



NCAA Baseball Interpretations/Clarifications 2019 – 2020

January 31, 2020

Rule 9-1-f – Pitcher Receiving Signals from Bench when using Wristband with Signal Card

The rule states “When taking signs, the pitcher must have the pivot foot touching the pitcher’s rubber.....If the pitcher takes a sign from other than a legal position, the pitch shall be called a ball.”

Interpretation – In order to comply more easily with the 20-second action limit, the pitcher is now allowed to wear a wristband with a signal card insert as described in a previous interpretation. This allows both the pitcher and the catcher to receive one signal from the dugout prior to the next pitch. The rule about the pitcher taking signs with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s rubber in rule 9-1-f was written when the only signs given prior to a pitch were coming from the catcher. The concern about the position (windup or set) and touching the rubber when taking a sign relates to not putting the batter at a disadvantage by quick pitching. Infielders (including pitchers) have often received oral or visual defensive instructions or signals from the dugout prior to getting ready for the next pitch. The pitcher should be allowed to get a signal or direction from the dugout while standing on the mound but not touching the rubber, check his wristband, then step onto the rubber and take his proper position. After taking this legal position (windup or set), the pitcher needs to look into the catcher, pause briefly, and either take a sign or appear to take a sign before beginning any movement to start the pitch. This is fair to the batter, avoids the appearance of the pitcher separating his hands to look at the signal card while touching the rubber, and keeps the sequence of the pitch and the pitching rule the same as in the past.

Implementation of Bat Barrel Compression Testing, Rule 1-12-g (NCAA Division I for 2020 season) and Bat Barrel Color, Rule 1-12-b-7

As the 2020 NCAA Division I baseball regular season begins in a few days, all teams and coaches should be reminded that with the implementation of Rule 1-12-g this season, it is mandatory that all bats used in games involving NCAA Division I baseball programs be tested and approved prior to each regular season series or single date of competition. The playing rule is applicable to all competition and is required at neutral sites and campus venues. The rule states as follows: “All bats used in competition must pass the barrel ring test and barrel compression testing.” Additional information to be used to certify the legality of the bats is found in Rule 1-12-b. Information regarding the [bat testing process](#) can be found on the [NCAA Baseball Playing Rules](#) webpage under Updates.

Please remember, all bats must be on the [BBCOR approved bat list](#), and, starting with the 2020 season, cannot be included on the list of [Prohibited BBCOR Baseball Bats - Barrel Color Noncompliance](#). These lists are found on the NCAA Baseball Playing Rules webpage or on Arbiter, NCAA Baseball Home Plate in the “NCAA Bats” section.

Most Division I conferences have either already implemented their bat testing procedures during the past 2 seasons or have those plans in place for any games their member schools are hosting during the coming season.

January 9, 2020

Appendix B, A-3 – Scoreboards and video

The playing rules state, “Any instance in which an umpire has made a judgment call may be replayed only one time at regular speed and must be replayed before the next batter (for either team) enters the dirt area around home plate.”

Interpretation – When video review is available and being utilized, an unlimited number of replays at regular speed or slow-motion may be shown of the play while it is under review. Additional replays, using the same video clips available to the video review process are only permitted after a coach has challenged a reviewable play or the crew chief has decided at his discretion to review a play and the umpires are in the process of the review. The videoboard is not intended to assist coaches or umpires in determining whether a play should be reviewed.

Rule 9-2-h – Pitcher’s Use of Wristband for Receiving Signals

The rule states “A pitcher shall not wear jewelry or clothing items that a batter or umpire considers distracting (e.g., chains, white logos, wrist bands, loose lacing on glove).

Interpretation – In order to facilitate receiving signals in an accurate and timely manner, a pitcher may wear a wristband with a signal card insert on his non-pitching wrist/forearm. It must be black or a solid, dark color. If the insert is not covered with a flap, it should be on the inside of the wrist to reduce any distraction to the batter. There shall not be any attachment to the pitcher’s glove.

Rule 5-2-f-Note 1 – Use of Technology to Transmit Signals

The rule reads “Video and communication equipment used to transmit information between coaches, coaches and players, scout or other team personnel shall not be allowed for intercollegiate competition.”

Clarification and Reminder – Any use of technology to transmit signals must be approved by the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee in writing as an experimental rule before it can be used. Also, any information gathered by video or other technology cannot be transmitted to the team during the contest. Such information can only be used in the future for training and coaching purposes.