



MEMORANDUM

December 11, 2020

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Conference Baseball Administrators and Conference Baseball Umpire Coordinators.

FROM: Jeff Altier, chair  
NCAA Division I Baseball Committee.

George M. Drouches, national coordinator  
NCAA Baseball Umpires.

SUBJECT: Reminder about NCAA Baseball Umpire Policies in Effect for 2021.

The NCAA Division I Baseball Committee and Baseball Umpire Program (BUP) are committed to improving umpiring during the regular season, as well as during the NCAA baseball championship. The continued growth of college baseball makes it imperative that we strive to assign well-trained and qualified umpires to every game throughout the season. We thought it would be important to remind you of the points of emphasis pertaining to conference and non-conference games.

1. The Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) passed two updates to policy related to NCAA Division I baseball umpiring at its annual spring meeting in June 2018. The CCA administers officiating policy for regular season competition. Both changes brought the umpire requirements for regular season Division I competition in line with the standard requirements for being eligible to umpire in NCAA Division I postseason play. The changes brought established best practices into formal policy. Please be sure your conference baseball umpiring program will again be compliance for the 2020-21 season.
  - a. To be eligible for NCAA Division I regular season baseball umpiring assignments, an umpire must be registered with ArbiterSports.
  - b. To be eligible for NCAA Division I regular season baseball umpiring assignments, an umpire must complete the annual NCAA umpiring examination.\*

\*The requirement is to take the test. Each conference shall determine what score will result in eligibility for its assignments. This does not change the NCAA postseason eligibility policy that in order to be considered for NCAA Division I Baseball Championship selection, an umpire must receive a passing grade by the established deadline date on the annual NCAA baseball test of 85 percent or better (within two attempts).

2. Conferences are required to have their umpire coordinator directly assign and/or approve the assignment of umpires for all conference and non-conference games. An individual umpire may work no more than 50 percent of one institution's home non-conference game schedule. Schools that do not play as part of a Division I conference are required to select a conference within their region to assign umpires for all their home games. Please note that for the 2021 season, there are no independent institutions. Active umpires

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assigning regular season conference and/or non-conference games will not be eligible for postseason selection. If you have any active umpires providing any such assignments, please inform both Randy L. Buhr at the NCAA National Office ([rlbuhr@ncaa.org](mailto:rlbuhr@ncaa.org)) and George Drouches ([georgedrouches@gmail.com](mailto:georgedrouches@gmail.com)) no later than February 19, 2021.

3. A conference may not employ scratch procedures in the assignment of officials to its conference or non-conference games. Scratch procedures are those that provide coaches, either individually or collectively, with the direct or indirect authority to hire, retain or affect the assignment or release of any officials. Conference coordinators are encouraged to solicit, either orally or in writing, coaches' evaluations of officials, noting that this information would be treated as advisory only and that complete control of the officiating staff remains vested in the conference office.
4. It is required that all neutral site games involving Division I opponents have conference coordinator approved umpires. Many such events occur early in the season at neutral sites; however, use of conference coordinators to approve officials will help ensure quality umpiring at such events.
5. Before the start of the season (championship segment), head baseball coaches at NCAA Division I institutions are required to view an NCAA baseball rules video or attend an NCAA umpire officiating clinic (if applicable in a given year). If an institution's head baseball coach is unable to or chooses not to attend a clinic or view the video, the institution is required to send a full-time coaching staff member to one of the four umpire clinics (if applicable).
6. It is important that a minimum level of umpiring be used in all Division I baseball games and that there be a minimum level of consistency in umpire crews (as some conferences are using a four-umpire system). Three umpires (at minimum) are recommended for use in the upcoming baseball season for all Division I conference and non-conference games.
7. It was also required effective with the 2018 season that those umpires submitted on the watch list by each respective conference baseball umpire coordinator will be the only umpires who coordinators may formally recommend for championship consideration. This policy will remain in effect for the 2021 season.
8. Please note that if these baseball umpire policies are not followed during the 2021 season, representatives of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee, the NCAA Baseball Umpire Program staff, and the NCAA staff may conduct a conference call with the applicable conference and/or institutional staff that may not have followed these policies. It is our hope that none of these calls will be necessary.

We hope that this information educates each of you about these important policies and points of emphasis for the upcoming season. We look forward to working with all of you this spring.

cc: Division I Baseball Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff