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Thank you for your interest in and commitment to NCAA baseball. The purpose of this 2017 Game Officials Manual is to outline the guidelines, policies, and responsibilities for an umpire participating in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. This Game Officials Manual should be used as a complement to the 2017 and 2018 NCAA Baseball Rules and Interpretations Book and the 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Pre-Championship Manual.

Comments and suggested additions to this manual are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact either of the undersigned.

Randy L. Buhr  
NCAA Director, Championships and Alliances

George M. Drouches  
NCAA National Coordinator of Umpires
SECTION 1: CONTACT/RESPONSIBILITIES INFORMATION

1.1 PERSONNEL

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ditworth@hotmail.com
Conferences – Big Ten, Big 12, Horizon,
MAC, MVC, Southland, Summit, SWAC

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Regional Advisor – Southeast
540 Pearre Springs Way
Franklin, Tennessee 37064
(c) 615-714-0963
serby@d1tech.net
Conferences – American Athletic, ACC, Atlantic
Sun, Big South, C-USA, OVC, SEC, Sun Belt
1.2 POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

1. National Coordinator of Umpires

   a. Reports to the Chairs of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee and Baseball Rules Committee.

   b. Manages the program budget.

   c. Works with the conference liaisons to:

      (1) Coordinate annual NCAA clinics and the Baseball Umpire Program (BUP) annual meeting.

      (2) Develop a comprehensive evaluation system and educational materials (including videotapes and manuals).

      (3) Develop, maintain, and enforce the umpires’ code of conduct.

      (4) Monitors the conference’s umpire programs and their compliance with NCAA policies.

      (5) Submits an annual status report of the Baseball Umpire Program for review by the Division I Baseball Committee.

      (6) Coordinates assignments for Division I regional, super regional, and College World Series tournaments.

      (7) Attends selected regional and super regional tournaments to observe and evaluate umpires.

      (8) Attends the College World Series to coordinate the umpiring crew and assist in the game assignments and rotation.
d. Performs other duties as assigned by the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee and Baseball Rules Committee.

e. May not serve as a conference coordinator of umpires or as a conference liaison to the program.

f. May not serve as an officer in any national amateur baseball umpire association.

g. May not be assigned to umpire any Division I baseball game.

2. Director of Umpire Training

a. Assists the national coordinator in the operation of the Baseball Umpire Program.

b. Attends and assists in the planning, agendas, speakers, and educational materials for all preseason NCAA Regional Umpire Clinics.

c. Prepares, selects, and edits instructional videos, PowerPoint, materials, and graphics for regional clinics, in-season educational materials, website, and preseason coaches education.

d. Assists in the preparation of printed educational material and the CCA Manual.

e. Assists the national coordinator in providing interpretations and clarifications of umpire mechanics and procedures and develops new topics for rules or mechanics discussion and potential changes.

f. Communicates with umpires, mechanics subcommittee, and conference coordinators for subject matter for collection, discussion, and dissemination.

g. Attends NCAA Baseball Umpire Program annual meetings and Rules Committee meetings as required.

h. Other duties as assigned by the national coordinator, NCAA staff and/or Baseball Committee.

3. Regional Umpire Advisors

a. Assist the national coordinator in the operation of the Baseball Umpire Program.

b. Evaluate umpires for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

c. Assist in the recommendation of championship umpires to the Division I Baseball Committee.

d. Evaluate umpires during the NCAA baseball championship.

e. Support the national coordinator in the planning and operation of preseason NCAA Regional Umpire Clinics.

f. Attend the NCAA BUP annual meeting with Division I conference representatives.

g. Serve as a liaison to conference coordinators within specified region(s).

h. Other duties as assigned by the national coordinator, NCAA staff and/or Baseball Committee.
4. **Conference Liaisons**

   a. Selected by each Division I conference that receives automatic qualification.

   b. Assist the Baseball Umpire Program in evaluating umpires throughout their respective conferences.

   c. Submit an annual roster of all umpires on their staff.

   d. Submit written evaluations of NCAA umpires as well as prospective NCAA umpires.

   e. Assist with the administration of the NCAA regional umpire clinics.

   f. Provide an annual preseason and in-season list of recommended umpires from their conferences that meet the assignment criteria and are eligible and available for championship selection.

1.3 **NCAA BASEBALL OFFICIALS WEBSITES**

1. Website for NCAA Baseball Officiating Bulletins, Updates, Video Bulletins, and Interpretations. (Registration is required):
   
   ![Registration is required](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com)

2. Website for NCAA baseball championship information, rule books, and handbooks:
   
   ![Rule Books and Handbooks](http://www.ncaa.org)

   Go to championships administration, then Division I baseball.

3. Website for verification of NCAA clinic attendance, background check information, sports wagering questionnaire, and required testing results have been received on the NCAA baseball website:
   
   ![Required Testing Results](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com)

   To access information: sign in with your email address and password. Click on the POSTSEASON tab to verify your clinic, rules test, sports wagering and background check status. Each requirement will be green when satisfied and red when not.

   These features are only viewable after you register as an NCAA baseball umpire on the NCAA baseball website.

   **Reminder:** The deadline for completion of all requirements is February 13, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time.
## SECTION 2: 2016 IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5-8</td>
<td>ABCA Convention</td>
<td>Anaheim, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic</td>
<td>Anaheim, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic</td>
<td>Chicago, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic</td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| January 29 | Rules Test Available on
www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com         |                         |
| February 1 | Conference Call with Conference Coordinators and liaisons (11 a.m. ET) |                         |
| February 13| Rules Test Completion Deadline (11:59 p.m. ET) |                         |
| March 1    | Conference Call with Conference Coordinators and liaisons (11 a.m. ET) |                         |
| April 5    | Conference Call with Conference Coordinators and liaisons (11 a.m. ET) |                         |
| May 3      | Conference Call with Conference Coordinators and liaisons (2 p.m. ET) |                         |
| May 12     | Conference Recommendations due to NCAA national office |                         |
| May 14-16  | Regional Umpire Advisor meeting            | Indianapolis, Indiana   |
| May 21     | Conference Call with Officiating Subcommittee (7 p.m. ET) |                         |
| May 22     | Conference Call with Division I Baseball Committee (2 p.m. ET) |                         |
| May 22     | Umpire selections confirmed and posted on
www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com and mailed
(5 p.m. ET); notification will also be received from
Arbiter assigning |                         |
| May 29     | Regional teams and sites announced         |                         |
| May 29     | Regional umpire crews and sites determined and announced; notification also received from
Arbiter assigning |                         |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event, Location and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Regional crew chief conference call (7 p.m. ET)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2-5</td>
<td>NCAA Division I Baseball Regionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Super Regional umpire crews and sites determined and announced; notification also received from Arbiter assigning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Super Regional crew chief and umpire conference call (7 p.m. ET)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9-11 or 10-12</td>
<td>NCAA Division I Baseball Super Regionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>College World Series pre-tournament meeting                                                 Omaha, Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>College World Series ground rules meeting                                                   Omaha, Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>College World Series crew meeting                                                           Omaha, Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 17-27/28</td>
<td>College World Series                                                                       Omaha, Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>College World Series crew meeting                                                           Omaha, Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Conference Umpire Coordinator meeting                                                       Omaha, Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17-19</td>
<td>Baseball Rules Committee meeting                                                            Indianapolis, Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Division I Baseball Committee meeting                                                       Via Teleconference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 3: CHAMPIONSHIP ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

3.1 SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Criteria for Assignment to NCAA Division I Regional
   a. Must be recommended by at least one Division I conference.
   b. Must be scheduled to work a minimum of six regular season in-conference games and be recommended by that conference.
   c. Must have at least five years experience at the Division I level with a minimum of 25 NCAA games each year OR at least three years of professional baseball experience plus two years at the Division I level.
   d. Must work a minimum of 25 Division I games in the current season.
   e. Must attend an NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic.
   f. May not serve as a conference umpire coordinator or assign umpires to work Division I games.
   g. Must receive a passing grade of 85% or better on the annual NCAA baseball test by the deadline date.
   h. Submit the signed release form and final authorization form by the deadline date which will authorize a background check to be conducted.
   i. The national coordinator, regional advisors, and Division I Baseball Committee will select 96 umpires from the conference approved lists, taking the following into consideration:
      (1) College World Series Experience.
      (2) NCAA Division I Super Regional experience.
      (3) NCAA Division I Regional experience.
      (4) Division I conference tournament experience.
      (5) Division II or Division III championship experience.
      (6) Division I conference experience.
      (7) Quality of schedule.
      (8) Number of games officiated in the conference that has recommended them.
      (9) NJCAA or NAIA national championship experience.
      (10) Previous evaluations.
      (11) Off field conduct (professionalism).

2. Criteria for Assignment to NCAA Division I Super Regional
   a. Must be recommended by at least one Division I conference.
   b. Must be selected to work a Division I Regional in the current year.
   c. May not be selected in the same year that assignment to the CWS occurs. (Exception: CWS alternate)
d. It is preferred that an umpire have worked at least four previous regionals.

e. Must work a minimum of 25 Division I games in the current season.

f. Must attend an NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic.

g. May not serve as a conference umpire coordinator or assign umpires to work Division I games.

h. Must receive a passing grade of 85% or better on the annual NCAA baseball test by the
deadline date.

i. Submit the signed release form and final authorization form by the deadline date which will
authorize a background check to be conducted.

j. The national coordinator, regional advisors, and Division I Baseball Committee will select 32
umpires from the conference approved lists, taking the following into consideration:

(1) College World Series experience.
(2) NCAA Division I Super Regional experience.
(3) NCAA Division I Regional experience.
(4) Division I conference tournament experience.
(5) Division II or Division III championship experience.
(6) Division I conference experience.
(7) Quality of schedule.
(8) NJCAA or NAIA national championship experience.
(9) Previous evaluations.
(10) Off field conduct (professionalism).

3. **Criteria for Assignment to the NCAA Men’s College World Series (CWS)**

a. Must be recommended by at least one Division I conference.

b. Experience working a minimum of two Division I Super Regionals.

c. Must work a minimum of 25 Division I games in the current year.

d. Must attend an NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic.

e. May not serve as a conference umpire coordinator or assign umpires to work Division I games.

f. Must receive a passing grade of 85% or better on the annual NCAA baseball test by the
deadline date.

g. Submit the signed release form and final authorization form by the deadline date which will
authorize a background check to be conducted.

h. The national coordinator, regional advisors, and Division I Baseball Committee will select eight
umpires from the conference approved lists, taking the following into consideration:

(1) College World Series experience. (It is preferred that an umpire work the CWS only once
in a three year period).
(2) NCAA Division I Super Regional experience.
(3) NCAA Division I Regional experience.
(4) Division I conference tournament experience.
(5) Division II or Division III championship experience.
(6) Division I conference experience.
(7) Quality of schedule.
(8) NJCAA or NAIA national championship experience.
(9) Off field conduct (professionalism).

4. Conference Recommendation Procedures
NCAA Division I conferences that receive an automatic qualification to the championship tournament are asked to submit a list of umpires from their conference that qualify and that they recommend for a postseason assignment. In order for a conference to receive an automatic umpire assignment into the Regional tournament, a representative (conference coordinator, baseball administrator, etc.) must attend the previous year’s conference coordinator meeting and one of the NCAA Regional Umpire Clinics in its entirety. These lists must be completed and submitted based on current season evaluations and must be received by the date set each year. A conference may recommend as many umpires as they deem qualified for consideration but must recommend a minimum of five individuals. If less than five are recommended, the conference is subject to loss of its umpire selection automatic qualifier. Conferences may only recommend umpires that have been assigned six or more conference games. The list should be submitted in rank order of recommendation and provide all requested information.

Umpires must have worked a minimum of 25 Division I games as confirmed by the conference coordinator in order to be nominated for assignment to the championship. The Division I Baseball Committee is required to select at least one umpire from each automatic qualifying conference list. However, they are not required to select umpires in the order recommended. NO UMPIRE WILL BE ASSIGNED UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED BY AT LEAST ONE DIVISION I CONFERENCE.

5. Assignment Procedures
Once the lists have been received by the conferences, the national coordinator will compile and review the lists to ensure that all recommended umpires meet the requirements listed in this manual. The national coordinator and regional advisors will evaluate all recommended umpires based on the criteria listed above and make a formal recommendation to the officiating subcommittee of the Division I Baseball Committee. The subcommittee will review these recommendations and make any changes they deem appropriate. These recommendations are then sent to the full Division I Baseball Committee for approval and notification. The Committee does not set a maximum number of umpires that can be assigned from a given conference in the Regional or Super Regional tournaments. For the College World Series, the Committee must be aware of not assigning too many umpires from any one conference so as to prevent any perception of bias at the championship. No conference is ever guaranteed an umpire automatic qualification into the College World Series. The Committee’s overriding goal is to select the very best available officials each year.

Aside from the criteria listed above, the following are taken into consideration when making recommendations and final selections:

a. Where each umpire is ranked on the conference list.

b. If the umpire is ranked on other conference lists and their ranking on those lists.
c. If the umpire was selected to work the conference tournament this year.

d. In-season evaluations by the national coordinator and regional advisors.

Umpire selections will be posted on the Arbiter NCAA website on Monday, May 22 by 5:00 p.m. ET. Umpires will also receive an electronic letter of notification.
SECTION 4: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR UMPIRES

1. In order to be considered for NCAA Division I umpire championship selection and assignment, the following eligibility requirements must be satisfied by the deadline dates:

   a. **Attendance at NCAA Regional Umpire Clinic** - See Appendix A for clinic sites and information.

   b. **Receive a Passing Grade of 85% or Better on the Annual NCAA Baseball Test.** Online rules test must be completed on [www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com) by Monday, February 13, 2017, 11:59 p.m. ET

   c. **Submit the Signed Release Form and Authorization Form which will authorize a Background Check to be Conducted** - See Appendix B for process.

2. **Verification of Completion of Eligibility Requirements.**
   Officials may verify that regional clinic attendance, required testing results, and background check authorization have been received on the NCAA baseball website:

   [http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com)

   To access information: sign in with your email address and password. Click on the POSTSEASON tab to verify your clinic, rules test, and background check status. Each requirement will be green when satisfied and red when not.

   These features are only viewable after you register as an NCAA baseball umpire on the NCAA baseball website.
SECTION 5: DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP TRAVEL

5.1 TRANSPORTATION

1. **Regional Umpires.**
   Regional site and crew assignments will be made on May 29. You will be contacted by your crew chief or assistant crew chief and notified of your site not later than Tuesday night, May 30. Please do not call the NCAA office or national coordinator unless you have not been contacted by this time. Once you have received your assignment, contact Short’s Travel Management (Short’s Travel) at 866-821-8547. Identify yourself as an NCAA Division I umpire and book your coach class tickets. In some cases, depending on the host site, you will be flying into a nearby hub airport (e.g., Atlanta for Auburn or Clemson, or Dallas for Baylor). This is being done in an effort to be fiscally responsible as well as assuring the best possible chance of getting home ASAP. Luggage costs will be handled per NCAA policy. You are required to fly round-trip to and from the same airport unless previously approved by the NCAA staff. You must be in the host city the night of June 1. Book your return for Tuesday and adjust as necessary. Please note that due to weather conditions, it may be necessary to extend the competition. By accepting this assignment, you are committing to stay at least through Tuesday, June 6. If the tournament cannot be completed Tuesday and you must return home, a replacement will be assigned by the national coordinator. On receipt of your itinerary, check it for accuracy and notify your crew chief of your arrival time and flight number. If you are assigned to a site less than 400 miles from your home, you are required to drive to your Regional site. You will be reimbursed mileage for this trip at a rate of 54 cents per mile. If you are 400 miles or more from the site and choose to drive, you will be reimbursed your actual mileage at a rate of 54 cents per mile, up to the cost of the lowest available coach airline ticket. Mileage reimbursement is meant to cover gas, tolls, and parking expenses. Do not consume any alcohol until after all tournament related activities have concluded for that day.

2. **Super Regional Umpires**
   Super regional site and crew assignments will be made June 6. You will be contacted by your crew chief and notified of your Super Regional site not later than Tuesday night, June 6. You must be in the host city the night before competition begins. Book your return for the day after a potential third game in the super regional.

3. **College World Series Umpires**
   As soon as you receive your CWS assignment, contact Short’s Travel at 866-821-8547. Identify yourself as a College World Series baseball umpire and book your coach-class tickets. You must be in Omaha by Noon Friday, June 16. Schedule your departure for Thursday, June 29.

4. **Dress Code**
   Umpires must be dressed in the following manner while traveling to and from the host city and all tournament functions:

   **Acceptable**
   - Coat and tie
   - Sport jacket with dress casual shirt
   - Golf shirt

   **Not Acceptable**
   - Denim jeans of any type
   - Shorts of any type
   - T-shirts of any type
   - Warm-up suits
   - Any university/conference/pro logo item
5.2 RENTAL CARS

1. **Regional Umpires**
   Your crew chief and assistant crew chief (or a second member of the crew if determined by the crew chief) will make reservations through Short’s Travel for a rental car (vans or SUVs are preferred for one of the vehicles) in their names. It is each umpire’s responsibility to coordinate arrival with the crew chief for transportation to the hotel. If you choose to fly in at a time (or to a different city) that cannot be coordinated with either of the drivers, it is your responsibility to arrange your own transportation to the host city and hotel. During the tournament, the crew chiefs are responsible for the cars and all transportation. These cars are for the use of all members of the umpiring crew and should not be used by just one person. If you have guests attending the tournament, arrange for their transportation separately as to not impose on members of the crew. No umpire should drive an automobile having consumed any alcohol products. Rental cars will be direct billed to the NCAA. Fuel purchased personally during a tournament is not reimbursable. **Decline the insurance coverage if rental vehicles are through Enterprise or National.**

2. **Super Regional Umpires**
   Your crew chief will make reservations through Short’s Travel for a rental car (preferably a van) in his name.

3. **College World Series Umpires**
   The two crew chiefs will have rental vehicles for the crews’ use for the entire tournament. Reservations will be made by the NCAA. On arrival at the airport in Omaha, the designated drivers should proceed to the Enterprise Car Rental counter to obtain their vehicles. The rest of the crew can proceed to the baggage claim area and call the hotel to request its shuttle van for pick up. It is approximately five miles from the airport to the hotel.

5.3 HOTEL

1. **Regional and Super Regional Umpires**
   The host institution will make a hotel reservation for each crew member. The rooms will be set up as a direct bill for the room and taxes. Any and all personal incidental charges are the responsibility of the umpire. Be sure to settle all charges before you leave the site. If you have guests attending the tournament, they may stay with you or you may make other arrangements. Do not ask the host institution, tournament officials, or the hotel for any extra rooms at no charge or to upgrade your room.

2. **College World Series Umpires**
   Umpires will have individual rooms at:
   
   Hampton Inn & Suites Omaha-Downtown  
   1212 Cuming Street  
   Omaha, Nebraska 68102  
   (p) 402-345-5500  
   (f) 402-345-5501  
   www.omahadowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com  
   
   Rooms will be set-up as a direct bill for the room and tax. If umpires want to ship their equipment to Omaha, it should be sent to the Umpires Locker Room, c/o Nate Stahlecker, TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, 1200 Mike Fahey Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. The phone number is 402-599-5571. You are responsible for this expense.
SECTION 6: DIVISION I PRE-TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

6.1 PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING

1. **Regional Umpires**
   The NCAA site representative(s) and host institution will arrange a meeting on Thursday between the coaches, administrators of each institution and other game management personnel. The umpire crew chief and assistant crew chief are NOT required to attend. The site representative(s) will set up a meeting with the entire umpire crew at the game site at least two hours prior to the first game to discuss and confirm ground rules, umpire rotations and other procedures.

2. **Super Regional Umpires**
   The NCAA site representative(s) and host institution will arrange a meeting on the day prior to competition between the coaches, administrators of each institution and other game management personnel. The crew chief is NOT required to attend the pretournament meeting. The site representative(s) will set up a meeting with the entire umpire crew at the game site at least two hours prior to the first game to discuss and confirm ground rules, umpire rotations and other procedures.

3. **College World Series Umpires**
   The national coordinator will meet with the NCAA staff, the Division I Baseball Committee, and team representatives at a pre-tournament meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 15 at 6 p.m. Central time.

6.2 UMPIRE CREW MEETING

1. **Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**
   Before the tournament, the crew chief and assistant crew chief will conduct a meeting with the entire crew. It is preferred that the meeting be held the morning of the first game. The crew chief will conduct a thorough review of the four-man mechanics that are to be used during the tournament, and announce the rotation for the tournament. He will discuss off-field behavior, set a time to review ground rules with the NCAA site representative(s), and answer any questions from the crew.

2. **College World Series**
   The entire crew will tentatively meet Friday, June 16 at 1 p.m. Central time at the umpire room to walk the field and discuss ground rules. An instant replay procedures meeting will also be scheduled. The crew pre-tournament meeting will be held in the umpire’s conference room at 9 a.m. Central time on Saturday, June 17. Game assignments for the first four days will be announced at this meeting. The crew will also meet on Sunday, June 25.

6.3 TICKETS

1. **Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**
   Tickets for tournaments must be arranged for and purchased from the host institution. No umpire should ask for or receive tickets for guests at no charge. It is recommended that host institutions provide seats for non-working umpires.

2. **College World Series**
   Tickets for the College World Series can be purchased in advance based on availability through Trina Simerly at the NCAA national office 317-917-6516. Requests must be received not later than Friday, June 2. Umpires will receive a photo credential for admittance to the stadium. **Guests must have a ticket for each game.**
6.4 PAYMENT OF FEES AND EXPENSES

1. Regional Umpires
   The NCAA national office is responsible for the payment of your game fees and expenses through ArbiterSports/ArbiterPay. Umpires must sign up for a linked ArbiterSports/ArbiterPay account to be reimbursed for all fees and expenses. Chad Tolliver 317-917-6706 will coordinate all payments. Each umpire will receive $2,160 in game fees (regardless of how many games are worked). Each umpire also will receive $45 per day for meals and incidentals beginning with day of arrival and ending with day of departure. In addition, airline luggage expenses for a maximum of two bags may be submitted for reimbursement if receipts are submitted. The NCAA and host institutions do not reimburse umpires for airport parking, laundry, or any other expenses. These are the responsibility of the umpire.

2. Super Regional Umpires
   Each umpire will receive $1,518 in game fees.

3. College World Series Umpires
   Each umpire will receive $5,618 in game fees.

6.5 PRE-TOURNAMENT BANQUET

Per NCAA policy, game officials may not attend pre-tournament banquets or social events involving participating coaches or teams before the competition. Please note that these such events are actually not permissible.
SECTION 7: AROUND THE STADIUM

7.1 TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE STADIUM

1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments
   All umpires must coordinate with the crew chief and assistant crew chief (for Regional Tournaments) as to their transportation plans to and from the stadium. Please notify the crew chief if you plan to arrange for your own transportation. All umpires scheduled to work, including the alternate, must be at the stadium at least one hour and 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.

2. College World Series
   Parking for rental or personal cars will be very limited. If you plan to use your own car, please notify the national coordinator. Umpires should plan to use the hotel parking lot.

7.2 LOCKER ROOMS

The host institution will provide the umpires with a secure locker room to be used for the duration of the tournament. This locker room is for the exclusive use of the umpires. No visitors will be allowed at any time. AT NO TIME SHALL A COACH OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF A PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION BE ALLOWED IN THE UMPIRE LOCKER ROOM. The crew chief and assistant crew chief must make sure this is enforced. NCAA personnel, the NCAA site representative(s), and clubhouse attendants are the only other individuals permitted in the locker room. The crew chief will coordinate the handling of the locker room to ensure security. It is recommended that valuables not be left in the locker at any time. Remember you are guests of the host institution and always be respectful of their facilities. There will be no tobacco products or alcohol allowed in any locker room.

Visitors are permitted in the lounge area of the TD Ameritrade Park Omaha umpire locker room only if they have appropriate credentials for access. However, umpires and families should not abuse this privilege. The lounge is not a place to watch games as it is a working area.

7.3 CLUBHOUSE ATTENDANTS

Host institutions normally assign one or more individuals to assist the umpiring crew during a tournament. The attendants may arrange for meals and drinks for umpires, the laundry of game uniforms, shoe polishing, etc. It has been customary for the crew to give the attendants a gratuity after the completion of the tournament. This is up to the discretion of the crew and should be coordinated by the crew chief. Treat these people with the utmost respect, as they usually bend over backward to accommodate you. If you have a problem regarding the attendant, the crew chief will be responsible for handling the situation with the appropriate tournament administrator.

7.4 GAME BALLS

1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments
   Game balls will be delivered to the crew chief before the tournament. In most cases, the umpires will be responsible for rubbing up the baseballs before each game. It is the policy of the NCAA to allow each umpire one new game ball as a souvenir. Any umpire discovered taking more than one ball would be subject to discipline by the NCAA. If it appears additional game balls might be necessary, please notify the NCAA site representative(s) promptly.
2. **College World Series**
   Game balls will be handled by the NCAA and will be located near the third base dugout. It is the policy of the NCAA to allow each umpire two new game balls as souvenirs of the tournament. The crew chief will be responsible for distributing these balls. Any umpire discovered taking more than two balls will be subject to discipline by the NCAA.

### 7.5 PRESS BOX

1. **Regional, Super Regional Tournaments**
   The press box is off limits to all members of the umpiring crew at all times.

2. **College World Series**
   The press box, club, suites, NCAA and press meal areas, baseball committee seating and ESPN tent is off limits to all members of the umpiring crew at all times.

### 7.6 DRESS CODE

1. **Regional Tournaments, Super Regional Tournaments and the College World Series**
   All umpires will dress appropriately for travel to and from the stadium each day. Long pants and a dress, casual, or golf shirt are required. It is not acceptable to wear dress shorts, cutoffs, denim jeans, t-shirts, or warm-up suits. You are not allowed to wear any university, conference, or pro logo item. Remember you are representing the NCAA from the time you leave your home until the time you return.

### 7.7 MEDIA/PRESS STATEMENTS

1. **Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**
   In the event of an odd or confusing play or situation, a pool reporter, selected by the tournament media coordinator, will be escorted to the umpire’s locker room area by the NCAA site representative(s) to receive a rule interpretation. All interpretations will be made by the crew chief or assistant crew chief if the crew chief was involved in the play. During a Super Regional, if the crew chief was involved in the play, another umpire will provide the interpretation.

2. **College World Series**
   The national coordinator of umpires and baseball secretary-rules editor will collectively handle all press inquires.

### 7.8 GIFTS

Host institutions may not give any member of the umpire crew any gift or memento. No umpire should request gifts or souvenirs from anyone involved in the tournament.

### 7.9 SECURITY

The host institution must provide adequate security as umpires enter and exit the playing field and at the umpire locker room. Crew chiefs should discuss this with the NCAA site representative(s) before the tournament begins. It is recommended that at least one security officer accompany game officials to and from the playing field and their locker room.
SECTION 8: ON THE FIELD

8.1 ASSIGNMENTS/ROTATIONS

1. **Regional Tournaments**
   All assignments and rotations are made by the national coordinator with final approval by the NCAA site representative(s). Rotations will be announced to the crew at the pre-tournament umpires meeting and to the public on game day. Either the crew chief or assistant crew chief must be on the field for every game. Umpires are not guaranteed a specific number of games (plate or bases) during the tournament. An alternate umpire must be in the stadium at all times. Generally, the umpire who just worked home plate should be the alternate; however, this may change if an umpire wants to stay at the stadium for some reason. Umpires are required to be in the locker room at least one hour and 15 minutes before each game that they are assigned to work [or two hours before the first game for a scheduled meeting with the NCAA site representative(s)].

   The rotation for all regional tournaments will be as follows:

   Home Plate / Off (Alt.) / Third Base / Second Base / First Base / Off

   In the event of injury, illness, or any other reason an umpire is not available to work as scheduled, the crew chief will coordinate an adjusted rotation with the national coordinator. The goal is to not require an umpire to work more than two games in a day.

2. **Super Regional Tournaments**
   All assignments and rotations are made by the national coordinator with final approval by the NCAA site representative(s). The rotation will be announced to the crew at the pre-tournament umpires meeting and to the public on game day. Umpires must be at the stadium at least one hour and 15 minutes before each game [or two hours before the first game for a scheduled meeting with the NCAA site representative(s)].

3. **College World Series**
   The national coordinator, in consultation with the chair of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee, makes all assignments. Assignments for the first four days of the tournament will be made at the pre-tournament umpires meeting. After the first four days, assignments will be made for the remainder of the CWS and they will be posted in the locker room. Due to numerous factors, the rotation will most likely not remain the same for different portions of the CWS. Umpires are not guaranteed a specific number of games (plate or bases) during the tournament.

   An alternate umpire must be in the stadium at all times. Generally, the umpire who just worked second base should be the alternate; however, this may change if an umpire wants to stay at the stadium for some reason.

4. **Injury or Illness**
   The alternate will take the position on the field of any base umpire who becomes ill or injured during a game. If the plate umpire becomes ill or injured, the alternate will work second base and the second base umpire will take over behind home plate. It is allowable to make the change at second base a half inning prior to the plate change to minimize transition time. No umpire, unless ill or injured, shall leave any tournament before the conclusion of the championship game. The crew chief should contact the national coordinator if any member of the crew is unable to work the remainder of a tournament. The national coordinator will decide if a replacement is necessary and will select such person in
consultation with the officiating subcommittee of the Division I Baseball Committee and the NCAA staff.

8.2 TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The use of all tobacco products by umpires at the site of competition (i.e., umpire locker room, playing field, other areas of the stadium, etc.) as well as during other championship activities such as meetings, press conferences, postgame interviews, shall be prohibited. The games committee, in accordance with the misconduct provisions, shall deal with violations of this regulation.

8.3 UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

1. Regional Tournaments

NCAA umpires should take pride in their appearance. Uniforms and hats shall be kept clean, pressed, and in first class condition. Uniforms will be worn only in the dressing room and on the field. Umpires may not sit in the stands or enter public areas of the stadium while in uniform. A stopwatch must be used by the second base umpire for administration of all clock rules.

Each umpire is responsible for his own equipment and uniform. The NCAA will provide a sized hat to each regional umpire. The hats for the entire crew will be sent to the host institution and delivered to you on arrival.

See Appendix C for Honig’s Information and Order Forms.

The standard uniform options are as follows:

a. Short or long sleeve black pullover shirt with white tipping on collar and sleeve cuff (reference Honig’s style NHMAJ-B, NHMAJLS). A black or white t-shirt may be worn underneath the black shirt. All members of the crew must wear the same color on the bases.

b. Short sleeve polo blue pullover style shirt with black and white tipping on the collar and sleeve cuff (reference Honig’s style NHMAJ-PB). A black or blue polo t-shirt or mock turtleneck may be worn underneath the blue pullover style shirt. However, any shiny or dazzle cloth versions of these shirts are not acceptable.

c. All shirts must have the “NCAA” letters embroidered on the left breast pocket.

d. Black nylon pullover jacket with white shoulder trim and “NCAA” lettering on the left chest (reference Honig’s NCAA17-B). A black, polo blue, or white T-Shirt or mock turtleneck may be worn underneath.

e. Black blazer.

f. Gray pants (reference Honig’s PBS3, PBS4 for consistent color).

g. Black ball bags.

h. Black socks.

i. Black shoes (white stripes are permitted).
j. Black belt.

k. Black gloves.

l. Black hat with “NCAA” lettering. Each regional umpire will receive one sized hat.

No other variations are allowed and no conference or association patches are allowed. No uniform numbers will be worn in regional or super regional tournaments. All base umpires will dress in the same uniform top; the plate umpire may dress in the uniform of his choice. However, if all umpires are wearing shirts they must all be the same color. **It is not acceptable to wear a short sleeve shirt on the plate with a long sleeve shirt underneath.** No visible jewelry (excluding wedding bands and medical alert bracelets) or watches of any kind other than the pitch clock stopwatch are to be worn on the field during any NCAA tournament game.

It is acceptable for umpires to wear athletic style sunglasses on the field if the conditions warrant. It is recommended that umpires carry the glasses onto the field during the pregame conference and put them on once they reach their respective positions.

2. **Super Regional Tournaments**

   All umpires must bring plate equipment to the Super Regional tournament even if they are not scheduled to work the plate.

3. **College World Series**

   The NCAA will provide sized NCAA hats, shirts with numbers, undershirts, a NCAA lettered black/white pullover for use in case of inclement weather, and trousers. Umpires must return the Honig’s order form immediately upon selection for shipment.

   Microphones shall be placed on umpires for purposes of airing audio during the ESPN broadcast, under the following conditions:

   a. Microphones on umpires are only permitted during the CWS; not preliminary rounds (e.g., Regionals or Super Regionals).

   b. All on-field umpires will have a microphone attached to their uniform. Unless there are special circumstances identified by the national coordinator, the home plate umpire will also wear a microphone.

   c. ESPN provides a live feed and speaker of the umpire microphones into the umpire room, the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee Room and NCAA Suite at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha. These ESPN feeds allow the NCAA to monitor all umpire audio throughout the CWS.

   d. ESPN does not have permission to use the umpire microphones to air live conversations. Rather, ESPN records the conversations and airs them during the next available break in action.

   e. The National Coordinator of Umpires also has a live feed of the umpire microphones connected to an ear piece. He is able to communicate with the ESPN Producer by phone from the umpire room. ESPN has the responsibility to obtain permission from the National Coordinator to air any potentially controversial or questionable topics or language.
f. ESPN is instructed to cut off the usage of the microphones between innings, during which time
the umpires usually converse amongst themselves, communicate to the grounds crew, stretch,
etc.

8.4 TEAMWORK

Games are to be officiated by a crew of umpires, not four or six individuals. Umpires should officiate and
communicate as a team and should assist and support one another on the field at all times. Umpires should
avoid any conduct (including communication both verbal and non-verbal) that would suggest to coaches,
student-athletes, or fans the existence of dissention or friction within the crew.

8.5 STYLE OF FORM OF CALLS

The NCAA allows individualism in style and form of basic umpire mechanics and recognizes that the
individual styles of umpires have evolved over a number of years. However, certain fundamentals should be
evident in signals and calls:

1. NCAA umpires shall make a signal on all calls with the exception of “ball” and an obvious catch of a
fly ball. Signals are to be visible, crisp, and clear. Voice calls should be clearly audible.

2. All signals should project decisiveness to the teams, fans, and media. Signals should not be slow to
the point of appearing uncertain or causing confusion for the fans or media.

3. NCAA umpires are expected to increase the assertiveness of their call (signal and voice) as the play
becomes closer. A causal, laid back signal is not appropriate on a crucial, close play. However, over-
elaborate, excessive signals also are not an acceptable technique.

8.6 ATTITUDE

The NCAA expects energetic and earnest work from every umpire working a postseason assignment.
Umpires must be 100% focused every pitch of every game without regard to the score, inning, record of
teams involved, or any other external factor. Umpires must present themselves with a high level of intensity
and concentration throughout every game. They are expected to display an alert, eager, confident,
enthusiastic demeanor on the field. Unacceptable demeanor includes appearing bored, lethargic, casual,
arrogant, cocky, antagonistic, timid, lackadaisical, and other unprofessional appearances.

8.7 CHARACTER

NCAA umpires are expected to exhibit and uphold the standards of integrity of the umpiring profession.
The image of an NCAA umpire demands honesty and a sense of high ethical standards. NCAA umpires
should make every decision based on the circumstances and facts presented, regardless of an umpire’s past
history with a particular student-athlete or team. No umpire should ever threaten a student-athlete, coach, or
team with future retaliation. NCAA umpires should accept constructive criticism from conference
coordinators of umpires or regional umpire advisors.

8.8 FRATERNIZATION

NCAA umpires should avoid excessive casual, unnecessary conversations with student-athletes, coaches,
team personnel, or fans during the progress of a game. Umpires may not visit team or university offices
unless official business requires otherwise. To avoid appearances of impropriety, umpires should be
cautious regarding any casual fraternization with university employees.
8.9 HUSTLE AND ENTHUSIASM

The NCAA expects a consistently high level of hustle and enthusiasm from every umpire. These qualities should be evident in all movements and mannerisms on the field. Umpires are expected to hustle to and from positions while not exhibiting “false or over hustle”. They must demonstrate a keen interest from start to finish and must not appear disinterested at any time. They must also remain focused and intense regardless of their position on the field or the status of the game. Every pitch and every play must be treated with the same respect. Umpires must assume a ready position (hands on knees or walking into the pitch) before every pitch. Hands on hips or arms folded across the chest are not acceptable ready positions.

8.10 GETTING THE CALL RIGHT

The first requisite of an umpire is to ultimately get all decisions correct. Umpire pride is important, but never as important as getting the play right. It is the philosophy of the NCAA that umpires always seek to get the call right. This may involve the reversal of a previously rendered decision. However, the correct decision, not the pride of any umpire, must prevail.

Following are general guidelines for this policy:

1. NCAA rule 3-6-g states “No umpire shall criticize or interfere with another umpire’s decision, unless asked by the one making it; however, if there is a misinterpretation of a rule, it should be brought to the attention of the umpire-in-chief”. Therefore, except in special situations such as those outlined in the next paragraphs, the umpire making the call must be the one to seek assistance of a partner.

2. An umpire is urged to seek help when his view is blocked or positioning prevents him from seeing crucial elements of a play. An umpire is also encouraged to seek help in instances when he has any doubt and a partner has additional information that could lead to the proper ruling.

3. In the situations listed below, a partner, who is 100% certain he has additional information unknown to the umpire making the call, should approach unsolicited and alert the other umpire to such information. However, the ultimate decision to change a call rests with the calling umpire.
   a. Deciding if a home run is fair or foul.
   b. Deciding whether a batted ball left the playing field for a home run or ground rule double.
   c. Cases in which a foul tip is dropped or trapped by the catcher.
   d. Cases in which a foul fly ball is caught or not caught.
   e. Cases when an umpire clearly errs in judgment because he did not see a ball dropped or juggled after making a tag or force.
   f. Spectator interference plays.
   g. Balks called by an umpire who clearly did not realize the pitcher’s foot was off the rubber.
   h. Changing a call of “foul” to “fair”. The umpires may conference, after a batted ball that has passed the first or third baseman on the fly, first touches the ground behind the 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.

i. Changing a call of “catch” to “no catch”. The umpires may conference after a fair batted ball has been hit into the outfield or on any foul ball to determine whether the fielder did or did not make a catch. Note: If the ball is foul, it remains a foul ball.
   (1) The ball is dead.
   (2) The batter is placed at first base.
   (3) Each base runner is advanced one base from the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

j. Changing a call of “no catch”. The umpires may conference after a fair batted ball has been hit into the outfield or on any foul ball to determine whether a fielder did or did not make a catch.
   (1) The ball is dead.
   (2) All action prior to the ball becoming dead shall be disallowed.
   (3) The batter shall be declared out.
   (4) All base runners shall be returned to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch.

4. Umpires are not to seek help on plays on which they are 100% confident in their judgment and view of the play. Head coaches are not entitled to a second opinion when the calling umpire is certain his decision is correct. On the other hand, umpires are not to “die” with a call in cases where:

   a. The calling umpire is not 100% certain he is right, and

   b. Another umpire has additional information which could lead to a proper ruling. Both NCAA philosophy and umpire integrity, consistent with NCAA rules, dictate that calls be reversed in this situation.

5. When an umpire seeks help, he should do so shortly after making the original call. He should not have a lengthy discussion with the head coach or others and then ask for help. If the calling umpire seeks help, he should include any other umpire(s) who would likely have the best position to see the elements of the play. This conversation must take place away from players or coaches. If a crew chief deems it necessary, he can, at his discretion, bring together the entire crew. All umpires involved should meet at once; multiple meetings unnecessarily delay the game. Crew chiefs can conduct conferences and are expected to ensure that NCAA philosophies are given priority over any single umpire’s pride. After a request for an umpire conference has been granted, coaches are not allowed to continue to argue a call once the final decision has been made. If a call is reversed, coaches are entitled to an explanation.

6. Judgment calls, which have traditionally not been subject to reversal, include steal and other tag plays (except if the ball is dropped without the umpire’s knowledge as discussed above), force plays (when the ball is not dropped and the foot is not pulled), and balls and strikes (other than half swings). This practice shall continue. Also, some calls cannot be reversed without creating larger problems.

Overall, umpires are urged to seek help on reversible plays in which they may have erred by not seeing a crucial element of a play. Such meetings, while necessary, should be infrequent and not become a substitute for umpires seeking proper angles, exercising sound judgment, and having the conviction to stay with a call that an umpire believes was properly made.
8.11 INSTANT REPLAY PROCEDURES – SUPER REGIONALS AND THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

The NCAA baseball playing rule, in Appendix E, permits the use of video instant replay. In conjunction with the playing rules, the Division I Baseball Committee has approved centralized instant replay at the Super Regionals and at the Men’s College World Series.

The instant replay rule limits reviewable plays to:

1. Batted ball fair or foul – ball must first touch the ground or a fielder beyond the initial position of the first or third baseman.

2. Ground rule double or a home run.

3. Any catch or no catch in the outfield or foul territory.

4. Within the infield, “no catch” can be changed to “catch” only if it results in the third out with any runners on base, or any time with the batter-runner only.

5. Spectator interference.

6. Scoring plays at home plate including collisions/time plays.

The process will be handled in the following manner:

1. Instant replay is a video process which falls within the NCAA Baseball Rules in Appendix E: Getting the Call Right. It can be used to either let stand a ruling on the field by the game officials or to change or reverse that ruling.

2. The instant replay process operates under the fundamental assumption that the ruling on the field is correct. Only if there is indisputable video evidence to remove all doubt that a ruling was incorrect will a call be changed. Absent that evidence, the original call will stand.

3. Any instant replay must occur before the next pitch or play. If it occurs after a game ending play, it must be called for before all umpires leave the field of play.

4. The crew chief makes the determination to use instant replay.

5. There is not a formal “coaches challenge” opportunity. Coaches already have the ability to request a conference among umpires under the “Getting the Call Right” provisions in Appendix E of the Baseball Rules Book.

6. If instant replay is used, the crew chief and the calling umpire will gather all necessary facts from the crew regarding the play (i.e., where runners were at the start of the play, etc.) and then would go to the designated on-field video replay area. If the crew chief is the calling official, he will designate one additional member of the crew to remain with him during the review. Both individuals involved in the replay ideally will wear a headset; however, if only one headset is provided, the crew chief will wear the headset.

7. The on-field video replay area is a secure environment completely clear of all other persons except the on-field technician (instant replay facilitator) assisting the crew and possible security personnel.
8. During a video review the defensive team shall maintain their positions on the field and may practice throw if desired. Offensive base runners and the on-deck hitter shall maintain their positions. Other personnel shall remain in the dugout. Any defensive or offensive conferences will be charged as during any other part of the game. The Umpire Crew will use the headset and step away (clear themselves) from all dugout personnel.

9. While there is no time limit for the video review, lengthy reviews (more than two-three minutes) are discouraged and are possible evidence that there will be no indisputable video evidence to change a call.

10. All equipment should be tested by appropriate personnel before each game and a test connection should be made to the centralized location.

11. The crew chief may confer and discuss the replay during the review with other members of the umpiring crew but the ultimate final decision is with the centralized replay official(s). This final decision may not be argued by either head coach.

12. If the reversing of a call results in the need for decisions on the placement of base runners, the centralized replay official(s) will use his best judgment to determine their locations as if the call had been made correctly. These decisions are also not to be questioned by the head coach. Some situations are predetermined by the NCAA baseball playing rules.

13. If a call has been changed, the crew chief would notify both head coaches of the ruling.
   a. When the umpires conference and then determine that the play will be reviewed by instant replay, the PA announder will announce “The play is under further review”.
   b. Prior to review, the stadium video board is permitted to replay the play in question only one time at regular speed.
   c. During the review, the stadium video board is permitted to replay the play in question only one additional time at regular speed.

14. After a review the crew chief will designate the following (whichever may be applicable on the play):
   a. Give the home run signal or fair ball signal;
   b. Point to the bases to be occupied by runners;
   c. Give the foul ball signal;
   d. Signal Catch or No Catch.

15. Two individuals will serve as the instant replay crew at the centralized location and will be determined by the NCAA Baseball Umpire Program (names will not be publicized). The two individuals will be the most familiar with the NCAA playing rules, umpire mechanics and the instant replay protocol procedures.

16. The instant replay crew will review all relevant angles provided by the television crew and quickly render a decision. The two instant replay officials will work under the assumption that the on-field
decision is correct unless there is indisputable video evidence that shows otherwise. If the two individuals cannot agree on the outcome, the on-field decision will stand.

17. One replay official will be responsible for the direct communication between the centralized location and the on-field crew chief. The second replay official will be responsible to ensure that the call is reviewable and that all aspects of the review policy and the NCAA playing rules are adhered to during the review.

18. Replay Crew has three options: Confirmed, Stands or Overturned.

8.12 BETWEEN INNING CLOCK PROCEDURES FOR TELEVISION GAMES

The between half innings and between pitches clock protocol and rules with no runners on base are in effect. The expectation is that regardless of regular season individual school or conference interpretations, the NCAA rules are to be followed. Certainly, common sense and the use of imminent action will be used to provide some flexibility to umpires when enforcing these rules.

1. For games with live television (TV), the NCAA has determined that the time between half innings will most likely be 135 seconds (two minutes, 15 seconds). This timing will be umpire controlled, even though there will be a TV Timeout Coordinator (TOC) or Red Hat on-site.

2. For games with no TV (e.g., live Internet video streaming or radio broadcasts), there will be 90 seconds between half innings, which is determined by when the last defensive player or fielder has crossed the foul line on his way to the dugout and when the pitcher starts his windup to begin the next half inning.

3. The clock will be kept on the field regardless of whether or not a visible clock is available in the stadium. The clock will be kept and monitored by the second base umpire.

4. Normal grounds crew and field maintenance must occur during the 135-second allotted time between half innings and should not delay the 135 second clock or the resumption of play.

5. For the fifth inning head coaches interviews (top of fifth and bottom of fifth – e.g., when the head coach’s team is on defense or in the field), the time will be extended until the head coach’s live TV interview has concluded.

6. The second base umpire should cue or signal to the TV TOC/Red Hat and the home plate umpire when the clock starts and when there are 30 seconds left and 15 seconds remaining in the 135-second TV Timeout. These cues and/or signals will alert TV, and, allow the home plate umpire to prepare the batter and pitcher to get ready to resume play.

7. There is not an enforceable rule that says we are unable to begin until 135 seconds have elapsed (due to live TV coverage), or are unable to go over the 135 seconds allotted (without penalty to pitcher or batter). However, after the 135 seconds have expired, we need to attempt to have the half inning ready to begin to resume play as soon as possible. Only obvious or flagrant violations by a pitcher or batter would be enforced and penalized.
8.13 HANDLING SITUATIONS

NCAA umpires must walk a fine line between keeping the game under control and not exacerbating situations with overly aggressive or arrogant actions. Although every situation is unique, the NCAA strives for uniformity in dealing with situations on the field with the following general guidelines:

1. Umpires should remain calm, professional, tactful, firm, in control, fair, and impartial. They cannot be perceived as overly aggressive, confrontational, hot-headed, short-tempered, timid, intimidated, or nervous. Umpires must never display impatience or a condescending attitude.

2. Umpires are expected to understand their role as a steady, calming influence on the game. Umpires must be able to sort out complex and important situations and cannot be hesitant to make unpopular decisions.

3. Umpires should never ignore occurrences on the field that require their attention to maintain order and control. But when difficult situations arise, it is essential that umpires stay above the emotional fray and never lower themselves to the excitable level of a particular student-athlete or coach. Umpires must be clear and decisive, while not overly aggressive or overbearing. They are expected to become more assertive if the situation calls for such, but must control their temper at all times. All in all, umpires must calm volatile situations while keeping control and managing them.

4. Umpires are required to listen to head coaches if discussions are reasonable and non-emotional. Umpires are to be firm and authoritative in conversations with head coaches, but never should initiate an argument. Umpires must not create unnecessary friction by ignoring reasonable inquires. At the same time, NCAA umpires must command respect and never tolerate personal abuse.

5. Umpires should AVOID sarcastic remarks or profanity and not insist on the last word. The NCAA will not tolerate umpires’ language, which if used by a student-athlete or coach toward an umpire, would result in discipline. Umpires should not curse regardless of the situation.

6. Umpires must not charge a student-athlete or coach or follow him if the argument is over and he is walking away. Umpires cannot look for trouble or invite arguments. If a situation can defuse itself, umpires must allow it to happen. Umpires must not be perceived as having escalated a situation.

7. Umpires must NOT initiate contact with a student-athlete or coach. Initiating contact, including “bumping” and physical finger pointing will subject umpires to discipline.

8. Umpires must never be resentful or hold grudges. Decisions must be made individually regardless of past history with a particular student-athlete, coach, or institution. Umpires should never attempt to “even-up” with a student-athlete or coach with whom he has had previous problems.

8.14 EJECTIONS/SUSPENSIONS

1. **Ejections**

   Umpires are entrusted with the power to remove any participant from a game. This responsibility should never be taken lightly. The NCAA recognizes that every situation is unique and that umpire discretion is essential to proper game management. Notwithstanding unique or extraordinary circumstances, student-athletes and coaches look to umpires for uniformity in applying consistent standards for ejections. The following general principles should be considered when deciding whether to eject a coach, student-athlete or another member of the team personnel from a game.
a. Use of profanity specifically directed at an umpire or vulgar personal insults of an umpire, including accusations of bias or cheating are grounds for an immediate ejection (NCAA 2-26).

b. Once a ball-strike warning has been issued and the umpire notifies the head coach, no coach or player is allowed to continue to argue balls-strikes or half swings from any location. Offenders are subject to immediate ejection (NCAA 3-6f, Note 1).

c. Physical contact with an umpire including bumping, spraying, shoving, kicking, spitting or any other physical abuse or threat of physical abuse is an automatic ejection and suspension without a warning (NCAA 5-16b).

d. Refusal to stop arguing and further delaying the game after the umpire has provided the head coach an adequate opportunity to make a point are grounds for ejection. The umpire should warn the head coach that he has been heard and that he should return to his position or be ejected. Following an ejection a prolonged argument by any team personnel will lead to suspension (NCAA 2-26, A.R.7, NCAA 5-15a).

e. If a coach or student-athlete leaves his position or the dugout to argue balls and strikes (including half swings) the individual will be subject to immediate ejection (NCAA 3-6f, Note 2).

f. “Step balk,” the head coach is allowed to receive an explanation from the umpire that the call was a “step balk”. Should the head coach continue to argue the “step balk” call, he will be warned to immediately return to his position (or the dugout) or be subject to immediate ejection.

g. During an argument, if a coach or student-athlete makes reference to having observed a video replay that purportedly contradicts the call under dispute, such person is subject to immediate ejection.

h. The use of histrionic gestures (e.g., jumping up and down, violently waving one’s arms, or other demonstrations) while arguing with an umpire or stepping out of the dugout or out of the batter’s box and making gestures toward the umpire are grounds for ejection.

i. Throwing anything out of the dugout (e.g., towels, cups, equipment, etc.) is grounds for an automatic ejection. Actions by players specifically intended to ridicule an umpire are grounds for ejection. An example would include drawing a line in the dirt to demonstrate where the player thought the pitch was thrown.

j. Throwing equipment in disgust over an umpire’s call will be grounds for ejection. The umpire may warn the offender for throwing equipment, but if the umpire deems the action severe, the umpire may eject without warning.

k. Any coach or student-athlete who fails to comply with an order from an umpire to do or refrain from doing anything that affects the administering of the rules and regulations governing play is subject to ejection. Examples of this include failure to stay within the lines of the batter’s box after a warning, refusal to submit a piece of equipment for an umpire’s inspection, etc.

2. Ejected persons must comply with the NCAA rules and be out of “sight and sound”. Once the ejected person has left the field or dugout, it is the responsibility of the ejected person and of the home
institution’s game management to ensure they comply with all NCAA rules regarding ejections and to report any infractions to the NCAA and respective conference office.

While the standards listed above justify an ejection, they are not all inclusive and umpires are granted discretion to eject any participant without a warning for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language. Many ejections also carry automatic suspension penalties depending upon the specific personnel ejected and the reason for the ejection. In addition, there are other situations that result in immediate ejections, such as the pitcher in possession of a foreign substance, a batter charging the pitcher with the intention of fighting, a pitcher intentionally throwing at a batter after a warning or in some instances, without a warning.

If an ejection does occur, the umpire must complete the NCAA Ejection/Suspension Report online on Arbiter and send the online report to the national coordinator of umpires within eight (8) hours after the completion of the game. A call should also be made following the game to the national coordinator of umpires.

3. **Suspensions**

If the student-athlete or coach commits an act that by rule is cause for suspension, the umpire must notify the head coach and the tournament manager and the NCAA site representative(s) immediately. The umpire must complete the NCAA Ejection/Suspension Report and send the online report to the national coordinator of umpires within eight (8) hours after the completion of the game. A call should also be made following the game to the national coordinator of umpires.

See Appendix D for a sample Ejection/Suspension Report Form.

**8.15 RAIN/LIGHTNING SITUATIONS**

1. **Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

The umpire-in-chief will work with the crew chief, assistant crew chief, the NCAA site representative(s), tournament manager and the grounds crew in determining when to use the tarp and when the game will be halted and/or resumed. If field conditions become dangerous to student-athletes, the umpire-in-chief and crew chief should halt the game and consult with the NCAA site representative(s).

2. **College World Series**

All decisions to cover the field will be made by the NCAA staff in consultation with stadium personnel and broadcast partners. If field conditions become dangerous to the student-athletes, the umpire-in-chief and crew chief should halt the game and consult with NCAA staff and stadium personnel.

**8.16 PROTESTS**

Any protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed. If the game ends (legal contest) in a situation, the offended team has until all fielders have left fair territory to voice its protest intentions. All protests must be made to the crew chief. However, if he is not working the game, the assistant crew chief or the home plate umpire shall receive the protest. No protest shall be allowed that involves a judgment decision by an umpire. All protests must be ruled on immediately by the protest committee. The committee shall confer with the umpires before making its decision, and the NCAA site representative(s) will make a written report to the Chair of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee.
SECTION 9: OFF THE FIELD

9.1 CREW CHIEF

Once notified of his site and crew, the crew chief should first contact his assistant crew chief and start the process of notifying the other members of the crew. He should then contact the tournament manager and NCAA site representative(s) to confirm any pre-tournament information and the umpire/site representative(s) meeting. If all members of the crew have not been contacted and the response received by Tuesday night, May 30 for Regionals and Tuesday night, June 6 for Super Regionals, the crew chief should contact the national coordinator of umpires.

The crew chief should confirm the hotel arrangements and then notify the national coordinator of umpires with the following numbers:

1. Crew chief cell phone.
2. Assistant crew chief cell phone.
3. Locker room phone.
4. Press box phone.
5. Hotel (phone and fax).

Aside from the leadership responsibilities on the field, crew chiefs are responsible for conduct of the umpires off the field as well. The crew chief must file a written report of any incident of misconduct, unprofessional behavior, or violation of these guidelines with the national coordinator of umpires immediately after the tournament. Crew chiefs will be held responsible, and possibly disciplined for any incident not reported or for any umpire violations of these policies and procedures.

9.2 EVALUATIONS

1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments
   NCAA site representatives, assistant site representatives, regional umpire advisors, coaches of participating institutions and anyone designated by the national coordinator of umpires are requested to complete an evaluation form for each member of the crew. See Appendix E for the online evaluation form, criteria and scale.
   a. Each umpire should submit an online composite self-evaluation form for each tournament worked.
   b. Each crew chief and assistant crew chief should submit an online composite evaluation form for each umpire of their crew for each tournament worked. The completion of comments is especially important.
   c. Crew chiefs should work with the site representative(s) and tournament manager to receive DVD’s of any televised games.
All evaluations should be sent to the national coordinator of umpires no later than July 15. It is recommended that crew chiefs meet with each member of the crew to discuss his overall evaluation and any problem areas. It is not the policy of the NCAA to forward copies of any evaluations to umpires; however, any umpire may contact the national coordinator of umpires to discuss his evaluations. Evaluation summaries will be compiled by the national coordinator of umpires for the officiating subcommittee.

2. College World Series
The national coordinator of umpires, regional umpire advisors and umpire program staff, coaches, Division I baseball committee members or anyone designated by the national coordinator of umpires will complete online evaluation forms for each umpire. DVD’s will tentatively be made available to each crew member of each game. Composite online self-evaluations are to be submitted by each CWS umpire.

9.3 GUESTS

Some umpires like to bring spouses or other guests to tournaments. This is acceptable as long as the umpire does not abuse the situation or inconvenience his partners, NCAA site representatives, or anyone at the host institution. Umpires should not ask for free tickets, hotel rooms, or for any other special requests. Having these guests in attendance is the umpire’s responsibility. While it is acceptable to have guests, please remember that your duties and responsibilities as a tournament umpire come first.

9.4 ALCOHOL

No alcoholic beverages of any type are permitted in the umpire locker room during a tournament. After an umpire has completed his assignments for a day (including serving as an alternate), he is allowed to drink alcoholic beverages. However, a few guidelines should be adhered to:

1. Do not drink at the stadium.
2. Do not drink in any public places at the hotel.
3. Find a reputable establishment that is not frequented by the media, coaches, or student-athletes.
4. If you are in an establishment when members of the media, coaches, or student-athletes arrive, you should finish your drinks and leave.
5. Do not, under any circumstances, drive an automobile after having consumed alcohol.
6. Do not bring undo attention to yourselves by announcing to people who you are and why you are in town.

We are all adults and should know these things but past experience mandates such policies. Umpires are very visible and, therefore, recognizable to the media, coaches, student-athletes, and fans. The Baseball Umpire Program wants every umpire to have fun and enjoy the experience of working championship tournaments; however, we must be aware of the perception that can be created by inappropriate behavior off the field. If you are not able to adhere to these policies for an entire tournament, you will be replaced.
9.5 GAMBLING

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. Sports wagering demeans the competition and competitors alike by sending a message that is contrary to the purposes and meaning of “sport”. Sports competition should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participation of student-athletes, coaches, and institutions in fair contests, not the amount wagered on the outcome of the competition.

For these reasons, the NCAA membership has adopted specific rules prohibiting athletics staff members and student-athletes from engaging in gambling activities as they relate to intercollegiate or professional sporting events.

Please note the following basic guidelines that college baseball umpires should adhere to:

1. Do not ever bet on a game – with anyone. All kinds of tactics will be used by gamblers to encourage your involvement.

2. Do not associate with known or suspected bettors.

3. Do not offer any opinions about any game to anyone – before or after the game.

4. Do not put yourself in a compromising situation through any personal misconduct.

5. Do not accept favors or gifts from suspected or known bettors.

6. Do not furnish any information about a game, student-athletes, coaches, or officials to anyone except when following your conference’s procedures.

7. Do not hesitate to discuss any suspicious person(s) with your crew chief, who will notify the national coordinator of umpires. If necessary, a confidential investigation can be conducted. Always inform your crew chief any time an individual suggests (even apparently in fun) that you accept money to affect the outcome of a game.

Gambling not only is a big business – it is dangerous. Your cooperation in the fight to combat it not only will protect intercollegiate competition from its harmful influences, but will place one of your more important aspects - your personal integrity - above reproach.

The NCAA is very concerned about the perception of its officials and gambling. Any local area casino, racetrack, or other establishment where any form of wagering occurs is strictly off limits at all times. No exceptions or allowances will be given in this area and offenders will immediately be removed from the crew.

9.6 OTHER

Be very careful of what you say to anyone about your work as an umpire. Whether you are talking directly to a person or not, be aware that what you say can be overheard and misinterpreted. You should not socialize in any way with anyone from the host institution or from any of the participating institutions. Whenever possible, umpires should enter and exit the stadium together. If confronted by a coach, student-athlete, or fan, do not enter into a discussion; simply excuse yourself and leave.
You should also be extremely careful of any remarks made while traveling, in and around the stadium, and in any social situation that may be interpreted as harassing or sexually offending. Again, you are representing the NCAA at all times and your actions must be above reproach.

While the use or participation in various forms of social media is not prohibited, umpires are cautioned that they are solely and individually responsible for any content. Information or posting of content that is considered to be embarrassing or inappropriate to the NCAA baseball championship or to the umpiring profession is not allowed and will subject the umpire to disciplinary action.
APPENDIX A

2017 NCAA Baseball Umpire Clinics

January 7, 2017  Orange County, California

Hyatt Regency Orange County
11999 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove, California 92840
714-750-1234

NCAA Room Rate - $149
Cut Off Date - December 15, 2016

Division I Conferences Expected to attend: Atlantic 10, ACC, Atlantic Sun, Big South, Colonial, MEAC, OVC, Southland, Sun Belt, SEC, Southern, Southland, SWAC

January 14, 2017  Chicago, Illinois

Westin O’Hare
6100 North River Road
Rosemont, Illinois 60018
847-698-6000

NCAA Room Rate - $104
Cut Off Date - December 22, 2016

Division I Conferences Expected to attend: Big West, Mountain West, PAC-12, WAC, West Coast

January 21, 2017  Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway
2020 Convention Center Gateway
Atlanta, Georgia 30337
404-763-1544

NCAA Room Rate - $114
Cut Off Date – December 29, 2016

Division I Conferences Expected to attend: Atlantic Coast, Atlantic 10, Atlantic Sun, Big South Ohio Valley, Southern, Sunbelt
January 28, 2017

Hilton Baltimore
401 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
443-573-8700

NCAA Room Rate - $149
Cut Off Date - January 5, 2017

Division I Conferences Expected to attend: America East, Atlantic 10, ACC, Big East, Big South, Colonial, Ivy, MAAC, MEAC, Northeast, Patriot, Southern, Sunbelt

In order to receive the room rates listed, each clinic attendee should inform hotel personnel that he or she will be attending the NCAA umpiring clinic. All arrangements for sleeping rooms should be made through the reservation desk at the appropriate hotel before the designated reservation cut-off date. All room blocks are limited and on a first come, first serve basis.

*The hotel sales contact should be contacted directly only if coordinators or conference representatives wish to schedule meeting(s) prior to or after the NCAA clinic. Please do not contact these individuals when making sleeping room reservations only.

**It is permissible for an individual to attend a clinic other than the one to which his or her conference or institution is assigned.
TO:  NCAA Division I Baseball Game Officials.

FROM:  Ben Brownlee
   NCAA Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances.

SUBJECT:  NCAA Game Officials Background Check Program.

During the 2015-16 championship season, the NCAA initiated a pilot program to conduct background checks on officials for the NCAA championships in six different sports. The NCAA has extended the NCAA officiating background check pilot program for the 2016-17 championship season to include baseball. Please note that only officials who consent to and satisfy the background check will be considered for selection to work the NCAA championships. Officials registering to become an NCAA umpire on the ArbiterSports central hub will be asked to consent to the background check as part of the registration process. To be eligible for any of the three NCAA championships, an official must consent and satisfy the background check.

Please follow the instructions carefully. As a reminder, for a game official to be eligible for assignment to work any NCAA Division I postseason baseball tournament games, it is necessary to submit the required information via the online NCAA Division I Game Officials Background Check Program. Step-by-step instructions for completing the online process are located on the Arbiter website.

If the required process is not completed online, there is no recourse and you will not be eligible to officiate a 2017 postseason baseball tournament game. It is strongly recommended that you print the date-stamped confirmation page as it is your responsibility to verify proof of submission of the required online forms. For privacy reasons, there will be no notification from the national office prior to the deadline to officials or conference offices/officiating coordinators if the background check process is not completed by an official.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions relative to the program. Thank you for your cooperation and best wishes for the upcoming NCAA baseball season.

BZB
NCAA POSITION ON SPORTS WAGERING

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. Sports wagering demeans the competition and competitors alike by sending a message that is contrary to the purposes and meaning of "sport." Sports competition should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participation of student-athletes, coaches and institutions in fair contests, not for the amount of money wagered on the outcome of the competition.

For these reasons, the NCAA membership has adopted specific rules prohibiting athletics department staff members and student-athletes from engaging in gambling activities as they relate to intercollegiate or professional sporting events.

Please note the following basic guidelines which NCAA game officials should adhere:

- Do not ever bet on a game—with anyone. All kinds of tactics will be used by gamblers to encourage your involvement.

- Do not associate with known or suspected bettors.

- Do not offer any opinions about any game to anyone—before or after a game.

- Do not put yourself in a compromising position through any personal misconduct.

- Do not accept favors or gifts from suspected or known bettors.

- Do not furnish any information about a game, players, coaches or officials to anyone except when following your conference's procedures.

- Do not hesitate to discuss any suspicious person(s) with your coordinator, who will notify investigative authorities. If necessary, a confidential investigation can be conducted. Always inform your coordinator and law enforcement officials any time an individual suggests (even apparently in fun) that you accept money to affect the outcome of a game.

Sports wagering is big business. Your cooperation in the fight to combat sports wagering will not only protect intercollegiate competition from its harmful influences but will place one of your most important assets—your personal integrity—above reproach.

For further information, please contact Mark Strothkamp, NCAA associate director of enforcement, at 317-917-6222
GENERAL POLICIES
GAME OFFICIALS BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAM
BASEBALL

1. The NCAA championships and alliances (playing rules and officiating) staff administers the program. Specifically, the staff will review the results of the background checks and advise the appropriate NCAA committee of any officials who are not eligible to officiate. In an effort to protect the privacy of officials, the playing rules and officiating staff are the only individuals involved in administering the program.

2. The following convictions will deem an official permanently ineligible to officiate in any future NCAA postseason baseball tournament game regardless of when the conviction occurred:
   - Any felony conviction;
   - Any sports wagering offense (felony or misdemeanor); and/or
   - Placement on the National Sex Offenders List or any state sex offenders list (for sexual assault or violations of child predator laws).

3. The following items will deem an official ineligible to officiate in that year's NCAA postseason baseball tournament games:
   - Not completing the online background check process by the required deadline;
   - Not attending an NCAA regional in-person clinic;
   - Not taking and passing the online rules test by the required deadline;
   - Failure to submit the requested US Citizenship documents before the deadline;
   - Voluntary withdrawal from the comprehensive background check process; and/or
   - NCAA Internal Review committee decision after red-flag criteria review.

4. Any one of the items below will trigger further investigation and thus, based on the totality of circumstances, may also render an official ineligible to officiate in that year's NCAA postseason baseball tournament games. These items are not an automatic disqualification. The results of the investigation will be presented to an NCAA internal committee that will make the determination of eligibility. This committee will be presented only with the data -- they will not know the name of the official. Decisions by this committee are final -- there is no appeal process.
   - Casino employment (any capacity) or employment by an entity engaged in gambling activity;
   - Bankruptcy (currently in bankruptcy or any within the past five years);
   - Collections (a pattern of financial delinquencies within the past five years);
   - Tax liens (any current federal or state lien or lien history within the past five years);
   - Unusual transactions (as may be disclosed by the applicant or otherwise learned through the background check process); and/or
   - Alcohol-related driving offenses (within the past five years).

5. The NCAA shall retain the discretion to disqualify an individual up to the time of a scheduled assignment in the event that information surfaces pertaining to the individual's conduct that casts doubt on the integrity of the NCAA championship.
6. It is the responsibility of the official to notify the NCAA championships and alliances (playing rules and officiating) staff if at any time after completion of the initial background check and up to the time of a scheduled assignment, the official is charged with a crime that is awaiting adjudication or the official is convicted of a violation of law.

7. The NCAA will notify officials who are determined ineligible and if that ineligibility is permanent or for one year only.

8. Conferences that assign officials will be notified that an official is not eligible and if that ineligibility is permanent or for one year only. The specifics of that ineligibility will not be disclosed.

9. Before a comprehensive background check can be conducted, an official must confirm consent for the background check to be completed. All officials will electronically sign the final authorization when completing the online background check process. If an official wishes to withdraw from the background check process, the official must provide written notification to the championships and alliances (playing rules and officiating) staff of that decision no later than February 13, 2017. If an official chooses to withdraw from the comprehensive background check process, that official will not be eligible to officiate in any postseason baseball tournament games that year.

10. The NCAA will select an external agency to conduct the background checks, and the information gathered will be retained by the NCAA and will become the property of the NCAA.

11. If the fact (such as mistaken identity) of a conviction is an issue, an official may submit a written appeal. However, an official will not be permitted to appeal the merits of a conviction.

12. All officials are required to submit the online documents each year to be eligible for selection to officiate an NCAA postseason baseball tournament game.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
GAME OFFICIALS BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAM
BASEBALL

1. Will my background check information be accepted if completed after the deadline date? No. The online system will be active only during the dates noted on the log-in page. No information can be submitted after the deadline date.

2. If I am not a United States citizen, do I need to submit my United States Citizenship documents every year? Yes. It is possible for changes in your citizenship status to occur from one year to the next, thus, if you are not a United States citizen, you are required to submit your United States Citizenship documents every year. It is strongly recommended that these documents be submitted via traceable mail as it is your responsibility to verify submission if questions should arise.

3. Is the online process the only requirement for the background check program? No. The online process is the first step in the background check process. Selected officials will be required to undergo a comprehensive background check. See Item No. 4 for more details on the comprehensive background check.

4. Will officials who are selected for a full background check be notified? No. Before a comprehensive background check can be conducted, an official must confirm consent for the background check to be completed. All officials will electronically sign the final authorization when completing the online background check process. If an official wishes to withdraw from the background check process, the official must provide notification to the NCAA championships and alliances (playing rules and officiating) staff of that decision no later than February 13, 2017. If an official chooses to withdraw from the comprehensive background check process, that official will not be eligible to officiate in any postseason baseball tournament games that year.

5. If I electronically sign the release form, will my employer, neighbors or friends be contacted automatically? No. Interviews will be conducted only if an official has triggered the standards that require further investigation. Refer to the General Policies document Item No. 4 for more information.

6. What is included in a comprehensive background check? A comprehensive background check will consist of credit history, driving records, civil litigation, criminal convictions and national and state sex offender registries.

7. Please explain the contracted agency release of liability. Indemnification language: The "contracted agency" in the release language refers to the entity that will provide information to the NCAA. The release absolves the entity (i.e., person or organization) from liability by the official (except for gross negligence). The language assures the entity that the official has granted permission to provide the requested information without fear of legal action. Some officials have speculated that this waiver language applies to the NCAA, but that is not true except in the unlikely event that the NCAA itself is asked to provide background information.
8. Do repeated credit checks damage an individual's credit rating? Repeated credit checks do not damage an individual's credit rating. Consumer reporting agencies are controlled by 15 U.S.C. 1681, which limits the manner in which credit reports can be distributed and used. The United States Congress included several procedural safeguards within the statute to ensure that consumer reporting agencies do not misuse, redistribute, damage or limit an individual's credit rating due to repeated checks. The NCAA’s requests for credit information will fall within the statutory requirements.

9. What sports require game officials to undergo background checks? The Division I men's and women's basketball officials have undergone background checks since 1999. As part of the recommendations from the NCAA Sports Wagering Task Force, baseball and men's ice hockey officials have been required to undergo background checks since the 2005-06 season. These athletic events represent the highest level of collegiate competition requiring the NCAA to employ game officials of the highest moral character and personal integrity. The NCAA takes very seriously its obligation to do everything necessary to prevent sports wagering scandals from occurring.

10. Are there background check programs in which coaches and student-athletes participate? Coaches and student-athletes must abide by NCAA Bylaw 10.3, which states, in part, that an individual may not wager on a college or professional sports contest. Each institution is responsible for ensuring that its representatives comply with this important provision.
2017 NCAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ORDER FORM

Please return this form as soon as you receive your assignment

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<th>To (Name)</th>
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For 2017, Honig's will again supply the uniform items for the NCAA Baseball Tournaments. Below are the required items to be worn during NCAA tournament games. The uniform is different from 2016. PLEASE NOTE that the uniform is NOT authorized for use during the regular season and these orders WILL NOT be processed until tournament assignments are confirmed. We will process your order ONLY if you are assigned a tournament game.

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**Items required for NCAA Tournament Games:**

- **NHMA1-B**
  - SS Umpire Shirt – Black w/NCAA logo & Flag
  Available in sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X
  - $30.95

- **NHMA1-FB**
  - SS Umpire Shirt – Polo blue w/NCAA Logo and Flag
  Available in sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X
  - $30.95

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- **P853**
  - Charcoal grey base socks
  Available in even sizes from 30 through 52
  - $62.95

- **P854**
  - Charcoal grey plate socks
  Available in even sizes from 30 through 52
  - $65.95

**Additional Items (Call to order):**

- **NCAA3**
  - NCAA 4-Stitch Combo Cap
    Available in sizes 63/4 through 8
  - $17.95

- **NCAA4**
  - NCAA 6-Stitch Combo/Base Cap
    Available in sizes 63/4 through 8
    *(One 6-stitch hat provided by the NCAA)*
  - $17.95

- **NCAA2**
  - NCAA 8-Stitch Base Cap
    Available in sizes 63/4 through 8
  - $17.95

- **NCAA7-B**
  - Black pullover/white stripes with NCAA logo.
    Available in sizes M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X
  - $49.95

- **NCAA66**
  - NCAA logo’d black short sleeve mock turtleneck
    - M-2X ($24.95) 2X-4X $25.95

- **OVER**

Subtotal: $
Pay Method:
☐ Visa, MasterCard or Discover

Card Number_________________________ Expiration______ Security Code______

Call, E-mail or Fax form to: (Note – the least favorable method is the e-mail route for the security of your credit card. We suggest that if you want to use the e-mail method that you send the form and call us with your credit card information)

Call:
Honig’s
7136 Jackson Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
888-468-3284

Fax:
Honig’s
877-869-4783

E-Mail
ncaa@honigs.com
2017 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES
CLOTHING ORDER FORM

THIS FORM MUST BE FAXED (877-869-4783)
AND/OR SCANNED AND E-MAILED (ncaa@honigs.com) TO HONIG'S ANN ARBOR,
MICHIGAN OFFICE AS SOON AS YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS CONFIRMED.
THIS WILL ENSURE TIMELY DELIVERY

DATE YOU ARE LEAVING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP: ________

NAME: ____________________________________

ADDRESS (NO PO BOX): ______________________________________

CITY: _____________________STATE: _____ ZIP: ____________

CONTACTS: (H) ______________________   (W) ______________________
          (CELL)________________         E-MAIL: ______________________________

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE:

4 – SHIRTS (2 - BLACK and 2 - POLO BLUE): (CAN BE TWO DIFFERENT SIZES – IF
YOU DESIRE 2 - PLATE AND 2 - BASE)

BASE – SIZE _________          SIZE CHART – SPORTCOAT SIZE
            S – 34 - 37            XXL – 47 - 49
PLATE – SIZE _________          M – 38 - 40            XXXL – 50 - 52
            L – 41 - 43            XXXXL – 53 - 55
            XL – 44 – 46

1 – LONG SLEEVE BLACK SHIRT – SIZE________

Number - CHOICE #1 _________

CHOICE #2 _________ (Should there be duplicate request)

1 – SLACK (BASE OR PLATE): Your choice

STYLE - PLATE OR BASE (CIRCLE ONE)

EVEN WAIST SIZE ____________

OUTSEAM _______________ INSEAM _______________

1 – BALL BAG – K40 or K41 (Circle one)

COLOR: Black, Navy, Heather, Charcoal (Circle One)
1 – JACKET – BLACK W/WHITE TRIM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>XL</th>
<th>XXL</th>
<th>XXXL</th>
<th>XXXXL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40-42</td>
<td>44-46</td>
<td>48-50</td>
<td>52-54</td>
<td>56-58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 – MOCK TURTLENECK SHIRTS – Black – HONIG’S BRAND
- MOISTURE MANAGEMENT - WITH LOGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>XL</th>
<th>XXL</th>
<th>XXXL</th>
<th>XXXXL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38-40</td>
<td>42-44</td>
<td>46-48</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>54-56</td>
<td>58-60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 – HATS: (THESE CAN BE 4, 6, OR 8 STITCH BILLS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hat #1</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Stitches</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hat #2</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Stitches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2 – PAIR OF SHOES (TENTATIVELY – BASED ON A MANUFACTURER BEING WILLING TO DONATE A PAIR OF BASE AND PLATE SHOES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Plate</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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<table>
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<th>Width</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

ALL GARMENTS WILL BE SHIPPED TO YOUR HOME – THEY SHOULD ARRIVE AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS – CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.

888-468-3284
ncaa@honigs.com
DI Umpire Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report

Note: Online submission of this form is intended only for use by umpires working a Division I game.

Procedure to follow after an ejection/suspension:

1. The ejecting umpire shall call his conference coordinator immediately after the game to report any ejection or incident.
2. For "Send To" select coordinator responsible for the conference of the institution responsible for assigning umpires to the game. That coordinator will then forward the report to the offending team’s coordinator (if different). The conference coordinator(s) is responsible to forward the report to their respective conference administrator. It is the responsibility of the conference administrator to forward the report to the applicable institution’s director of athletics.
3. If there is a suspension, the appropriate suspension information must be completed in full on the report.
4. If there is a suspension, the head coach, acting head coach and game management administrator MUST be notified at the time of the suspension.
5. If an ejection occurs during the NCAA Division I postseason, the ejecting umpire must submit this report and contact the National Coordinator of Umpires by telephone immediately.

Division I National Coordinator of Umpires
George M. Drouches
Cell: 612-432-5351
georged@autoporter.com

Notes:

1. For "Email Address and "Phone Number" enter reporting umpire information. Please be careful to submit accurate information.
2. For "Send To" select coordinator responsible for the conference of the institution responsible for assigning umpires to the game. That coordinator will then forward to the offending team’s coordinator (if different) who will forward to the conference administrator and institution’s director of athletics.
3. When you hit “Submit,” the coordinator will receive a copy and you will receive a confirmation email which may then be forwarded to anyone else who needs to see the report. Copies will automatically be sent to the National Coordinator of Umpires, Director of Umpire Training and Secretary–Rules Editor.

Date of Game *

/ / 

https://arbitersports.wufoo.com/forms/mh9ab1f1suyigv/ 12/14/2016
DI Umpire Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report

Start Time of Game *

Location of Game *

Home Team *

Visiting Team *

Reporting Umpire *
First Last

Email Address *

Telephone Contact Information *

Date Report Was Completed *

Time Report Was Completed *

Send Report to DI Conference Coordinator *
Select Coordinator Below

https://arbitersports.wufoo.com/forms/mh9ab1flsuyigv/

(BASEBALL)

12/14/2016

Page 2 of 8

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DI Umpire Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report

Name of Home Plate Umpire *

First
Last

Name of First Base Umpire *

First
Last

Name of Second Base Umpire *

First
Last

Name of Third Base Umpire *

First
Last

Names of Players/Coaches/Personnel EJECTED (Include Full Names, Uniform Numbers, Titles): *

Team and Conference of Players/Coaches/Personnel EJECTED: *

https://arbitersports.wufoo.com/forms/mh9ab1flsuyigv/ 12/14/2016

BASEBALL
Choose the single aspect that BEST describes the cause of the Ejections (s): *

Select Cause of Ejection Below

Was this a Post Participation Ejection? *
- Yes
- No

Was there a Suspension(s) issued per NCAA Rules? *
- Yes
- No

If there was a Suspension(s) issued, list the Names and Uniform Numbers of persons suspended: *

IF there was a Suspension(s) issued, choose the aspect(s) that BEST describes the cause(s) of the Suspension(s) that you issued per NCAA Rules: (check ALL suspensions that apply): *
- Rule 2–26–C, Appendix D: Post Participation Ejection (Suspension: 2 games, 1 game Head Coach, 4 games Pitcher)
- Rule 2–26–F: Other than the HC, Ejection; (Suspension: 1 game, First offense; 4 games Pitcher)
- Rule 2–26–H: Prolonged Arguing or Unsporttsmanlike Conduct FOLLOWING an Ejection (Suspension 2 games)
- Rule 3–6–D, Notes 2 and 3: Failure to leave sight and sound following an Ejection (Suspension 3 games)

https://arbitersports.wufoo.com/forms/mh9ab1flsuyigv/

12/14/2016
DI Umpire Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report

Rule 5–16a: Fighting (Ejection plus Suspension 4 games for first offense)

☐ Rule 5–16b: Physical Abuse of game official (Ejection plus Suspension 4 games for first offense)

☐ Rule 5–16c: Leaving position to participate in a Fight (Ejection plus Suspension 4 games)

☐ Rule 5–16d and 9–2g: Intentionally Throwing at Batter (Suspension 4 games for pitcher for first offense, 1 for coach if previously warned)

☐ Other

Give a DETAILED and COMPLETE account of situation that led to the Ejection(s): *

Give a DETAILED and COMPLETE account of what happened on the field after the Ejection(s): *

If a Warning(s) was issued prior to the Ejection, please state when and how each was issued and the response of those warned: *

https://arbitersports.wufoo.com/forms/mh9ab1f1suyigv/ 12/14/2016
If a Warning(s) was issued after the Ejection but prior to any Suspension (s), please state when and how each was issued and the response of those warned: *

Did all Ejected and Suspended personnel stay out of sight and sound after the incident? *
- Yes
- No (3 game suspension) Explain below:

Provide Name, Team affiliation, when and how any notifications of Suspensions were provided (required at time of suspension): *

https://arbitersports.wufoo.com/forms/mh9ab1f1suyigv/ 12/14/2016
Procedure to follow after an ejection or suspension:

1. The umpire crew shall notify the head coach of the ejection and/or suspension, either personally or through the home team game management administrator on site before the crew leaves the playing site.

2. If a situation occurs after the last out OR WINNING RUN 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 PARTICIPATION EJECTION.

3. The ejecting umpire shall call his conference coordinator/assignor immediately after the game to report any ejection or suspension.

4. The ejecting umpire shall file the NCAA ejection report on www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com within 8 hours after the completion of the contest.

For clarification, an individual serving a suspension is not allowed to:

a) Once pregame activities begin (infield, batting practice, etc...) be in the stadium or on the field;

b) Be dressed in game uniform;

https://arbitersports.wufoo.com/forms/mh9ab1f1suyigv/ 12/14/2016
c) Communicate with umpires at any time, or with any team personnel until after the conclusion of the game. *
☐ I agree to follow these procedures.
EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCALE
2017 NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL
Umpire Evaluation Standards

Grading Scale

(5) Outstanding – never deviates from the listed standards
(4) Above Standard – seldom deviates from the listed standards
(3) Meets Standard – Adheres to an acceptable level from the listed standards
(2) Below Standard – Occasionally deviates from the listed standards
(1) Unacceptable – Consistently deviates from the listed standards

STANDARDS FOR NCAA UMPIRE EVALUATIONS

Plate Work

Stability of Head and Body Position

• Establishes “Locked In” position on every pitch
• Does not drift side to side or up and down with pitch
• Does not flinch on swings or foul tips
• Maintains proper spacing from catchers as not to become entangled if catcher moves quickly and unexpectedly
• Eyes remain at horizontal level with ground and does not dip as game goes on. Head at proper height to allow unobstructed view of entire plate
• Works in the “slot” not over top of catcher or to the outside
• Does not set in an unusually high or deep position that would draw attention or questioning of judgment

Timing

• Does not anticipate pitch
• Allows everything that can happen, to happen, before making DECISION, then makes a call
• Does not make a call as the ball is approaching the plate or crossing but, after the catcher has caught the ball
• Stays down in position to call balls

Proper Positioning for Plays

• Attains the appropriate angle and distance for plays
• Not too close nor too far from the play
• Works to get angle over distance when appropriate
• Adjusts position for poor throws or unusual play
Style/Mechanics of call
- Gives clear authoritative signals and uses correct signals
- Possesses smooth, relaxed style that projects confidence
- Coordinates voice and signals to give professional appearance. Voice is loud enough to be heard but does not draw undue attention
- Does not showboat or change the mechanics of his call during the course of a game

Judgment, Interpretation and Consistency of Strike Zone throughout the game
- Maintains the same zone throughout the game
- Is the same for both teams
- Has a grasp of how zone can be adjusted in lopsided game
- Interprets and calls the zone to its written limits
- Does not call “unhittable” pitch a strike nor zone is too small
- Makes concerted effort to call pitches above the belt as strikes

Crew Mechanics and Communications
- Follows NCAA umpire mechanics
- Has good knowledge of proper mechanics and rotations
- Rotates to first and third as needed
- Uses proper verbal and non-verbal communication
- Makes good eye contact with partners between hitters and during developing plays

Base Work

Proper Positioning for Plays
- Attains appropriate angle and distance for plays
- Not too close, not too far from the play
- Works to get angle over distance when appropriate
- Adjusts position for poor throws or unusual play

Style/Mechanics of call
- Gives clear authoritative signals. Possesses smooth, relaxed styles that project confidence
- Coordinates voice and signals to give a professional appearance
- Does not showboat or change the mechanics of his call during course of game
- Uses a voice that is loud enough to be heard but does not draw undue attention

Timing/Judgment
- Does not anticipate the play
- Allows everything that can happen, to happen, before making DECISION
- Gets the call right

NCAA Mechanics/Crew Communication
- Has a good knowledge of proper mechanics and rotates in the proper situations and is alert enough to adjust if one of his partners misses coverage
- Reads partners and fly balls well on outfield coverage and goes out as needed
- Uses proper verbal and non-verbal communication
- Establishes eye contact with partners between hitters and during developing plays
Reactions to Developing plays
• Exhibits knowledge and perception of how play will develop through correctly anticipating where, how, and the speed at which the play will occur

Game and Situation Management

NCAA Policies and Procedures
• Adheres to all policies and procedures as outlined in the NCAA Division I Baseball Game Officials Manual

NCAA Playing Rules
• Adheres to and applies rules, accepted practices, and interpretations detailed in the NCAA Baseball Rule Book.

Situation Management
• Adheres to provisions of the NCAA Division I Baseball Game Officials Manual

Effort and Professionalism

Focus and Hustle
• Concentrates consistently on the crucial elements throughout the game
• Is prepared for every pitch and play, developing plays and situations
• Is aware of all that is going on within a game including dugout situations and inter-team developments
• Moves with a purpose during a play to get into proper position to cover plays
• Does not over hustle to draw attention to themselves

Appearance and Demeanor
• Proper display of uniform and fit or athletic appearance within the uniform
• Displays a conscientious and earnest desire to carry out on-field duties
• Exhibits posture that reflects interest in the game

Mobility
• Possesses physical ability to move into proper position on field
• Runs athletically and is able to keep pace

Fraternization
• Avoids excessive, casual, and/or unnecessary conversation with uniformed personnel or spectators during the game
NCAA Baseball DI Umpire Postseason Evaluation Form

Instructions: Complete the form. When you click "Submit" a copy will automatically be sent to NCAA Division I National Coordinator of Officials, George Drouches. A confirmation email containing your form information will also be sent to the email address you enter below.

Name of Umpire Being Evaluated *
First
Last

Position of Umpire Being Evaluated *

Game Site *

Game Date(s) *

Visiting Team *

Home Team *

Your Name *
First
Last

Your Email Address *

There are two parts to the following three questions. The first part requires a rating, and the second part requires a written description.

Was the plate umpire consistent with all NCAA standards? Please give an accurate rating below. *

- 5 - Outstanding
- 4 - Good
- 3 - Average
- 2 - Poor
- 1 - Unacceptable
Was the plate umpire consistent with all NCAA standards? Please give an accurate description below. *

Is the umpire poised to anticipate developing plays and move to the proper position to make the call? Please give an accurate rating below. *
- 5 – Outstanding
- 4 – Good
- 3 – Average
- 2 – Poor
- 1 – Unacceptable

Did the umpire demonstrate consistent professional integrity at all times? Please give an accurate rating below. *
- 5 – Outstanding
- 4 – Good
- 3 – Average
- 2 – Poor
- 1 – Unacceptable

Did the umpire demonstrate consistent professional integrity at all times? Please give an accurate description below. *
After you make your comments, please give the umpire an overall rating:

- 5 = Very capable and should continue working NCAA postseason tournament
- 3 = Needs to make improvements in his umpiring to continue to work NCAA postseason tournaments
- 1 = Is not ready to work this level of NCAA baseball

Do you feel that this umpire should be selected (or considered) for future postseason assignments?

Please select below:
APPENDIX F

NCAA BASEBALL RULES COMMITTEE
RULE CHANGES FOR 2017-18

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. These changes were approved by the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).

a. Restrictions on Use of Attachments – The Bat (Rule 1-12.c).

(1) Recommendation. Add new 1-12.c to read “There shall be no external attachment(s) to any part of the bat.”

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. The rules committee is concerned about student-athlete safety and fair play that could develop by permitting attachments to the baseball bat. This proposal would prohibit attachments, created as part of the manufacturer’s product line or fabricated by a third party, from being added to any part of the baseball bat.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Minimal impact on the student-athlete.

b. Restrictions on Use of Attached or Embedded Technology – The Bat (Rule 1-12.d).

(1) Recommendation. Add new 1-12.d to read “There shall be no data collection or transmission device externally attached or embedded within any part of the baseball bat.”

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. The rules committee is concerned about competitive equity and fair play that could develop by permitting these types of data collection devices.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Minimal impact on the student-athlete.

c. Additional Penalty for Illegal Equipment – The Bat (Rule 1-12. PENALTY)

(1) Recommendation. Add language to penalty for a. and b. – “PENALTY for a. and b. – A bat that has been flattened or altered to improve performance is an illegal bat. If such an illegal bat is detected before the first pitch, the batter shall be called out and the bat shall be removed from the game. If an illegal bat is
detected after the first pitch, legal or illegal, the batter shall be declared out and baserunners shall not advance as a result of a batted ball. The bat shall be removed from the contest.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, if a batter comes to the plate and is found to have an illegal bat prior to the first pitch, the bat is removed from the game and the batter is required to use a bat that conforms to the rules. Adding this pre-pitch penalty is intended to prevent attempts to bring illegal to the plate.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

d. **Permissible Gloves (Rule 1-13.c).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Change Rule 1-13.c to permit a larger fielding glove. Rule 1-13.c will read “Every player except the catcher and first baseman is restricted to the use of a fielder’s glove not more than 12 13 inches long nor more than 8 inches wide.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** The permissible size of fielding gloves at the professional level has been increased to 13 inches. For consistency in purchasing, permitting this size would allow student-athletes to purchase a fielder’s glove without concern that it is larger than permitted.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances the student-athlete experience.

e. **Use of Facility for Warm-up – Bullpen (Rule 2-13. A.R. 2).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add A.R. 2): “During a game, facilities used for potential substitute pitchers or other players to warm up should be comparable for both home and visiting teams. Pitchers should be warmed up in the designated bullpen area, not in another facility or location out of sight and sound of the playing field.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Especially during games played in inclement weather, there is a concern that home teams may have an unfair advantage if they have facilities available to warm up pitchers that are not available to the visiting team. In the interest of fair play, bullpens shall be used by both teams as defined in the rule.
(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Because of competitive equity this will enhance the student-athlete experience.

**f. Defining Obstruction – Initial Tangling of Field and Runner (Rule 2-55. A.R. 5).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add A.R. 5 – “When a fielder attempts to catch a wild throw during an attempted steal, if the ball is misplayed and the runner and fielder tangle, the fielder is restricted from any further hindrance after the initial contact.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Establishing this administrative ruling will clarify that the act of initially tangling between runner and field is not obstruction, but any further hindrance of the defensive player would be obstruction.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

**g. Obstruction by the Catcher (Rules 2-55; 8-2. e; 8-2. f; 8-3. f; 8-3. g).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add a Note to the definition of Obstruction reading “Note: The catcher, without the ball in his possession, has no right to block the pathway of the runner attempting to score. The base line belongs to the runner and the catcher should be there only when he is fielding the ball or when he already has the ball in his hand. If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in flight toward and near enough to the fielder so he must occupy his position to receive the ball, he may be considered “in the act of fielding” a ball. It is entirely up to the judgment of the umpire as to whether the fielder is in the act of fielding a ball.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Creating this Note will allow for clearer understanding of the specific requirements for obstruction by the position of catcher or person covering home plate. This is proposed to improve the safety of both the catcher and runner during plays at the plate.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhance the student-athlete experience due to the safety impact during plays at the plate.

**h. Defining an Official Warning (Rule 2-57).**
(1) **Recommendation.** Establish new Rule 2-57 of Official Warning. The definition will read “**Official Warning** – An ‘Official Warning’ is a warning from an umpire that carries the words ‘This is your official warning. If you continue, you will leave me no option but to eject you.’ Slang terms such as, but not limited to, ‘knock it off;’ ‘that’s enough;’ ‘don’t say anything else;’ or, ‘I’ve heard enough’ do not constitute an official warning.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Establishing this definition will ensure that coaches and umpires are aware of what constitutes an official warning prior to an ejection occurs.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal to student-athlete impact.

i. **Penalty for Substitute Head Coach – Initial Coaching Position (Rule 2-26. A.R. 6; Rule 3-1).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add administrative ruling that will be place in two areas, Rule 2-26 as A.R. 6 and Rule 3-1 as A.R.1. The A.R. will read “When the head coach has been ejected and is replaced by a substitute head coach, the substitute head coach has all the duties, rights and responsibilities accorded to the original head coach. However, should the substitute head coach be ejected, they shall serve a one-game suspension in addition to his ejection.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** The substitute head coach is entitled to the rights and duties of the head coach, for the purposes of making lineup changes and communicate with umpires, this administrative ruling is intended to clarify that the suspension penalty required of players and assistant coaches for being ejected is still to be followed even if the person is serving in the capacity of head coach.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

j. **Use of Alternate Baseballs – Note (Rule 4-1. Note).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Include Note after Rule 4-1. c.3 “**Note: Use of Alternate Baseballs** – The umpire should be the sole judge of whether the ball should be checked and should certainly do so if the ball has bounced off equipment or a fence/wall, if it appears ‘discolored, scuffed or otherwise unsuitable for play,’ or if the pitcher requests a different ball as stated. Umpires do not need to routinely
check the ball each time a ground ball is hit to the infield or each pitch that is not cleanly caught by the catcher. Weather and field conditions should be a factor in deciding when to check the ball.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This clarification is to assist in maintaining a reasonable pace of play.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

k. **Establishment of Ground Rules (Rule 4-5).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Insert additional sentence to rule to clarify that ground rules shall not conflict with playing rules. Rule 4-5 will read “A local ground rule may be adopted where unusual conditions prevail if agreeable with the visiting team. **No ground rule shall conflict with the official playing rules.** Where teams do not agree, ground rules shall be determined by the umpires. It is recommended that ground rules be posted in each dugout.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Establishing ground rules that conflict with the playing rules creates competitive inequity from facility to facility.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Positive student-athlete impact by providing competitive equity.

l. **Advancement of Runners – Winning Run Forced Home Without Liability (Rule 5-8. d).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add A.R. to read “When the winning run is scored in the last half-inning of a regulation game, or in the last half-inning of an extra inning, as the result of a base on balls, hit batter or any other play with the bases full which forces the batter and all other runners to advance without liability of being put out, the umpire shall not declare the game ended until the runner forced to advance from third has touched home plate and the batter-runner has touched first base. An exception will be made if fans rush onto the field and physically prevent the runner from touching home plate or the batter-runner from touching first base. In such cases, the umpires shall award the runner the necessary bases with no appeal allowed.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.
(3) Rationale. This will allow umpires to simplify the administration of game-ending bases loaded situations to allow umpires to ensure that only the batter runner and the runner on third base have touched the next base safely.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Minimal impact on the student-athlete.

m. Halted-Game – Meeting Definition of Regulation Game (Rule 5-9. c. A.R.).

(1) Recommendation. Add clearly worded language to 5-9c. A.R. to read “When the Halted-Game Procedure is agreed upon prior to the start of a nonconference contest and the contest cannot be finished; the unfinished game becomes ‘no contest’ if the game has not met the conditions of a regulation game."

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. The current administrative ruling contradicts language in the rule. This additional language establishes that if a game meets the definition of a regulation game, even if the game has been agreed to be played under the halted-game rule, it would not revert to a no contest.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.

n. Hit by the Pitch – Batter Movement (Rule 8-2. d.1).

(1) Recommendation. Amend Rule 8-2. d.1 to read “A batter must attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch may not make a movement to intentionally get hit by the pitch and must avoid being hit whenever possible. If the batter’s action is deemed intentional then:"

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This clarification is intended to reduce the intentional act of batters attempting to be hit by the pitch by making a movement to contact the pitch. If, in the umpire’s judgement, the batter is unable to make an attempt to avoid the pitch the batter will be awarded first base.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhance the student-athlete experience and increases student-athlete safety.
o. Collision Rule – Plays at the Plate (Rule 8-7).

(1) **Recommendation.** Rewrite 8-7 Collision Rule to read – “a) A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate), or otherwise initiate an avoidable collision. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the umpire shall declare the runner out (regardless of whether the player covering home plate maintains possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he shall not be adjudged to be in violation.

Note: The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the plate, the runner’s lowering of the shoulder, or the runner’s pushing through with his hands, elbows or arms, would support a determination that the runner deviated from the pathway in order to initiate contact with the catcher in violation of the Collision Rule 8-7, or otherwise initiated a collision that could have been avoided. A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner’s buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. In the case of a head first slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if his body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. If a catcher blocks the pathway of the runner, the umpire shall not find that the runner initiated an avoidable collision in violation of the Collision Rule.

b) Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as he is attempting to score. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the catcher without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the umpire shall call or signal the runner safe. Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in a legitimate attempt to field the throw, (e.g., in reaction to the direction, trajectory or the hop of the incoming throw, or in reaction to a throw that originates from the pitcher or drawn-in infielder). In addition, a catcher without possession of the ball shall not be adjudged to be in violation if the runner could have avoided the collision with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) by sliding.

Note: A catcher shall not be deemed to have violated the Collision Rule unless he has both blocked the plate without possession of the ball (or when not in a legitimate attempt to field the throw), and also hindered or impeded the progress of the runner attempting to score. A catcher shall not be deemed to have hindered or impeded the progress of the runner if, in the judgment of the umpire, the runner would have been called out notwithstanding the catcher having blocked the plate. In addition, a catcher should use best efforts to avoid unnecessary and forcible contact while tagging a runner attempting to slide. Catchers who routinely make unnecessary and forcible contact with a runner attempting to slide (e.g., by initiating contact using a knee, shin guard, elbow or forearm) may be subject to being ejected.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.
(3) **Rationale.** This will provide clarification for the application of the Collision Rule.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances the student-athlete experience by providing a safer game environment.

**p. The Windup Position – Position of Chest and Shoulders (9-1. a).**

(1) **Recommendation.** “The pitcher shall stand with his chest and shoulders generally facing the batter, with the pivot foot on or in front of and touching the pitcher’s plate with the other foot free.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Adding this language requiring the pitcher to face the batter with the chest and shoulders will allow base runners and umpires to clearly determine if the pitcher is in the windup or the set position.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Student-athletes will have minimal impact.

**q. Reestablishing the Pivot Foot – Prohibit Second Push-off (9-1. a.9).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add number 9 to section 1 to read, “9) A pitcher shall not jump or push forward off the pitcher’s plate with his pivot foot and then bring his foot to the ground and make a second push-off to deliver the pitch.
   
   a. This is considered an illegal pitch and shall be called a balk with runners on base.
   
   b. A pitcher is not in violation if he pushes off the pitcher’s plate with the pivot foot and maintains consistent contact with the ground with the pivot foot without a second push-off from the ground.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This addresses situations where the pitcher gains an advantage by pushing off a second time closer to home plate.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances the student-athlete experience by providing competitive equity.
r. **Distracting Tattoos – Requirement to Legally Cover Distracting Tattoos (9-2.h).**

(1) **Recommendation.** “Tattoos on a pitcher’s body that a batter or umpire consider distracting must be legally covered.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This provides clarification for application of the rule.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Student-athletes will be minimally impacted.

s. **Momentary Adjustment – Prior to Legal Pitching Position (9-3.h).**

(1) **Recommendation.** “The pitcher may momentarily adjust the ball in the glove and separate the hands if it is prior to assuming a legal pitching position.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Provides clarification to current rule.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

t. **Permissible Warm-up – Warm-up of Defensive Players During Pitching Substitution (9-4. a. A.R. 6).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Edit A.R. 6 to read: During a free trip or a timeout to allow a substitution for the pitcher, a defensive player may warm up another defensive player, provided it does not delay the game. The play warming up must be in the current lineup and remain in fair territory during the charged conference or timeout. For example, a bullpen catcher is not allowed to participate in this type of warm-up.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Editorial. Currently the A.R. refers to other defensive players warming up during a charged conference. The same restriction should apply during a pitching change. Players should remain on the field so the game can resume promptly after the timeout.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.
(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

v. **Catch and Carry – Fall or Step into Out-of-Play Area (6-1. d; 6-4. e).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Catch and Carry: “Each runner, other than the batter, may without liability to be put out, advance one base when a fielder, after catching a fly ball, steps or falls into any out-of-play area.”

   (2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

   (3) **Rationale.** Making this change will reduce potential safety issues that can arise with plays that continue into out-of-play areas and allow for consistency of ground rules.

   (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** This will have potential impact of student-athlete safe.

w. **Common Practice – Direction to Coaches During Conference Under Getting the Call Right (Appendix E-E A.R. 2).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Add “common practice” to Appendix E – 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. Common Practice: The umpires shall notify the opposing head coach of the umpire’s decision to change the call before signaling their decision to the press box or crowd. Once the notification is made to the coach, the calling official will signal the final decision.

   (2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

   (3) **Rationale.** By providing the coaches an explanation prior to an announcement after the umpires have conferenced or used review, the committee believes there will be a reduced number of additional arguments by coaches of the impacted team.

   (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

x. **Defining the Outfield for Getting the Call Right (Appendix E – C-9; Appendix E C-10 A.R. 1).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Add A.R. 1 following C-10 – “A.R. 1 – For purposes of applying the changing of a call of “catch” to “no catch” (Section 9) or “no catch” to “catch” (Section 10), a fair batted ball shall be considered “hit into the outfield” when it is hit into the outfield area beyond the nearest infielder. A line drive hit
directly toward an infielder shall not meet the requirement for a potential change of the initial call.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Provides clarification as to where the “outfield” begins for purposes of umpires being permitted to conference or use instant replay.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

x. **Infield “No Catch” Changed to “Catch” – Getting the Call Right (Appendix E – C-9; Appendix E C-10 A.R. 2).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add A.R. 2 following C-10 – “A.R. 2 – A call of “no catch” within the infield can be change to a “catch” if there are one or more runners on base and the change to a “catch” results in the third out, or at any time with no base runners and the change affects the batter only.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Adds that situations of “no catch” to “catch” can be reviewed.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Minimal student-athlete impact.

y. **Video Instant Replay – Permissible Use of Instant Replay (Appendix E – B).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Implement video instant replay for specific types of plays under the guidelines of Appendix E – Getting the Call Right. The following plays will be reviewable:
   a. Deciding if a batted ball is fair or foul. The ball must first touch the ground or a fielder beyond the initial position of the first or third baseman.
   b. Deciding if a batted ball is either a ground rule double or a home run.
   c. Any catch or no catch in the outfield or foul territory.
   d. A call of “no catch” can be changed to “catch” within the infield only if it results in a third out with any runners on base, or any time with a batter runner only.
   e. Spectator interference.
   f. Deciding scoring plays at home plate inclusive of collisions (illegal and/or malicious slides) or time plays.

The following criteria will be used by institutions and conferences using Instant Replay during the regular season:
a. A ruling on the field will only be changed if there is indisputable video evidence to reverse the call. Absent that evidence, the original ruling on the field will stand.
b. Any use of instant replay must occur before the next pitch or play. If the replay is called for after a game ending play, if must be called before all umpires leave the field of play.
c. The crew chief will make the determination to use instant replay. There is no “coaches challenge.” Under the provisions of Getting the Call Right, coaches have the ability to request a conference among the umpires.
d. The video review area must be on the field level so that umpires must not walk through spectators to view the coverage. At least one umpire must remain on the field.
e. During the video review the defensive team shall maintain their position on the field and may warm-up if desired. Offensive base runners and the on-deck hitter shall maintain their position. Other personnel shall remain in the dugout. Any defensive or offensive conferences will be charged as during any other part of the game.
f. All equipment should be tested by appropriate personnel before each game.
g. The final decision may not be argued by either coach.
h. If the reversing of a call results in the need for decisions on the placement of base runners, the crew chief shall use his best judgment to determine their locations as if the call had been made correctly (with exception to placement prescribed by rule on catch/no catch reversals).
i. If a call has been changed, the crew chief, upon returning to the field, will notify both head coaches and the official scorer of the ruling.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Establishing the parameters for permissive rules to allow the use of video replay where capabilities are available as a supplement to Appendix E Getting the Call Right will continue to improve the game and the student-athlete experience.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** Those institutions that televise or web-stream contests would have the cost of field level monitors or computers for the umpire to access the video feed.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** This could benefit the student-athlete, providing a better student-athlete experience.