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# 2027 NCBA Division I
# RULES & REGULATIONS INDEX


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**Frequently Asked Questions**


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# RULES & REGULATIONS

***NOTE: The goal of the NCBA is to promote fair competition and sportsmanship. In an effort to promote these two ideals, the NCBA strongly recommends the following:***

- ***Each NCBA Club President read the NCBA Rulebook and have open discussions with their respective clubs regarding the rules governing play and eligibility with the NCBA.***
- ***Each NCBA Club President read the NCAA Rulebook and have open discussions with their respective clubs regarding how these rules govern and support the NCBA Rulebook.***

**The National Club Baseball Association follows the NCAA Division 1 rules of play with the following exceptions listed below.**

1.00.00 (Conference Play)

1.01.0 All NCBA conference play will be broken up into 3-game series.

1.01.1 While teams are allowed to play triple headers, they can never be forced to play 3 regular season conference games in a single day.

1.01.2 Any team that is deemed eligible to play an "**NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game"** in the fall will be scheduled at least 1 conference series in the fall.

1.01.3 When submitting scheduling requests for Conference Play, teams are only permitted to request two of the following off:

1.01.3.1 Easter Weekend

1.01.3.2 First Weekend of Spring Break

1.01.3.3 Last Weekend of Spring Break

1.01.4 In Conference Play situations where the home field is swapped (SCHEDULED home team does not have access to a field and has to now travel to SCHEDULED away team), the team who is hosting the field is allowed to play as the home team upon agreement between both teams and the Regional Director.

1.01.4.1 However, in the eyes of the NCBA the game will still be viewed and recorded as originally scheduled and the future home/away schedule rotation will remain in tact.

1.01.4.2 Example: If in 2024 Team A is schedule to play at Team B but Team B can't get a field and agrees to play the game(s) at Team A's field with Team A being the home field, in 2025 Team B will be scheduled to play at Team A.

1.02.0 Conferences of 4 Teams or fewer

1.02.1 NCBA teams in conferences made up of four or fewer teams will play both a home 3-game series and an away 3-game series against each conference opponent during a single NCBA season.

1.02.1.1 An exception is if a visiting team forfeits an entire away conference series without traveling to the opponent, then the following season the team that failed to make the away trip will once again be scheduled away against that particular conference opponent even if it means they must travel to them twice in the same season.

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1.02.1.1.1 Once the forfeiting team has traveled to the opponent in which they had forfeited to, the conference schedule will return to its original rotation.

1.02.1.1.2 Example: If in 2024 Team A is scheduled to play 3 games at Team B and Team B is scheduled to play 3 games at Team A, but Team A forfeits the entire 3 game series and fails to make the trip to Team B, then in 2025, Team A will be scheduled to play both 3 game series at Team B. Should Team A actually travel to Team B for their conference series in 2025, then in 2026 the conference schedule would return to the original rotation with Team A once again being scheduled to play 3 games at Team B and Team B playing 3 games at Team A.

1.03.0 5+ Team Conferences

1.03.1 NCBA teams in conferences made up of five or more teams will play either a home 3-game series or an away 3-game series (but not both) against each conference opponent during a single NCBA season.

1.03.2 NCBA teams in conferences made up of five or more teams will alternate their home and away 3-game series with each conference opponent from one NCBA season to the next.

1.03.2.1 Example: If Team A played a 3-game series at Team B during the 2024 NCBA season, Team B will play a 3-game series at Team A during the 2025 NCBA season.

1.03.2.2 An exception is if a visiting team forfeits an entire away conference series without traveling to the opponent, then the following season the team that failed to make the away trip will once again be scheduled away against that particular conference opponent.

1.03.2.2.1 Once the forfeiting team has traveled to the opponent in which they had forfeited to, the conference schedule will return to its original rotation.

1.03.2.2.2 Example: If in 2024 Team A is scheduled to play at Team B but forfeits the entire series and fails to make the trip to Team B, then in 2025, Team A will once again be scheduled to play at Team B. Should Team A actually travel to Team B for their conference series in 2025, then in 2026 the conference schedule would return to the original rotation with Team A once again being scheduled to play at Team B and Team B playing at Team A in 2027.

1.04.0 Scheduling

1.04.1 Unless mutually agreed upon by both teams in writing to the regional director, any ~~conference~~ **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** can begin no earlier than 8am local time on Saturday.

1.04.2 Unless mutually agreed upon in writing to the Regional Director by both teams, the final game of a weekend series may not be scheduled to start later than 4pm local time Sunday of that week.

1.05.0 Rain Outs

1.05.1 The following hierarchy dictates who has the official say when declaring a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** is rained out;

1.05.1.1 Field managing entity.

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1.05.1.2 Mutual agreement between home and away team.
1.05.1.2.1 Regional Director must be contacted to verify mutual agreement.
1.05.1.3 The umpire in chief.

1.05.2 In the event that a NCBA conference game(s) would be rained out, the teams have until midnight Thursday of the week following the week that the game(s) were originally scheduled to be played to mutually agree upon a make up date and submit it to their Regional Director for approval.

1.05.3 Should the teams fail to mutually agree upon the make up date, the Regional Director will officially set the make up date at his/her discretion.

1.06.0 Non-Conference Games

1.06.1 All NCBA teams are welcome and encouraged to supplement their conference schedule with non-conference games against: NCBA Member Club Baseball Teams, Non-NCBA Collegiate Club Baseball Teams, and any other Collegiate Baseball Team.

1.06.2 Conference games ALWAYS take top priority over non-conference games, and it is possible non-conference games may need to be bumped from the schedule in order to make up conference games that were not played due to unplayable conditions.

1.06.3 In the event that two NCBA teams play a game during a time period in which one team can count it as a "**NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**" and the other team must count it as an "**Off Season Baseball Game**", the by default the game is automatically considered an "**Exhibition Baseball Game**".

1.07.0 Conclusion of Conference Play

1.07.1 Conference play officially concludes at midnight of the Sunday prior to the scheduled start of each Region's Playoff Tournament.

1.07.2 No additional conference games may be played after the official conclusion of conference play, even if games that were rained out have not yet been able to be made up.

2.00.00 (Inter-League Play)

2.01.0 Any game played between a NCBA Division I team and a NCBA Division II or NCBA Division III team must be played using NCBA Division I Rules of play.

2.02.0 Any games between the NCBA Division I team of a College or University and that same school's NCBA Division II or Division III team can count ONLY TWO games towards their overall record. HOWEVER, those game(s) WILL NOT count towards the required 3-game non-conference requirement for the post-season and WILL NOT be factored in for Regional or World Series seeding.

2.02.1 Any other games between the NCBA Division I team of a College or University and that same school's NCBA DII or DIII team will automatically considered an **Exhibition Baseball Game**.

2.03.0 No baseball team holding membership in the NCBA may compete in another baseball league which runs simultaneously as the NCBA season.

2.03.1 In the event that a NCBA member school has a 2nd team or a "B-Team" which operates with a completely different roster of players as the NCBA Member Team, that "B-Team" is allowed to compete in a another baseball league outside of the NCBA.

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3.00.00 (Determining Conference Standing/At-Large Bids/Playoff Seeding)

3.01.0 Determining Conference Standing

3.01.1 For a team to be eligible to win their conference, the total number of conference games they played must equal or exceed 75% of the average number of conference games played by all teams in their conference including forfeits.

3.01.2 For a team to be eligible to win their conference or receive an At-Large Bid, they must have played a minimum of 3 non-conference games excluding unplayed forfeits.

3.01.3 The first criterion for determining conference standing is conference-winning percentage.

3.01.4 The first tiebreaker for determining conference standing is conference-winning percentage vs. all tied teams.

3.01.5 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is conference game results versus the conference champion.

3.01.6 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is conference game results versus the next best conference team.

3.01.7 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the lower number of conference game runs allowed versus the tied opponents including forfeits.

3.01.8 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the lower average of runs allowed per conference game played excluding forfeits.

3.01.9 The final tiebreaker for determining conference standing is a coin toss.

3.01.10 Once a tiebreaker eliminates a team from consideration or determines a conference champion, the tiebreaking process starts over.

3.01.10.1 *Example 1*: Given a three way tie if Team A swept Team B, Team B swept Team C, and Team C swept Team A, and Team A, B, and C swept all the other conference opponents. Team A allowed 50 runs, Team B allowed 40 runs and Team C allowed 30 runs. Team C would be the conference winner and Team A would be the runner up (head to head with Team B)

3.01.10.2 *Example 2*: Given a three way tie if Team A swept Team B, Team B swept Team C, and Team C swept Team A, and Team A, B, and C swept all the other conference opponents. Team A allowed 50 runs, Team B allowed 50 runs and Team C allowed 55 runs. Team A would be the conference winner (head to head with Team B) and Team B would be the runner up (head to head with Team C)

3.02.0 At-Large Bids

3.02.1 On occasion the opportunity arises for one or more teams that do not win their conference to be selected to make the Regional Playoffs as an At-Large Bid.

3.02.2 All teams selected to receive an At-Large Bid are chosen at the discretion of the NCBA's Selection Panel.

3.02.3 Factors taken into account by the NCBA when selecting an At-Large Bid consist of but are not limited to:

3.02.3.1 Did the team finish in 2nd place in their conference?

3.02.3.2 How did the team perform against their conference champion?

3.02.3.3 Is the team on probation?

3.02.3.4 Has the team forfeited any games?

3.02.3.5 Head to head results vs. common opponents?

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3.03.0 Regional Playoff Seeding

3.03.1 Seeding for all opening round NCBA Regional post-season playoff games will be:

3.03.1.1 If there is an At-Large Bid, they will always be the 4th seed.

3.03.1.2 Conference winners will be seeded first by Conference win percentage, then Overall win percentage, Top 20 Poll, then by coin toss.

3.03.1.3 Opening Round match-ups will be the number 1 seed versus the number 4 seed and the number 2 seed versus the number 3 seed.

3.03.1.3.1 If the number 1 seed and the number 4 seed are in the same conference, then the opening round match-ups will be the number 1 seed versus the number 3 seed and the number 2 seed versus the number 4 seed.

3.04.0 World Series Seeding

3.04.1 Teams receive a ranking across various variables in comparison to the other teams in the field; conference win %, overall win %, Top 20 ranking and overall number of overall games played. Teams receive a rank for each of these categories, with the order of the average ranking across all variables providing the final seeds

4.00.00 (Game Length)

4.01.0 NCBA Sanctioned Tournaments

4.01.1 Groups interested in hosting a tournament that is sanctioned by the NCBA, can apply for sanctioning by contacting the NCBA Front Office.

4.01.2 NCBA Sanctioned Tournaments are eligible to compete as all 7-inning games.

4.02.0 NCBA Spring Training Showcase

4.02.1 All **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games** played at the NCBA Spring Training Showcase will be played in a 7-inning format.

4.02.2 Mercy Rule 4.07.0 will remain in effect during all NCBA Spring Training Showcase games.

4.03.0 Regular Season

4.03.1 Any Double Header regular season **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** will be played in a 7-inning format.

4.03.1.1 An exemption to this is, if both teams wish to play one game of a double header in a 9-inning format so that they can play the single game of the series in a 7-inning format, they may do so if approved by the NCBA front office.

4.03.1.1.1 Requests to play one game of a double header in a 9-inning format must be received (In writing) by the Regional Director overseeing those games, no less than 48 hours in advance of the games scheduled start time.

4.03.2 Any single (Non Double Header) regular season **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** will be played in a 9-inning format.

4.03.2.1 An exemption to this is, if both teams wish to play the single game of the series in a 7-inning format, they may do so if approved by the NCBA front office, provided one game of the series double header is played in a 9-inning format.

4.03.2.1.1 Requests to play the single game of the series in a 7-inning format must be received (In writing) by the Regional Director overseeing those games.

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4.03.2.2 An exemption to this is, if a game was previously cancelled due to inclement weather and is being rescheduled to be played mid week or during the weekend, it may be played in a 7-inning format if approved by the Regional Director.

4.03.2.2.1 Requests to play a make-up game in a 7-inning format must be received (In writing) by the Regional Director overseeing those games.

4.03.3 While the NCBA does not make it mandatory for teams to play a tripleheader, if teams mutually agree to play a tripleheader, all 3 games can be played in a 7-inning format.

4.03.4 Mercy rule 4.07.0 will be in effect during all NCBA Regular Season games.

4.03.5 **INSUFFICIENT INNINGS PLAYED FOR AN OFFICIAL GAME** - If five full innings have not been played (except if 4.5 innings have been played and the home team is ahead) when the official declares the game must be stopped due to weather or darkness, or other unplayable conditions including light failure or curfew, a HALTED GAME RULE will be in effect during NCBA Regular Season play.

4.03.5.1 A halted game will be continued at the next available opportunity as set forth by the Regional Director.

4.03.5.2 A halted game must resume play at exactly the point of being halted, with the lineups and batting orders of both teams exactly the same, subject to the rules of substitution; any player (or pitcher) who played, or was announced as a substitute before the game was halted, must be in the lineup when play resumes or be ineligible for the remainder of the game.

4.03.5.3 A halted game, when resumed will be played in the exact game length format in which it was started, and will continue until a winner is declared.

4.03.5.4 Stats from this game will not count until the game is concluded and should not be submitted to the league.

4.03.5.5 If the Regional Director determines that a Halted Game cannot be resumed at a later date, the game will be declared un-played.

4.03.6 **HOME TEAM AHEAD WHEN GAME CALLED** - If the home team is ahead AND at least 4.5 innings have been played when the official declares the game must be stopped due to weather or darkness, or other unplayable conditions including light failure or curfew, then the home team is declared the winner.

4.03.7 **VISTING TEAM AHEAD WHEN GAME CALLED** - If the visiting team is ahead AND at least 5 full innings have been played when the official declares the game must be stopped due to weather or darkness, or other unplayable conditions including light failure or curfew, the visiting team is declared the winner IF they had the lead at the end of the last completed full inning.

4.03.7.1 If the visiting team was trailing or the score was tied at the end of the last completed full inning the halted game rule will be in effect ONLY if the game is able to be finished within the confines of the originally scheduled weekend series.

4.03.7.1.1 If the game cannot be finished during the confines of that originally scheduled weekend series, the official result of the game will be determined by the score at the end of the last completed full inning even if that means having the game end in a tie.

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4.03.7.2 If halted, it must be finished before the start of any remaining conference games still needing to be played between the two opponents.

4.03.7.2.1 If teams begin a new game prior to finishing the halted game, the remaining game(s) against the two teams will not count and will be rescheduled.

4.03.8 **SCORE TIED WHEN GAME CALLED** - If the score is tied AND at least 5 full innings have been played when the official declares the game must be stopped due to weather or darkness, or other unplayable conditions including light failure or curfew, the halted game rule will be in effect ONLY if the game is able to be finished within the confines of the originally scheduled weekend series.

4.03.8.1 If the game cannot be finished during the confines of that originally scheduled weekend series, the official result of the game will be a tie unless the home team was ahead at the end of the last completed full inning in which case the home team is declared the winner.

4.03.8.2 If halted, it must be finished before the start of any remaining conference games still needing to be played between the two opponents.

4.03.8.2.1 If teams begin a new game prior to finishing the halted game, the remaining game(s) against the two teams will not count and will be rescheduled.

4.04.0 Regional Tournaments

4.04.1 All NCBA Regional post-season playoff games will be planned to be played in a 9-inning format.

4.04.1.1 It is at the discretion of the Regional Director whether it is logistically feasible to host the regional tournament in a 9-inning format. If deemed unfeasible, the Regional Director has the authority to alter the format of all or part of the regional tournament as deemed necessary to a 7-inning format.

4.04.1.2 If there is a chance that one team has to play three FULL games in one day, ALL games that day have to be played in a 7-inning format.

4.04.1.2.1 An exception will be made when game(s) within the same round are played on different days. These game(s) will be played under the same length.

4.04.1.3 The #1 seed at the Regional Tournament gets first choice of game time on Day 1.

4.04.2 Mercy rule 4.07.0 WILL be in effect during Regional post-season play.

4.04.3 A HALTED GAME RULE will be in effect during Regional post-season play.

4.04.3.1 A Regional post-season game that has been stopped at any time after its start because of inclement weather, darkness, light failure or curfew will be continued at the next available opportunity as set forth by the Regional Tournament Director.

4.04.3.2 A halted game must resume play at exactly the point of being halted, with the lineups and batting orders of both teams exactly the same, subject to the rules of substitution; any player (or pitcher) who played, or was announced as a substitute before the game was halted, must be in the lineup when play resumes or be ineligible for the remainder of the game.

4.04.3.3 A halted game, when resumed will be played in the exact game length format in which it was started, and will continue until a winner is declared.

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4.05.0 National Championship World Series

4.05.1 All NCBA World Series post-season games will be played in a 9-inning format.

4.05.2 Mercy rule 4.07.0 will NOT be in effect during World Series post-season play.

4.05.3 A HALTED GAME RULE will be in effect during National Championship World Series play.

4.05.3.1 A World Series game that has been stopped at any time after its start because of inclement weather, darkness, light failure or curfew will be continued at the next available opportunity as set forth by the National Championship Tournament Director.

4.05.3.2 A halted game must resume play at exactly the point of being halted, with the lineups and batting orders of both teams exactly the same, subject to the rules of substitution; any player (or pitcher) who played, or was announced as a substitute before the game was halted, must be in the lineup when play resumes or be ineligible for the remainder of the game.

4.05.3.3 A halted game, when resumed will be played in the exact game length format in which it was started, and will continue until a winner is declared.

4.06.0 Extra Innings:

4.06.1 Each extra inning will be played under the same format as each inning prior. No automatic runners, no changes in gameplay.

4.06.2 All games with the score tied at the end of nine innings (Seven for double headers and Regional post-season games) will continue into extra innings until a winner is declared. If the game is still tied when the official declares the game must be stopped due to weather or darkness, the game remains tied until the game can be completed at a future date.

4.07.0 Mercy Rule:

4.07.1 7-inning Game:

4.07.1.1 If a team is up by ten or more runs at the end of five or more full innings, that team is declared the winner, and play must be stopped.

4.07.2 9-inning Game:

4.07.2.1 If a team is up by fifteen or more runs at the end of 6 full innings, that team is declared the winner, and play must be stopped.

4.07.2.2 If a team is up by ten or more runs at the end of seven or more full innings, that team is declared the winner, and play must be stopped.

4.07.3 If the home team does not need to bat in their bottom half of the inning in order to go up by ten or more runs, then they are declared the winner, and play must be stopped.

4.07.3.1 If the home team only needs part of their inning to go up by 10 or more runs, then they are declared the winner and play must be stopped.

4.07.4 This rule is not in effect during World Series post-season play.

4.08.0 NCAA pace of play rules will be enforced after, and not before, a warning is issued by the umpire.

4.08.1 In the event that NCAA pace of play rules are put into effect, the use of a visible pitch clock is NOT ALLOWED even if one is available at the facility. In this case, the pitch clock must be kept by the home plate umpire.

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5.00.00 (Lineup Cards/Substitutions/Conferences)

5.01.0 Prior to the start of any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**, a lineup card must be submitted to both the opposing team and the home plate umpire.

5.01.1 The game is not permitted to begin until the umpire has received and approved both teams' lineup cards.

5.02.0 The lineup card must designate a manager/head coach for the team for that particular game.

5.02.1 In the event that the lineup card does not designate a manager/head coach, by default who ever turns the lineup card in to the home plate umpire is designated the manager/head coach for that particular game even if it's a player.

5.02.2 The designated manager/head coach in a particular game will be charged for mound visits in that game in accordance with NCAA rules. (3 per game, 1 per inning)

5.02.2.1 *Example*: Should any position player (catcher included) be listed as the designated manager/head coach, each time they visit the mound they will be charged with an official visit.

5.03.0 The NCBA will enforce the following Offensive/Defensive Conference Limit Rules.

5.03.1 A coach or player is granted a timeout for an offensive or defensive conference. Each team shall be allowed three (3) offensive and (6) defensive conferences per game, no more than three (3) of which may include a coach. If the game goes into extra innings, the team will receive one (1) extra defensive conference and one (1) extra offensive conference plus any unused conferences from the first nine innings.

5.03.1.1 *Example:* Should any position player (catcher included) be listed as the designated manager/head coach, each time they visit the mound they will be charged with an official visit.

5.03.1.2 Note: Offensive conferences may be used consecutively in the same inning.

5.03.2 Umpires shall record offensive and defensive conferences and notify the coach when each conference is charged.

5.03.3 After the maximum number of offensive and defensive conferences have been used, the umpire shall warn the coach before penalizing the offending team.

**5.03.3.1 PENALTY for (5.03.3)—the player involved in the conference shall be removed from the game. If the conference is between the head coach and the assistant coach, the assistant shall be removed from the game.**

5.03.4 Offensive and defensive conferences not previously used may be used in extra innings.

5.03.5 Offensive conferences shall not be charged during a defensive team's timeout for a pitching change. Any runners who leave their positions during the pitching change must return to their bases prior to the last warm-up pitch so play is not delayed or risk being charged with an offensive conference. Batters or runners may not leave their positions during a charged defensive conference unless they also request an offensive charged conference.

5.04.0 The lineup card must list the first name, last name and number worn during that particular game for all starting players and available substitutes.

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5.04.1 If the starting players numbers are not listed on the lineup card, the opposing team can request that numbers be listed.

5.04.1.1 If the starting players numbers are not provided after request, the listed head coach/manager is ejected.

5.04.2 Only substitutes listed on the lineup card are eligible to compete in that particular game.

5.04.2.1 Substitutes are allowed to take a number of a starter as long as the umpire and opposing team are notified.

5.04.2.1.1 If umpire and opposing team are not notified the offending head coach/manager is ejected.

5.05.0 Between receiving the opponent's lineup card and the first pitch of the game is the ONLY period of time that a team can protest that a player on the lineup up card is NOT on the opponent's official NCBA roster.

5.05.1 If, after first pitch, a player is found to be NOT on the opponent's official NCBA roster, the violating player AND Head Coach are ejected for the remainder of the game.

5.05.1.1 All statistics and game results prior to violating player being ejected will remain official.

5.06.0 All substitutions must be reported directly to the home plate umpire at the time of the substitution.

5.06.1 Failure to report a substitution before the next pitch occurs, will result in an AUTOMATIC ejection of the designated manager/head coach.

5.07.0 If for any reason either at the start or during the course of a NCBA DI game, a team has fewer than 9 eligible players, the game is AUTOMATICALLY declared a forfeit.

6.00.00 (Roster Size)

6.01.0 The official eligible NCBA roster is limited to no more than 33 players.

6.02.0 The 33 players listed on the roster are the ONLY players allowed to compete in any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

6.02.1 Any team with a roster of at least 9 eligible players found playing a player in a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** not on the current official roster will be subject to a forfeit for all games that the above-mentioned player has competed in (See On-Field Protest Verbiage).

6.02.1.1 Any team with a roster of at least 9 eligible players found playing a player in a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** not on the current official NCBA roster will, whether protested correctly or incorrectly, result in $200 being deducted from the team's performance bond.

6.02.1.1.1 Starting in the 2022-2023 season, teams will be deducted $200 for each infraction.

6.02.2 In the event that a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** is played with one team having less than nine eligible players on their roster, the game will become an AUTOMATIC forfeit and the team will AUTOMATICALLY be placed on probation.

6.02.2.1 In the event that the team with a roster of at least 9 eligible players wins a game(s), the score(s) for those game(s) will go down as recorded. Teams must reference NCBA rules 24.07.0 in regards to stats for these games.

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6.02.3 In the event that a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** is played with neither team having at least nine players on their eligible roster, then the game itself is declared a double forfeited tie that the front office will impose and the player statistics from that game DO NOT count and both teams are AUTOMATICALLY placed on probation.

6.03.0 No more than 4 non-rostered personnel are eligible to be in the dugout during any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

6.03.1 Player coaches on the eligible roster do not count against the 4 person limit.

6.03.2 Violation of rule constitutes the Head Coach of violating team to be automatically ejected.

6.03.3 Should a Head Coach or any other non-rostered personnel be ejected during a game, they cannot be replaced in the dugout by another non-rostered personnel for that game.

6.04.0 Each player, coach and manager on the roster MUST have a signed liability waiver on file with the NCBA.

6.04.1 Any team found playing a player (in a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**) without a liability waiver on file with the NCBA may be removed from the NCBA without reimbursement.

6.05.0 Each team is allowed to add players to their roster at any time up until and including April 15. Once the team's roster has grown to 33 players, no more players may be added.

6.05.1 In a single NCBA season, no more than 5 players can be removed from a team's official NCBA roster.

6.05.1.1 To be eligible to be removed from the roster, it must be documented that the player in question has either: graduated, transferred to another College or University, withdrawn from the College or University, is studying abroad for the spring semester, has sustained a season ending injury or is on a school sponsored co-op/internship that is equal to or greater than 100 miles from their designated campus.

6.05.1.2 Those players being removed from the roster can only be removed between January 25th and January 31st inclusively.

6.05.2 Schools with both a NCBA DI and DII/DIII team are permitted to move up to a total of 3 players up or down between the DI and DII/DIII team in a given NCBA season.

6.05.2.1 No player can be moved more than once in a single NCBA season.

6.05.2.2 The roster spot that is left by a player who has either moved up to DI or down to DII remains filled by the no-longer-eligible player and cannot be filled by another player.

6.05.2.3 No player can be eligible to play on both the DI and DII/DIII teams at the same time.

6.05.2.4 The deadline for players to be moved up to DI from DII/DIII is the NCBA Roster Freeze date of April 15th.

6.05.2.5 The deadline for players to be moved down to DII/DIII from DI is prior to start of the DI team's 4th played or forfeited conference game of the season.

6.05.2.5.1 The deadline remains prior to the 4th conference game even if any or all of the first 3 conference games of the season result in forfeits.

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6.05.2.5.2 In the event that any or all of the first 3 conference games are rained out, those rained out games no longer count as one of the first 3 played or forfeited conference games unless they are rescheduled to a date that would keep them as such.

6.06.0 Players are not deemed eligible to participate in any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** until their paperwork has been processed with the league. When the player appears on the team's roster, which is available on the Official NCBA Website (www.clubbaseball.org), then that player is then eligible to compete in **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**.

7.00.00 (Eligibility)

7.01.0 Players are not deemed eligible to participate in any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** until their paperwork has been processed with the league. When the player appears on the team's roster, which is available on the Official NCBA Website (www.clubbaseball.org), then that player is then eligible to compete in **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**.

7.02.0 Any team found playing an ineligible player will be subject to forfeiting all games that that ineligible player participated in while holding an ineligible status (See On-Field Protest Verbiage).

7.03.0 All players playing in a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** MUST be a member of the Institution, which that team represents. An example is that no member of the University of Texas may play for the Texas A&M Baseball Club.

7.03.1 Students from a school's Satellite campus ARE eligible to participate on the main campus's club baseball team, given that the satellite campus does not have its own NCBA sanctioned baseball team.

7.03.1.1 If a school has no dedicated main campus, the NCBA reserves the right to declare a main campus for that institution.

7.03.1.2 Bridge Programs do not qualify as satellite campuses.

7.03.2 Players who begin the Spring season as a registered student and then graduate in the middle of the season will remain eligible to compete for the remainder of the season.

7.04.0 A player with any previous **professional experience** in the sport of baseball is NOT eligible to play in any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

7.05.0 If a player makes an official appearance for their school's varsity baseball team in five or more official sanctioned intercollegiate-level baseball games, they immediately become ineligible to compete in the NCBA for the remainder of the season.

7.06.0 Faculty/Staff members are eligible to play in any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** provided that they meet all NCBA eligibility and Academic eligibility rules.

7.07.0 A player playing in a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** MUST hold **Full-Time Status** with that team's College or University.

7.07.1 An exception is if a **Final Semester Student** requires less than a Full-Time load in order to graduate.

7.07.2 An exception is if a player who graduates at the end of the fall semester will remain eligible to compete in the immediately following spring season provided he is enrolled in at least 1 credit during the spring semester.

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7.07.3 An exception is if a player who begins the spring season as a registered student and then graduates in the middle of the season will remain eligible to compete for the remainder of the season.

7.07.4 Players who begin the Spring season as a registered student and either withdraw or transfer in the middle of the season will NOT remain eligible to compete for the remainder of the season.

7.07.5 An exception is if a player is participating in a University sponsored internship, school sponsored study abroad program or Co-op program and still maintains full-time status with the college or university.

7.08.0 A player's eligibility period is six calendar years, beginning on the earlier of: (a) the player's first full-time enrollment at any collegiate institution, or (b) the start of the academic year following the player's 22nd birthday, if that birthday occurs before September 1.

7.08.1 A player may compete in NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games for a maximum of six seasons within a six-year period.

7.08.1.1 For a player to participate in the NCBA using a sixth year of eligibility, that player must NOT have exhausted four years of eligibility at the Varsity Level.

7.08.2 The six-year period is paused only for active-duty military service or an official religious mission.

7.09.0 For a player to participate in the NCBA using a fifth or sixth year of eligibility, that player must NOT have exhausted four years of eligibility at the Varsity Level.

7.10.0 NCBA rules indicate that any competition, regardless of time, during an intercollegiate baseball game counts as a season of competition. It does not matter how long the player was involved in a particular game (for example, one at bat, one pitch, one pinch running appearance), the player is charged with one season of competition.

8.00.00 (Academic Eligibility)

8.01.0 At the time of any roster submission, a letter from the academic institution must be submitted to the NCBA listing that each player holds a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and is not on academic warning or probation.

8.01.1 For a student to be granted an exception to the NCBA Academic Eligibility rules requiring the student to be enrolled in **Full-Time Status** and maintain a 2.0 GPA, the student must meet the following;

8.01.1.1 Must be an officially recognized student at the college/university

8.01.1.2 Must be enrolled in an IHE (Inclusive Higher Education) Program that is governed by the college/university AND must be listed within "Think College's" online college directory.

8.01.1.3 Must be verified as being in Good Academic Standing as determined by their specific college/university IHE Program.

8.01.1.4 Must be verified as being enrolled at a Full Time Equivalent status as determined by their specific college/university IHE Program.

8.01.1.5 These criteria must be verified in writing by an IHE Program faculty or staff.

8.01.1.6 The maximum number of IHE eligibility exceptions is capped at 2 student athletes.

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8.01.2 The Academic Eligibility Letter MUST be sent to the NCBA directly from an employee with the club sports department, registrar or faculty advisor in order for it to be accepted with the only exception being if the letter features an official university registrar stamp or seal.

8.01.3 Teams in the Mid-Atlantic South & North, South Atlantic, Mid-America South & West, Gulf Coast, Northern Pacific, and Southern Pacific Regions must not submit an Academic Eligibility Letter signed prior to January 1st of the current season.

8.01.4 Teams in the North Atlantic Region, Great Lakes Region, Mid-America West Conference, and Mid-Atlantic West Conference are required to submit a 2nd academic eligibility letter between January 1st and the start of the spring portion of their conference season in order to reconfirm that all rostered players remain academically eligible.

9.00.00 (Uniforms)

9.01.0 Definition

9.01.1 The following items have been determined to be considered part of the team uniform and thus must match the rest of the team: Hat, Jersey Top and associated decorations and trim, Pants and associated trim, Belt Color, Sock Color, Exposed Under Sleeve Color, Batting Helmet Color.

9.01.2 The following items have been determined to be exempt from having to match the rest of team: Sock style, Catchers Gear Color.

9.02.0 Penalty

9.02.1 In the event that a player and/or coach is not dressed in uniform with the rest of the team, the umpire is to give that player/coach an opportunity to get into uniform or else is AUTOMATICALLY ejected from that game.

9.03.0 Players Uniform

9.03.1 The NCBA will adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding player's uniforms including:

9.03.1.1 It **IS** required that each team have **TWO** sets of uniform jerseys of contrasting colors.

9.03.1.2 It is the responsibility of the visiting team to wear a contrasting uniform color to the jersey worn by the home team during any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

9.03.1.2.1 The penalty for any player/coach of a visiting team that is not wearing a contrasting jersey color to the home team will be as follows:

9.03.1.2.1.1 The umpire will give any/all players/coaches in violation one opportunity to change their jersey in order to become compliant with the rule.

9.03.1.2.1.2 Should the player/coach fail to come in to compliance, they will be AUTOMATICALLY ejected from the game.

9.03.1.3 During a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** between a Division I NCBA member team and Division II or Division III NCBA member team, if the Division II or Division III team has two sets of contrasting uniforms, then the VISITING team must wear a contrasting jersey color of the HOME team. If the Division II or Division III team only has one set of uniforms,

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then the Division I team must wear a contrasting color regardless if they are HOME or VISITORS.

9.03.1.4 It is RECOMMENDED that the home team notify the visiting team of their jersey color choice at least 24 hours prior to the first game of the series and immediately following game 1 of a double header.

9.04.0 Coaches Uniform

9.04.1 The NCBA will adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding coach's uniforms excluding the following exceptions.

9.04.1.1 A coach may wear a jacket or windshirt OVER the uniform top provided it is a team issued item, which matches the team's colors.

9.04.1.2 When coaching the bases, the uniform game jersey and uniform pants must be worn. If a team jacket or windshirt is worn, it MAY be worn OVER the official uniform provided it is a team issued item, which matches the team's colors and is of a non-distracting nature.

9.04.1.3 When coaching the bases, the coaches' helmet color must match the team's colors as well as match one another.

9.04.1.4 When coaching the bases, coaches must wear closed toe shoes.

9.04.2 A photo documented Coaches Uniform infraction that has also been reported to the umpire will result in $200 being deducted from the team's performance bond and that money is used to supplement the regional playoff budget of the region that the infracting team is affiliated with.

9.04.2.1 Since the performance bond is $600 a team can lose no more than $600 through Coaches Uniform infractions in a single season.

9.04.2.2 At the end of the NCBA season, each team will have the option to have the remainder of their performance bond returned to them or have it roll over to the next season.

9.05.0 Official Hat of the NCBA

9.05.1 All players and coaches on teams holding membership in the NCBA will be required to wear the officially designated brand of hat (The Game) featuring the official NCBA logo (see 9.05.1.1) during all **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**.

9.05.1.1

9.05.1.2 Failure to comply with this rule will result in a player being deemed "Out of Uniform" and thus ineligible to participate in any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** while out of uniform.

9.05.1.3 Teams may choose the color in which the letters N-C-B-A will be embroidered on their hats.

9.05.1.4 The NCBA logo must be centered on the back lower portion of the hat and must be the official correct sizing (width: 4.5 cm x height: 1 cm).

9.05.1.4.1 If NCBA logo is found to be in the wrong location or have incorrect sizing, the violating team will lose their entire Performance Bond.

9.05.1.4.2 Since the performance bond is $600 a team can lose no more than $600 through headwear violations in a single season.

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9.05.1.4.3 At the end of the NCBA season, each team will have the option to have the remainder of their performance bond returned to them or have it roll over to the next season

9.06.0 Uniform Sponsors

9.06.1 An exemption to the NCAA Uniform Rules allows NCBA Member Teams to advertise sponsors on their uniforms provided the Sponsor AND the Advertisement Artwork are approved by the NCBA front office.

9.06.1.1 Requests for approval can be sent to info@collclubsports.com and must include advertisement artwork, a detailed description of the sponsors nature of business, as well as full email/phone/web contact information for the sponsor.

9.07.0 Dugout Personnel

9.07.1 All players, coaches, injured players, managers, trainers, scorekeepers, or other team personnel in the dugout during a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** are required to wear either the official team uniform or another type of school affiliated team shirt or jacket.

9.07.1.1 Failure to comply with this rule will result in the person in violation being forced to leave the dugout.

10.00.00 (Equipment/Jewelry)

10.01.0 The pitcher's glove may not be white or gray, exclusive of piping nor, in the judgment of the umpire, be distracting in any way.

10.01.1 A violator shall be given reasonable time to correct the situation. If it is not done, the violator shall be ejected from the game.

10.01.2 If a play is made with illegal equipment, the offensive team has the choice of taking the play or having the play voided with the pitch being made again.

10.02.0 Jewelry may be worn during **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, unless the umpire feels the item is of a direct safety hazard.

11.00.00 (Bat Rules)

11.01.0 The NCBA follows NCAA Bat Rules which states that only bats that are BBCOR certified are legal for use.

11.02.0 Predominantly white barrel BBCOR certified & other colored non-compliant bats are illegal per the NCAA rules.

- NCAA LEGAL BAT LIST

11.03.0 Wood bats and BBCOR certified composite bats are also legal for use.

11.04.0 The penalty for a player who uses an illegal bat (per NCAA rules) are as follows:

11.04.1.1 If the bat is detected before the first pitch of the at bat, the bat is to be removed from the game and the player must use a legal bat. If the player tries to use an illegal bat again in that game, he is AUTOMATICALLY ejected.

11.04.1.2 If the bat is detected after the first pitch of the at bat and prior to the first pitch to the next batter, the bat is to be removed from the game, the batter is declared out, and the runners are not allowed to advance. If the player tries to use an illegal bat again in that game, he is AUTOMATICALLY ejected.

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11.05.0 The NCBA does not require the NCAA's pre-game bat compression testing protocol or bat testing sticker system to be performed at any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game.**

12.00.00 (Official League Ball)

12.01.0 The official league ball of the NCBA will be the Rawlings R1NCBA baseball featuring the NCBA logo.

12.02.0 During **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, the home team is responsible for providing the umpire with 4 new official league balls at the start of any 9-inning game and 3 new official league balls at the start of any 7-inning game plus a sufficient quantity of game used official league balls to meet the umpire's discretionary needs.

12.02.1 If a baseball can't be identified as having ever been an official Rawlings NCBA league ball OR if the umpire deems that the ball is physically unfit for play, then it is illegal for use in a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

12.03.0 Any game played without the required number of official league balls will result in a forfeit against the home team upon protest.

12.03.1 In the event that an illegal ball is discovered in play, the home team can immediately replace the ball with a legal one with no risk of a forfeit.

12.03.2 In the event that an illegal ball is discovered in play, the result of the previous pitch stands and play is continued with an official league ball.

13.00.00 (Medical Personnel)

13.01.0 It is strongly recommended that the home team provide medical personnel to be present at every NCBA game. If that is not possible, it is strongly recommended that a member of the home team have a person certified in CPR and First Aid by the American Red Cross in attendance.

13.02.0 It is strongly recommended that all teams have in their possession a first aid kit that covers the basic needs of first aid for an injured player.

13.03.0 It is strongly recommended that the home team knows how to contact emergency personnel and knows the basic location of the nearest emergency facility. This is for both player and fan safety.

13.04.0 While it is not required for the home team to provide onsite medical personnel (i.e., trainer or EMT), the home team is required to provide some sort of communications equipment capable of summoning medical personnel in the event of an emergency (i.e. cell phone with service).

14.00.00 (Umpires)

14.01.0 During **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, the home team is responsible for providing umpires for each competition.

14.02.0 It is the responsibility of the home team to provide the umpires with a copy of the Official NCBA Rules prior to the start of each game.

14.03.0 The umpires MUST be of High School certified or higher.

14.03.1 It is RECOMMENDED that umpires be Junior College certified or higher.

14.03.2 Legion certified umpires are acceptable.

14.03.3 An umpire is deemed unqualified to umpire a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** if he/she is currently registered as a student at one of the schools scheduled to compete in that game.

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14.03.4 An umpire is deemed unqualified to umpire a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** if he/she is the parent or sibling of a player on one of the teams scheduled to compete in that game. If it is found that the umpires are not qualified, then the games are officially forfeited to the visiting team.

14.04.0 It is required that the home team schedules two umpires to officiate each competition.

14.04.1 The game may be played provided that at least one approved umpire is present.

14.04.2 Should one of the umpires be found to be unqualified then the game(s) played are deemed to be played using unqualified umpires.

14.05.0 If no umpires have arrived within 30 minutes after the competition is officially scheduled to start, the game is AUTOMATICALLY forfeited to the visiting team UNLESS both teams mutually agree to play later than the scheduled start.

14.06.0 If a second game of double-header is scheduled, the home team has an additional 30 minutes from the time that the first game was declared a forfeit to get NCBA approved umpires to the field or the second game is also AUTOMATICALLY forfeited to the visiting team UNLESS both teams mutually agree to play later than the scheduled start.

15.00.00 (Field Requirements)

15.01.0 The NCBA encourages the use of fields with bullpens available, but acknowledges that they are not a requirement.

15.02.0 The NCBA encourages any home team who wishes to use a field with a portable artificial mound, to notify their opponent of such a mound at least 72 hours prior to the start game.

15.02.1 A portable artificial mound is required to have four sloping sides.

15.02.1.1 Should this requirement not be met, rules in section 25.02.0 apply.

15.03.0 Any home team that uses an artificial turf field that requires turf footwear or molded cleats, must give the visiting team 72 hours notice about footwear requirements.

15.03.1 Should the home team not notify the visiting team at least 72 hours in advance, the home team will be required to wear turf footwear only.

15.04.0 The NCBA encourages the use of fields with securely fixed bases, but acknowledges that they are not a requirement.

15.05.0 The NCBA encourages the use of chalked or painted Out of Play lines, but acknowledges the use of “Imaginary” Out of Play lines to be acceptable.

15.06.0 The NCBA encourages the use of facilities with protective fencing or netting on the field side of the dugout at a height not less than 3-feet from the field level, but acknowledges that they are not required.

15.07.0 The NCBA encourages the use of fields with outfield walls and padding, but acknowledges that they are not a requirement.

15.08.0 In the event that a home team desires to secure a home field for use during any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** that is between 0 and 25 miles from their campus, they must notify their scheduled opponent the scheduled game times & field address by 4:00 PM local time of the Tuesday the week of the scheduled games.

15.08.1 In the event the home team has yet to notify their opponent by 4:00pm local time of the MONDAY the week of playing, the opposing team must notify the NCBA Front Office so that they can step in to facilitate the necessary communication of game details.

15.08.2 In the event that the home team fails to notify their opponent by 4:00 PM local time of the TUESDAY the week of playing, the opposing team can submit a formal protest under NCBA guidelines for failure to secure a field.

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15.09.0 In the event that a home team desires to secure a home field for use during any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** that is between 26 and 75 miles from their campus, they must notify their scheduled opponent and Regional Director in advance.

15.09.1 In this case, the home team must submit their notification to their scheduled opponent and Regional Director (via email AND phone call) no less than 7 days prior to the first day of the scheduled week in which the respective game(s) are scheduled to be played.

15.09.2 In the event that the home team fails to notify their opponent in a timely manner, they will be forced to find a field closer to campus or automatically be placed on probation.

15.10.0 In the event that a home team desires to secure a home field for use during any NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game that is more than 75 miles from their campus, they must seek and be granted approval by their scheduled opponent and Regional Director in advance.

15.10.1 In this case, the home team must submit their request for approval to their scheduled opponent and Regional Director (via email AND phone call) no less than 14 days prior to the first day of the scheduled week in which the respective game(s) are scheduled to be played.

15.10.2 In this case, the visiting team has 5 days from the date of requested approval to respond to the home team and Regional Director, otherwise, the home team is granted approval by default.

15.10.3 In the event that the home team fails to request approval in a timely manner or is not granted approval by their scheduled opponent, they will be forced to find a field closer to campus or forfeit the game(s).

15.10.4 However, in the event that the home team fails to request approval in a timely manner and/or the visiting team has denied the home team approval to use the field in question, yet the visiting team travels to this field in question regardless, then the NCBA will automatically assume that the visiting team approves of the use of the field in question.

15.11.0 The NCBA encourages that if a home team's field is unplayable due to weather and the visiting team is able to secure a field and umpires within 25 miles from the home team's campus, that the game be played at the alternate field.

15.12.0 The NCBA requires that within 1 hour from the scheduled start time of any NCBA regular season baseball game, that once both teams have arrived on site AND the field is available for the game, the visiting team should be afforded an equal amount of time to use batting cages and the field for warm ups as the home team.

15.13.0 If unsafe objects exist inside the normal field of play, the home team will be afforded the opportunity to remove the object(s) or mitigate the hazard prior to play continuing.

15.13.1 Should the hazard remain, rules in Section 25.02.0 apply.

16.00.00 (Reentry)

16.01.0 There is NO Reentry allowed in any Division I **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

17.00.00 (Designated Hitter)

17.01.0 The Designated Hitter is the only player outside of the nine position players in the field to be eligible to bat during **NCBA Sanctioned Games;** additional or extra hitters outside of the nine players positioned in the field are prohibited.

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17.02.0 The NCBA follows NCAA Designated Hitter Rules which state that the designated hitter may **only be used for the pitcher**. The NCAA rule is listed below for convenience:

17.03.0 The designated hitter (DH) is a player designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers. The DH may bat in any position in the lineup, and this position cannot be changed. The DH must be so designated before the game and included in the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief. In this case, the team actually is using 10 players, with the pitcher not listed in the batting order.

17.04.0 It is not mandatory that a player be designated to bat for the pitcher. If the pitcher is listed in the starting batting order, the pitcher automatically becomes the DH. In this case, the pitcher is to be considered as two players, both pitcher and DH, and can be substituted for as such.

17.04.1 Note: For substitution purposes, the pitcher is not to be considered a defensive position.

17.05.0 The designated hitter is subject to the following conditions:

17.05.1 Pitcher or DH is moved to a defensive position (10-player lineup)

17.05.1.1 If the DH is not the pitcher and the DH or the pitcher is moved to a defensive position (this change may be made at anytime):

17.05.1.1.1 The DH is terminated for the remainder of the game.

17.05.1.1.2 The pitcher being placed at a defensive position must bat in place of the defensive player removed, unless more than one substitution is made. The coach must designate their positions in the batting order at that time.

17.05.1.1.2.1 If two or more substitute players of the defensive team enter the game simultaneously, the coach or a representative immediately shall designate to the umpire-in-chief the position of each in the team's batting order. If this is not done immediately, the umpire shall place them in the batting order.

17.05.1.1.2.2 **A.R.**—When the pitcher is not the designated hitter, moving the pitcher to a defensive position and bringing in only one new substitute player does not constitute multiple substitution for the purpose of batting-order changes. The pitcher moved to the defensive position must bat in the spot of the defensive player replaced and the new pitcher must bat in the DH position.

17.05.1.1.3 If only one substitution is made, the new pitcher must bat in the previous spot of the DH.

17.05.1.1.4 **A.R. 1**—Multiple substitution, used for the purpose of changing the batting order, does not occur unless two new players (not including the pitcher going to a defensive position) are brought into the game.

17.05.1.1.5 **A.R. 2**—The DH is moved to a defensive position and the pitcher remains in the game as the pitcher. If the DH is placed at a defensive position, the DH is terminated. The former DH, who now is a defensive player, must continue to bat in the original DH spot. The pitcher must bat in the lineup spot of the removed defensive player).

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17.05.1.1.6 **A.R. 3**—When the designated hitter and the pitcher both enter on defense at the same time, the coach must designate the positions in the batting order of the new pitcher and the previous pitcher.

17.05.2 Game pitcher is not the DH (10-player lineup)

17.05.2.1 If the game pitcher is not the DH and is replaced as the pitcher, the replaced pitcher may:

17.05.2.1.1 Upon removal from the pitching position, he may be immediately inserted as the DH; the pitcher may not re-enter the game in any other capacity.

17.05.2.1.2 At any time, 1) be moved to a defensive position and must bat in place of the defensive player removed. The DH is terminated, or 2) be removed as a pitcher but remain in the game and bat for the DH. This change must be announced at the time the pitcher is removed. There is no loss of the DH but the player may not re-enter the contest in any other capacity.

17.05.2.1.3 **A.R.—**At any time, before the pitcher's removal as the game pitcher, he may pinch run or pinch hit for only the DH and become the DH.

17.05.3 DH is not the pitcher (10-player lineup)

17.05.3.1 If the DH is not the pitcher and is replaced offensively, the original DH may replace the pitcher at the time of substitution.

17.05.3.1.1 The individual may not return as the DH or in any other capacity.

17.05.3.1.2 There is no loss of the DH.

17.05.3.1.3 Once a player leaves the offensive lineup, that player cannot return offensively.

17.05.3.1.4 **A.R.**—The DH may go in to pitch, then subsequently be relieved as the pitcher and still remain the DH.

17.05.4 Replaced as a DH (nine-player lineup)

17.05.4.1 When the P/DH, whether as the starting P/DH or a subsequent one, is replaced as the DH, the individual may remain in the game as a pitcher. However:

17.05.4.1.1 The P/DH cannot subsequently move to a defensive position.

17.05.4.1.2 The P/DH cannot return as the designated hitter.

17.05.5 P/DH replaced as a pitcher (nine-player lineup)

17.05.5.1 When replaced as the pitcher, the P/DH may:

17.05.5.1.1 Remain as the DH and bat only in the DH spot. If remaining a DH, the individual or a subsequent DH cannot enter the game in any other capacity (i.e., as the pitcher, defensive player or pinch runner).

17.05.5.1.2 The DH may be moved to a defensive position at the time, but:

17.05.5.1.2.1 The DH is terminated for the remainder of the game.

17.05.5.1.2.2 The P/DH being placed at the defensive position must bat in the original DH spot.

17.05.5.1.2.3 The new pitcher must bat in the spot of the replaced defensive player.

17.05.5.1.2.4 If the P/DH goes to a defensive position, the individual may return as a pitcher once since the P/DH originally was

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considered as two different players. If the P/DH was removed as a pitcher on the second trip of an inning or after the third free trip, the player cannot return to pitch.

17.05.5.2 At the time the coach makes the pitching change, he shall indicate to the plate umpire the playing status of the removed pitcher.

17.05.5.3 PENALTY—Once the coach has reached the dugout, the coach may not move the pitcher to a defensive position or have the pitcher remain as the DH.

17.05.6 Defensive player becomes the pitcher (nine- or 10-player lineup)

17.05.6.1 If a defensive player becomes the pitcher:

17.05.6.1.1 The DH is terminated for the remainder of the game.

17.05.6.1.2 The DH may assume the defensive player's position.

17.05.6.1.3 Any substitute player who comes in for the defensive player must bat in the DH spot.

17.05.7 Runner or batter substituted for the DH (nine- or 10-player lineup)

17.05.7.1 A runner or batter may be substituted for the DH and then become the DH.

17.05.7.1.1 A replaced DH may remain in the game only as a pitcher and the change must be announced at the time of substitution.

17.05.7.1.2 The DH may not run for any other player in the lineup at any time.

17.05.8 Pinch hitter enters the game to pitch (nine- or 10-player lineup)

17.05.8.1 Once the pinch hitter bats for any player in the batting order and then enters the game to pitch, the DH's role is terminated for the remainder of the game.

17.05.8.2 A player who is removed from the game cannot re-enter in any capacity.

17.05.9 Pitcher as a pinch hitter or pinch runner (10-player lineup)

17.05.9.1 If the lineup change is made while the pitcher's team is on offense, the pitcher may pinch hit or pinch run only for the DH and be both. The pitcher then may be replaced as the DH and remain as the pitcher.

17.05.9.2 PENALTY—A violation of this rule requires that the pitcher be disqualified from the game.

17.05.10 DH ejected from game (nine- or 10-player lineup)

17.05.10.1 If ejected from the game, the DH may be replaced by another DH. The DH position is not terminated by the ejection.

17.05.10.2 **A.R.**—If the DH also was the pitcher (P/DH), the DH may be replaced by Ftwo players—a pitcher and a DH—or by one player, a P/DH.

18.00.00 (Courtesy Runners)

18.01.0 There are NO COURTESY RUNNERS allowed in any Division I **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

19.00.00 (Slide Rules)

19.01.0 All **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games** will default to NCAA slide rules.

20.00.00 (Hit By Pitch)

20.01.0 A batter has the right to his position in the batters box and is not required to make an attempt to get out of the way of a pitch.

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20.02.0 If the umpire feels that the batter intentionally moves into the path of the ball in order to be hit by the pitch, the batter is not awarded first base and the pitch is called a ball or strike at the umpire's discretion.

21.00.00 (Intentional Walks)

21.01.0 The NCBA will follow NCAA protocol on intentional walks. If the defensive team wants to intentionally walk a batter, the defensive team's designated head coach must issue a signal to the umpire that the coach intends to intentionally walk the batter without their pitcher having to throw four pitches.

22.00.00 (Tobacco/Drug Use)

22.01.0 Smokeless Tobacco Use

22.01.1 Smokeless Tobacco use is permitted during **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, both on the field and in the dugout.

22.01.2 The home team may request that Smokeless Tobacco not be used in the dugouts/field and both teams must honor the request.

22.02.0 Smoking

22.02.1 Smoking, which includes the use of e-cigarettes and vapes is prohibited by players, coaches, and managers before, during, and after any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** while at the field or in the dugout.

22.03.0 Drugs/Alcohol Use

22.03.1 By signing the liability waiver each player agrees that the use of drugs, alcohol, or any other substances that could cause danger or detrimental effects upon the participant's performance as a member of this organization is strictly prohibited during NCBA Sanctioned Competition.

22.03.2 Drug/alcohol use is prohibited by players, coaches, and managers before, during, and after any **NCBA Sanctioned Game** while at the field or in the dugout.

22.03.3 Random drug testing will not occur at any point during the NCBA sanctioned season.

23.00.00 (Ejections)

23.01.0 In the event that a player or coach should be ejected from a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**, it is required that the team's primary representative complete a NCBA Ejection Report and submit it via email to both the appropriate Regional Director and NCBA Commissioner.

23.01.1 The team's primary representative has 72 hours from the time of the ejection to complete and submit the Ejection Report.

23.01.2 If a team fails to report an ejection within 72 hours of the ejection, the team is automatically placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

23.01.3 Upon reviewing the Ejection Report, the NCBA may determine that a further suspension is necessary.

23.02.0 Player Ejections

23.02.1 In the event that a player is ejected for any of the following reasons, he is AUTOMATICALLY suspended for an addition 1 game: Arguing Balls/Strikes, Arguing Safe/Out Calls, Bench Jockeying (including but not limited to Chirping, Trash Talking, Razing, and Verbal Abuse), and Violating ANY Slide Rule.

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23.02.2 In the event that a player is ejected for threatening or making physical contact with an opposing player, coach, or umpire, that player is AUTOMATICALLY suspended for an additional 3 games.

23.02.3 In the event that a pitcher is ejected for intentionally throwing at a batter, that pitcher is AUTOMATICALLY suspended for an additional 3 games.

23.02.4 In the event that a player is ejected for any of the following reasons, he is NOT automatically suspended for any additional games: Uniform Violation, Use of an Illegal Bat, Use of Foul Language.

23.03.0 Coach Ejections

23.03.1 In reference to ejections, a "coach" is defined as anyone on the bench or on the field dressed in uniform with the team who is not listed on the teams roster or on the line up card for that particular game AND includes the acting manager for that game as determined by the line up submitted to the umpire at the start of the game even if this manager is also a player (i.e. the a player/coach).

23.03.1.1 There may only be one player/coach during a particular game.

23.03.2 In the event that a coach is ejected for threatening or making physical contact with an opposing player, coach, or umpire, that coach is AUTOMATICALLY suspended for an additional 3 games.

23.03.3 In the event that a coach is ejected for any of the following reasons, he is NOT automatically suspended for any additional games: Arguing Balls/Strikes, Arguing Safe/Out Calls, Uniform Violation, Use of Foul Language, Bench Jockeying, Pitcher Intentionally Threw at a Batter, failure to report a substitution.

23.03.4 In the event a coach is ejected, the team is required to designate a new head coach to the umpire in chief immediately. That individual assumes all rights as head coach.

23.03.4.1 Failure to designate a replacement head coach will result in the 1st player listed on the lineup card to assume head coach role.

23.04.0 Automatic Suspensions

23.04.1 If a player, coach, or manager who is ejected fails to leave the premises peacefully and without further incident, they are AUTOMATICALLY suspended for 1 additional game on top of any other suspension they may have earned based upon the reason for their ejection.

23.04.2 Suspensions that can not be fully served during the NCBA season in which they were accrued will carry over and be served at the beginning of the following NCBA season.

23.05.0 Post Game Ejections

23.05.1 Ejections taking place after the final out of the game DO NOT require the ejected player or coach to sit out the next game UNLESS the reason for the ejection stipulates an automatic suspension as per Rules 23.02.0, 23.03.0, or 23.04.0.

24.00.00 (Forfeitures)

24.01.0 In the event that team should cancel a scheduled non-conference game 7 or more days prior to the originally scheduled start time, no forfeit shall be issued.

24.02.0 Should a team cancel a scheduled non-conference game fewer than 7 days prior to the originally scheduled start time, a forfeit shall be issued unless the team being cancelled upon is able to find another opponent to replace the cancelled game.

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24.02.1 An exception if the game is cancelled due to the mandatory rescheduling of a NCBA Sanctioned Conference Game.

24.03.0 In the event that a visiting team should forfeit any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** to the home team; the visiting team is required to inform the home team via telephone of their intent not to play at least 48 hours in advance of the predetermined start of the first game.

24.03.1 Should the visiting team not provide the home team with 48 hours notice to cancel umpires and/or field rentals for the game(s) in question, the visiting team assumes financial responsibility for the payment of those umpires and/or field rentals should any cancellation fees be incurred.

24.04.0 In the event that a home team should forfeit any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game** to the visiting team; the home team is required to inform the visiting team via telephone of their intent not to play at least 48 hours in advance of the predetermined start of the first game.

24.04.1 Should the home team not provide the visiting team with 48 hours notice to cancel their transportation and/or lodging arrangements for the game(s) in question, the home team assumes financial responsibility for the payment of those transportation and/or lodging costs should any cancellation fees be incurred.

24.05.0 Should a team forfeit even a single game during the last week of their regular season, that team will AUTOMATICALLY be placed on probation for the next full NCBA season.

24.06.0 For every UNPLAYED Conference or Non-Conference Game against another NCBA Division I or Division II opponents that is forfeited, $200 is deducted from the forfeiting team's performance bond and that money is used to supplement the regional playoff budget of the region that the offended team is affiliated with.

24.06.1 This performance bond penalty does not apply to forfeited Conference or Non-Conference games that were PLAYED unless a forfeiting team is in violation of rule 6.02.1 and 6.02.1.1.

24.06.2 Since the performance bond is $600 a team can lose no more than $600 through forfeits in a single season.

24.06.2.1 Starting in the 2022-2023 season, the performance bond will be increased to $600 with $200 being deducted for each forfeit loss.

24.06.3 At the end of the NCBA season, each team will have the option to have the remainder of their performance bond returned to them or have it roll over to the next season.

24.07.0 In the event that a game is played but is later declared a forfeit, the team that is receiving the forfeit victory(s) is permitted to upload their stats for that particular game(s). The team that forfeited the game(s) is NOT permitted to upload their stats.

25.00.00 (Protests/Rules Enforcement)

25.01.0 No protest ever shall be permitted on judgment decisions by the umpire.

25.02.0 On Field Protests

25.02.1 On Field Protests consists of protests regarding Uniform Violations, Equipment Violations, Field Requirement Violations, Umpire decisions believed to be in violation of NCBA rules, Umpire qualifications not meeting NCBA standards, and ALL Roster Violations.

25.02.2 Any On Field 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.

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25.02.2.1 If the game ends (legal contest) in a protest able situation, the offended team has until all fielders have left fair territory to voice its protest intentions.

25.02.2.2 All On Field protests must be made to the umpire-in chief.

25.02.2.3 All On Field protests must be reported to the NCBA (via the NCBA GAME PROTEST FORM) no later than midnight E.S.T. of the Monday following the "NCBA Week" in which the protested game occurred.

25.02.3 Any On Field Protest regarding any Roster Violation must be made before the first pitch of the game or as soon as a substitute not listed on lineup card enters the game.

25.02.3.1 Between receiving the opponents lineup card and the first pitch of the game is the ONLY period of time that a team can protest that a player on the lineup up card is NOT on the opponents official NCBA roster.

25.02.4 When a coach claims that an umpire's decision violates NCBA rules, the umpire-in-chief must: (1) allow the coach the right to file a protest; (2) announce to each coach, to the official scorer and to the public-address announcer that the game is being played under protest, and (3) note and record the game situation at the time of the protest. No replay of any part of a game will be allowed even if the protest is proven to be legitimate, if the play in question did not directly affect the outcome of the game. If the protest is proven to be legitimate and could have had a bearing upon the game, then it is upheld and play resumes from the point of the protest.

25.02.5 When a coach questions the validity that an opposing player is actually the player on the roster who he claims to be, that coach may request that the umpire-in-chief have the player in question produce a photo ID.

25.02.5.1 In the event that the player in question is unable to produce a photo ID, then the game may be played under protest by the opposition as an On Field Protest.

25.02.5.2 During Regional Playoffs, it is recommended that the Regional Director check photo IDs of all players participating as all players will be required to show photo ID to participate in the World Series.

25.03.0 Off Field Protests

25.03.1 Off Field Protests consists of protests regarding Failure to secure fields, umpire qualifications not meeting NCBA standards, failure to secure umpires, the use of a non-rostered player posing as a rostered player undiscovered until after the game, or ineligibility of a player who is officially on the roster.

25.03.2 All Off Field protests must be reported to the NCBA (via the NCBA GAME PROTEST FORM) no later than midnight E.S.T. of the Monday following the "NCBA Week" in which the protested game occurred.

25.03.2.1 An exception being the protest of the ineligibility of a player who is officially on the roster can be protested at any time provided the protest is filed within 24 hours of having determined the player should not have been eligible to compete in a **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**.

25.04.0 Lost Protests

25.04.1 In the event that a team loses 3 protests during a single NCBA season, that team loses the right to protest again during that particular season.

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25.04.1.1 A "lost protest" is defined as a protested game in which no penalty or disciplinary action is assessed against the team or umpire accused of violating NCBA rules in that particular protest.

25.05.0 Rules Enforcement

25.05.1 If a NCBA Front Office Authority witnesses a NCBA Rules Violation regarding Uniforms, Team Conduct, or Sportsmanship occurring, they reserve the right to alert the umpire to enforce the specific rule being violated.

26.00.00 (Probation/Expulsion/Suspension)

26.01.0 A team can be placed on probation if they forfeit 3 or more NCBA scheduled conference games in a single season, forfeit to 2 or more conference opponents in a single season, or if they conduct the baseball operations of their team in a manner not considered acceptable by NCBA standards including the misuse of team social media.

26.01.1 Any NCBA participants personal social media accounts found abusing other NCBA participants or member teams on social media in an unsportsmanlike fashion are subject to suspension and/or their team being placed on probation.

26.02.0 By signing the NCBA LPA (League Participation Agreement) the team is not only contractually agreeing to participate in the NCBA, but also to compete in the post season should they qualify (At Large Bids Excluded).

26.02.1 Should a team qualify for the post season and fail to participate, they will lose their entire Performance Bond.

26.02.1.1 Since the performance bond is $600 a team can lose no more than $600 in a single season.

26.02.1.1.1 Starting in the 2022-2023 season, a team can lose no more than $600 in a single season.

26.02.1.2 At the end of the NCBA season, each team will have the option to have the remainder of their performance bond returned to them or have it roll over to the next season.

26.02.2 Should a team qualify for the post season and fail to participate, they will AUTOMATICALLY be placed on probation for a minimum of 2 full seasons.

26.02.2.1 During the first season on probation, the team will be post season ineligible.

26.02.2.2 During the second season on probation, the team will be post season eligible but will be At-Large Bid ineligible.

26.03.0 Should a team forfeit even a single game during the last week of the NCBA regular season, that team will AUTOMATICALLY be placed on probation for the next full NCBA season.

26.04.0 A team can be expelled from the league if they forfeit 2 or more NCBA scheduled conference games or if they conduct the baseball operations of their team in a manner not considered acceptable by NCBA standards during a probationary season.

26.05.0 Expulsions are not automatic and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the NCBA unless previously declared as AUTOMATIC.

26.06.0 The NCBA will publicize to all member teams if, when, and why a team is placed on probation.

26.07.0 A team placed on probation will NOT be eligible for the early payment discount off the annual dues.

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26.08.0 A team placed on probation will be required (Upon request from their opponent) to provide their opponents with field, umpire, and game contracts prior to each scheduled conference series.

26.09.0 Players and Coaches on a team that is currently on probation are INELIGIBLE for any Conference, Region, or National award recognition of either the weekly or seasonal variety. (I.e. All American, All Region, All Conference, MVP, Player/Pitcher of the Week, etc.)

26.10.0 A team on season long probation will not have their probationary status lifted until June 30th of that season.

26.11.0 A player, coach, or manager can be suspended or expelled from future NCBA participation if they conduct themselves in a manner not considered acceptable by NCBA standards.

27.00.00 (Stats/Awards)

27.01.0 No player is eligible for Player of the Week or Pitcher of the Week awards if their ENTIRE team's stats from that week are not updated on the NCBA Website.

27.02.0 All stats from prior week's games must be submitted by midnight of the following Thursday.

27.02.1 Any team found intentionally uploading inaccurate stats will be subject to possible disciplinary action.

27.03.0 Teams have until June 10th of that NCBA season to have their stats imported for every game, or they will not be eligible for postseason awards. ( i.e All Region or All American)

28.00.00 (Moving from DI to DII)

28.01.0 Should a NCBA DI team finish last in its respective conference two years in a row, they will AUTOMATICALLY move down to Division II if there is a replacement for them at the Division I level.

28.02.0 Should a NCBA DI team forfeit 3+ games two years in a row they will AUTOMATICALLY move down to Division II if there is a replacement available to replace them at the Division I level.

29.00.00 (Noisemakers)

29.01.0 Artificial noisemakers are NOT permitted in dugouts during all **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games** and shall be removed upon discovery.

29.02.0 If stadium/field music is deemed offensive by any party, once umpire arrives, the offending party will first receive a warning. If the offensive music continues, the umpire will demand the music be turned off for the remainder of the game. If the offensive music still continues the umpire will eject the designated coach of the offending party.

29.03.0 A team will receive a warning from the umpire to remove music with inappropriate language and/or depictions of violence, sex or substance abuse.

29.03.1 If inappropriate music continues after the initial warning, the umpire is to AUTOMATICALLY eject the designated head coach from that game.

30.00.00 (Video Review / Electronic Devices)

30.01.0 There is NO video replay allowed for use by game official to determine calls during any **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**.

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30.02.0 Technology is allowed in the dugout & outside the lines but is not permitted by player or coaches in the field of play (excluding pitchcom).

31.00.00 (Definitions)

31.01.0 Any baseball game featuring one or more teams holding membership in the National Club Baseball Association competing against another collegiate baseball team can be classified in to one of three categories: "**Off Season Baseball Game**", "**Exhibition Baseball Game**", and "**NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**".

31.01.1 "**Off Season Baseball Game**" is defined as any baseball game featuring one or more teams holding membership in the NCBA competing against another collegiate baseball team, which takes place between July 1st and the last Thursday of January (July 1st – the Thursday prior to the 2nd Friday of September & Monday following the 2nd Sunday of November – last Thursday of January for North Atlantic Region, Great Lakes Region, Mid-America North Conference, and Northern Pacific East Conference teams) "**Off Season Baseball Games**" are not sanctioned by the NCBA.

31.01.2 "**Exhibition Baseball Game**" is defined as a baseball game featuring one or more teams holding membership in the NCBA competing against another collegiate baseball team, which is played for the purpose of practice and training rather than for competition. An "**Exhibition Baseball Game**" may take place between February 1st and June 30th inclusively. (2nd Friday of September – 2nd Sunday of November & last Friday of January – June 30th for North Atlantic Region, Great Lakes Region, Mid-America North Conference, and Northern Pacific East Conference teams) For a baseball game to be deemed "**Exhibition**", it must be declared in writing by the participating teams holding membership in the NCBA to their respective Regional Directors no less than 48 hours before the scheduled start time. "**Exhibition Baseball Games**" are not sanctioned by the NCBA.

31.01.3 "**NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**" is defined as any and all baseball games featuring one or more teams holding membership in the NCBA competing against another collegiate baseball team, which is played for the purpose of competition, and takes place between last Friday of January and June 30th inclusively. (2nd Friday of September – 2nd Sunday of November & last Friday of January – June 30th for North Atlantic Region, Great Lakes Region, Mid-America North Conference, and Northern Pacific East Conference teams) Scores, Results, and Statistics from "**NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**" are recorded and tabulated.

31.02.0 "**Full-Time Status**" is defined as a minimum 12.0 Credit Hours for Undergraduate students at 4 Year Colleges/Universities and 9.0 Credit Hours for Undergraduate students at 2 Year Colleges. For Graduate students, there is no definitive number of Credit Hours required to be considered Full-Time as long as the player is considered Full-Time in the eyes of the Institution that he represents.

31.03.0 "**Final Semester Student**" is defined as a student who will be graduating at the end of the current semester.

31.04.0 "**Professional Experience**" is defined as receiving monetary compensation to play the sport of baseball (Name, Image, Likeness monetary proceeds excluded).

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# 2027 NCBA RULES AND REGULATIONS
## Frequently asked questions to NCBA Rules

**Q:** Is the 3rd to 1st pickoff move legal in the NCBA?
**A:** No, it is NOT legal in the NCAA, therefore it is NOT legal in the NCBA. With the NCAA changing their ruling for this upcoming year, the NCBA will follow. A balk will be called for this pickoff attempt.
*See NCAA Rule 9*

**Q**: Does the NCBA follow the updated NCAA Rule regarding the windup pitching position, the set, reentry for an instance of a possible concussion, one foot catchers box and pitcher foreign substance?
**A**: Yes, please review those updates **HERE**

**Q:** Does a batter have to make an attempt to get out of the way of a pitch?
**A:** No, batters have their right to their position in the box and DO NOT have to make an attempt to get out of the way of a pitch but are not allowed to lean into the pitch.
*See NCBA Rule 20.00.00 (Hit by Pitch)*

**Q:** Can you DH for position players?
**A:** No, NCBA rules follow the NCAA rules which state that the Designated Hitter may only be used for the pitcher.
*See NCBA Rule 17.00.00 (Designated Hitter)*

**Q:** On an intentional walk, does the pitcher have to actually throw to the catcher?
**A:** No, the NCBA will follow NCAA protocol on intentional walks.
*See NCBA Rule 21.00.00 (Intentional Walks)*

**Q:** Can one 9-inning game count as two 7-inning games?
**A:** No. You must play two 7-inning games to count them as two 7-innning games.

**Q:** Can NCBA Division I Teams play all 7-inning games?
**A:** No, each game of a double header can be played in a 7-innning format, but any single game must be played in a 9 inning format with exceptions described in the rulebook.
*NCBA Rule 4.00.00 (Game Length)*

**Q:** When coaching the bases does the coach need to be in full uniform?
**A:** Yes, the coach must be in a game jersey and pants. They may wear a jacket or wind shirt over the jersey, but it must be team issued and matches the team's colors and is of a non-distracting nature.
*See NCBA DI Rule 9.04.1.2 & NCBA DII Rule 9.02.1.2 (Uniforms)*

**Q:** Are Courtesy Runners allowed?
**A:** Courtesy Runners are allowed for the catcher at the Division III level, but Courtesy Runners are NOT allowed in any NCBA Division I or NCBA Division II level NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game.
*See NCBA Rule 18.00.00 (Courtesy Runners)*

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**Q:** Is Reentry allowed?
**A:** Reentry is allowed at the Division II & Division III level, but it is NOT allowed at the Division I level.
*See NCBA Rule 16.00.00 (Reentry)*

**Q:** Do all substitutes need to be listed on the lineup card in order to play?
**A:** Yes, all available substitutes must be listed on the lineup card for that contest in order for them to be eligible to compete in that specific contest.
*See NCBA Rule 5.04.1 (Lineup Cards/Substitutions)*

**Q:** Does the visiting team have to wear a contrasting color jersey to the home team?
**A:** At the Division I level, the visiting team is required to wear a jersey in a contrasting color to the home team. At the Division II & III levels, we recommend teams plan properly with the home team to try to wear a contrasting colored jersey.
*See NCBA Rule 9.00.00 (Uniforms)*

**Q:** How long do we have to wait for umpires before the game is declared a forfeit?
**A:** If umpires do not arrive within 30 minutes of the official scheduled start time, then the game is automatically forfeited to the visiting team. In the second game of the double header, the home team has an additional 30 minutes (1 hour from official start time of game 1) from the time game 1 was officially forfeited to get NCBA qualified umpires to the field or the second game is also automatically forfeited to the visiting team.
*See NCBA Rules 14.06.0 and 14.07.0 (Umpires)*

**Q:** Can a team start with only 8 players?
**A:** No, at the Division I, Division II and Division III level, any team that starts the game with fewer than nine players will be forced to automatically forfeit.
*See NCBA Rule 5.07.0 (Lineup Cards/Substitutions)*

**Q**: My team is officially scheduled to play an opponent during a certain weekend as it is stated on the NCBA website, but my opponent notified us that they can't play that weekend. Are we obligated to reschedule with them?
**A**: The NCBA wants teams to honor the official schedule that is listed online. With that being said, it is your choice to either accept forfeit victories OR you can't oblige your opponent and reschedule with them only if your team has availability and it is approved by the Regional Director. The NCBA recommends that if it is any easy "fix" to reschedule with your opponent to do so. At the end of the day the NCBA wants as much baseball played. But in no way are teams obligated to reschedule with their opponents if they can't play on the weekend that is on the official NCBA schedule.

**Q**: Are we ONLY allowed to play our three conference games against our opponent in one weekend?
**A**: We recommend adding at least one non-conference game to your three game conference series if at all possible. Realistically, only four games can be played (3 Conference and 1 Non-Conference) against your conference opponent in a single weekend. So, if you play your three conference series games and add a non-conference game against your conference opponent, it'll help with any post-season requirements. Division I teams need three non-conference games while Division II teams need one non-conference game to be eligible for the postseason.

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**Q**: What should I do if my opponent lists a player on their lineup card that is not on their official roster during ground rules?
**A**: If at ground rules your opponent lists a player that is not on the NCBA official roster, it is up to you at that point to notify your opponent and the umpire of this infraction. The infracting team has the opportunity to correct the mistake, but should they not correct the mistake, the game should be played under protest.
*See NCBA Rule 5.05.0 and 6.02.1*

**Q**: Should our game go into extra innings, does each extra inning start with the last batted out automatically on 2nd?
**A**: No. Each extra inning will be played under the same format as each inning prior. No automatic runners, no changes in gameplay etc.
*See NCBA Rule 4.06.0*

**Q:** Is my team required to book through NCBA partnered hotels when participating in an NCBA Sanctioned Event?
**A:** Yes. CollClubSports (NCBA parent organization) is a stay to play organization where teams requiring overnight lodging to participate in a tournament must book at the designated host hotel through the NCBA or the NCBA official booking partner for the event. Failure to book your rooms at the host hotel through the NCBA or their booking partner will result in an opt-out fee that the team must pay to participate. Booking through 3rd party websites or partners is also not permitted (Expedia, Priceline, Travelocity etc.).

**Q**: Do base coaches have to wear a helmet when coaching on the field?
**A**: Yes. It is required that base coaches wear a baseball specific helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the helmet meet NOCSAE standards.

**Q**: Is my team required to have a "double base" at first?
**A**: Double bases are not required in NCBA Sanctioned Games, but when playing at a field where double bases are present, teams must follow NCAA Rules 1-7B.

**Q**: Is my team allowed to bat more than 9 guys? Can we list additional or extra hitters?
**A**: No. Teams are only allowed to bat 9 guys during NCBA Sanctioned Games, no matter if the pitcher is batting for himself or the Designated Hitting is hitting in place of the pitcher.
*See NCBA Rule 17.00.0*

**Q**: How many warmup pitches are permitted for pitchers?
**A**: New pitchers receive eight warmup pitches. Returning pitchers receive five pitches.
*See NCBA Rule 4.08 (Pace of Play)*

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