



NCAA BASEBALL PLAYING RULES INTERPRETATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS
2021 – 2022

March 30, 2022

Rules 5-5-c and 7-2-b-2 – Designated Hitter substituted for before completing one at-bat.

Interpretation: If another batter is inadvertently allowed to bat for the DH who has not come to bat at least one time, the guidelines in rule 7-11-a should be followed as this situation is similar to batting out of order. The proper batter (the originally listed DH) may replace the improper batter before the batter becomes a runner or is put out and assume the current count. If the improper batter becomes a baserunner or is put out and an appeal is made to the umpire-in-chief before a pitch to the next batter of either team, the proper batter is declared out and all runners return to bases held before the action by the improper batter. However, any advances by a runner(s) such as a stolen base, balk, wild pitch, or passed ball while the improper batter is at bat are legal. If a proper appeal is not made, the improper batter becomes the proper batter (now the DH) and the results of the time at bat become official.

March 29, 2022

Rule: 7-11-n. - Interference from thrown bat.

Interpretation: This rule pertains to the play immediately following a batter becoming a batter-runner. The batter, after hitting a ball or becoming a batter-runner, has some responsibility about where he throws his bat so that it does not interfere with a defensive player making a play on the ball. However, once that initial play in the area of home plate is over, it would be unfair to punish the batter if the defense throws a ball toward home plate to attempt another play and F2 or another fielder steps on the bat.

Rule: Video Review Regulations Section V-G – Force/Tag Play Calls.

Interpretation: If a force or tag play call in the immediate vicinity of any base is challenged *by either team* or if the review is initiated by the Crew Chief, all aspects of the play that contribute to that runner being out or safe shall be considered. As described in Section V-G, this may include obstruction or runner's lane interference.

For example, if a runner is called safe at a base and the defense challenges the call; the review may discover that the runner was out, however, the reason he was out was because of obstruction. This would result in the play being called correctly, but the defense's challenge would result in the runner being awarded the next base. However, because the challenge led to a change in the original call, they would not lose the future use of that challenge.

Rule: 9-3-k – Pitcher makes pumping motions before delivery

Interpretation: This rule was added years ago when pitchers often pumped or moved their *arms* back and forth a couple times prior to delivering a pitch using a windup. This does not relate to a more recent practice at the professional level of a pitcher stopping the motion of his free foot while it is still in the air, then bringing the leg back up before stepping forward again to deliver a pitch. This is illegal in NCAA play and is considered an interruption or alteration of the natural movement associated with the delivery of the pitch.