



NCAA BASEBALL PLAYING RULES INTERPRETATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS
2022 – 2023

March 6, 2023

Rules: 6-5-f – Use of a Charged Offensive Conference.

Clarification: Rule 6-5-f permits three (3) offensive conferences per game, or a total of four (4) if the game goes into extra innings. An offensive conference can be initiated by any coach or offensive player currently in the lineup. If a request for time is made by a batter and the team has offensive conferences remaining, the request shall be granted as one of the charged offensive conferences. If the team does not have offensive conferences remaining, time shall be called due to a violation of the action clock rule and a strike added to the count.

Umpires shall track the use of conferences as noted in Rule 6-5-f-1 and 2. The umpire(s) shall notify each team regarding the number of conferences that have been used.

February 23, 2023
Revised March 1, 2023

Rules: 5-2-d and 5-17 – Use of orchestrated activities and props outside of dugout.

Interpretation: The intent of Rules 5-2-d and 5-17 is to eliminate any unsporting behavior or orchestrated activities designed to distract, intimidate or disconcert the opposing team and keeping any props used during celebratory activities within the team dugout at all times. Items one and two in Coaching/Players' Ethics section of the NCAA Baseball Playing Rule (page 8), speak to the responsibilities of the coach to maintain control of their team and "to comply wholeheartedly with the intent and spirit of the rules." This interpretation serves as the warning for teams moving forward through the remainder of the season. Subsequent uses of props or equipment are subject to the penalties outlined in Rule 5-2-d and 5-17. The use of equipment (bats, helmets, gloves, etc.) outside of their intended use is considered the use of a prop in regard to the application of Rule 5-2-d (the use of celebratory props outside of the team dugout).

January 12, 2023

Rule: 9-2-i, and Appendix F, page 119, #2 – Warm-up pitches by an ambidextrous pitcher.

Interpretation: At the beginning of an inning, an ambidextrous pitcher who is continuing to pitch shall not throw more than five pitches with each arm to the catcher and must do so within the 120-second time limit. If beginning the game in the first inning as the starting pitcher or entering the game as a relief pitcher, no more than eight pitches with each arm are allowed. These pitches should not consume more than 120 seconds. However, should the time limit expire, the pitcher will be allowed to complete their warm-up pitches.

Rule 9-2 c-Penalty

Correction: In the Penalty for Rule 9-2-c, the first part of the sentence should be deleted. There is no long a warning for each pitcher when a violation of the 20-second time limit occurs. The penalty should read as follows: “A ball will be called each time the rule is violated.” The rule change is correctly described in Appendix F.

October 25, 2022

Appendix F – 20-Second Action Clock Limit Protocol – #9 - Batter in Batter’s Box.

Interpretation: As noted in Appendix F – 20-Second Action Clock Limit – #9, “Batters should not delay entry to gain an undue advantage.” The protocol designating that a batter shall be in the box and alert to the pitcher with 5 or more seconds remaining on the action clock was developed when the clock stopped when the pitcher started the motion to come to the set position. With the recent change to the 20-second action time limit, the mechanism that stops the clock is now when the pitcher “starts the motion to deliver the pitch.” Maintaining the protocol of 5 seconds would place undue burden on the pitcher to receive a sign, come set and start the motion to deliver the pitch when a batter waits until 5 seconds remain on the action clock. **To address voiced concerns about gamesmanship and to provide an equitable application of the rule for the offense and defense, the batter shall be in the batter’s box and alert to the pitcher with 10 seconds or more remaining on the action clock.**