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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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