball, whether it is touching the plate or not, the batter is out. Keep in mind that the lines are a part of the batter's box. A batter's legal position in the batter's box is defined as having both feet within the lines of the box (lines are a part of the box) at the beginning of the pitch.

6. 7-11f, Exceptions (4), A.R. 1 and A.R. 2—If, while attempting to advance to first base on a missed or dropped third strike, the batter unintentionally deflects the ball, the ball is live and in play.

If, while attempting to advance to first base on a dropped third strike, the batter intentionally deflects the ball, the batter is out, the ball is dead and all base runners return to TOP. Remember, this is a dropped third strike and not a batted ball.

Situation 1: where the batter is coming out of the box and is just beginning to run towards first base, and he contacts the ball, that action would usually be considered unintentional. Situation 2: where the batter is clearly out of the box and the batter has had ample time to locate the ball and avoid it; if he contacts the ball, consider this intentional because he did not attempt to avoid it.

7. 8-2e, A.R.—*“Catcher's interference on a batter should be called only on the batter's actual swing to hit the pitch.”* (NCAA rule book language)

Situation: the catcher actually steps in front of the plate to catch the pitch in an attempt to make a tag on a runner trying to steal home.

Interpretation: *When the catcher moves in front of the plate to catch the pitch with the runner stealing home, it is catcher's interference. The batter is awarded first base on the interference and the runner scores on the balk because the catcher prevented the batter from being able to swing. The batter does not need to swing to hit the pitch.*

8. 9-2e, A.R. 1—the wearing of jewelry or bandage or any distracting item on the pitching hand should not be allowed. Any item on the nonpitching hand that, in the opinion of the umpire is distracting should also be removed.
9. 9-3c, (1), A.R.—the first baseman, who is playing behind the runner, must be making some movement toward first base or the runner, in an attempt to retire the runner or it is considered a balk if the pitcher throws to the first baseman.

10. 9-4d—can the defensive team hold multiple small group conferences in front of their dugout or near the first or third bases during a mound visit by another member of the coaching staff?

The mound conference ends when the coach leaves the dirt circle. Other members of the coaching staff shall not hold additional conferences with defensive team members during the same mound visit. If a defensive conference is needed, it should be done prior to the coach leaving the dirt circle or before the pitcher begins his warm-ups. If the defense wishes to hold a second conference in front of their dugout while the pitcher is warming up, this meeting will constitute a new charged conference.

11. Is green the only color an artificial turf playing surface can be?

Yes. Although there is no direct rule that covers a specific color, please consider the following comments. A color, other than green, might create some visual issues, especially with the baseball, and a perceived competitive advantage. A brownish color is acceptable in areas that represent the warning track or batter's boxes, around first, second and third bases and the areas around home plate that are normally dirt.

12. Appendix B, A. (4.—Can a video board show live action of a pitcher warming up from the centerfield camera or from a camera above the mound?

No, teams shall not permit any live action to be shown. Information gleaned from this video action might be used as scouting information.

13. Appendix E, c), 4)—Can a call of “catch” be changed to “no catch?”

Comment: A foul fly can be changed because it becomes a foul ball. A fair ball cannot be changed.

14. Does a team have to open its locker room, which is attached to an indoor facility, to the visiting team so that the visiting team's pitchers can come inside, where it is warmer, to begin warming up. Does the home team have to allow the visiting team's relief pitchers an opportunity to warm up indoors with the home team's relief pitchers?

**2014 NCAA Baseball Playing Rule Interpretations, May, p. 4**

**There is no guiding principal in our rules for this answer during the regular season. However, it is covered for post season competition. Therefore; in the spirit of fairness, the home team may make it available to the visitors.**

- 15. Situation: R1 and R3. The runner at first base takes a lead from a deep position behind first base. In some instances, as deep as the grass/dirt line between first and second base.**

**INTERPRETATION:**

**At this time, the play is legal because we do not have anything in our rules book that specifically addresses this type of action and indicates that it is not legal.**