



**2021**

**NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL**

**GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL**

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Thank you for your interest in and commitment to NCAA baseball. The purpose of this 2021 Game Officials Manual is to outline the guidelines, policies, and responsibilities for an umpire participating in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. This Game Officials Manual should be used as a complement to the 2021 and 2022 NCAA Baseball Rules and Interpretations Book and the 2021 NCAA Division I Baseball Pre-Championship Manual.

Comments and suggested additions to this manual are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact either of the undersigned.

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NCAA National Coordinator of Umpires

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## **1.2 POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. National Coordinator of Umpires**

- a. Reports to the Chairs of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee and Baseball Rules Committee, and also the applicable NCAA Championships and Alliances staff member.
- b. Manages the program budget.
- c. Works with the conference liaisons to:
  - 1) Coordinate annual NCAA Umpire Clinics (online or in-person) and the Baseball Umpire Program (BUP) annual meeting.
  - 2) Develop a comprehensive evaluation system and educational materials (including videos and manuals).
  - 3) Develop, maintain, and enforce the umpires' code of conduct.
  - 4) Monitors the conference's umpire programs and their compliance with NCAA policies.
  - 5) Submits an annual status report of the Baseball Umpire Program for review by the Division I Baseball Committee.
  - 6) Coordinates assignments for Division I regional, super regional, and College World Series tournaments.
  - 7) Attends selected regular season games and regional and super regional tournaments to observe and evaluate umpires.
  - 8) Attends the College World Series to coordinate the umpiring crew and assist in the game assignments and rotation.
- d. Performs other duties as assigned by the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee, the Baseball Rules Committee or the NCAA Championships and Alliances staff.
- e. May not serve as a conference coordinator of umpires or as a conference liaison to the program.
- f. May not serve as an officer in any national amateur baseball umpire association.
- g. May not be assigned to umpire any Division I baseball game.

## 2. Director of Umpire Training

- a. Assists the national coordinator in the operation of the Baseball Umpire Program.
- b. Attends (if applicable) and assists in the planning, agendas, speakers, and educational materials for all preseason NCAA Umpire Clinics (online or in-person).
- c. Prepares, selects, and edits instructional videos, PowerPoint materials, and graphics for umpire clinics, in-season educational materials, website, and preseason coaches education.
- d. Assists in the preparation of printed educational material and the CCA Manual.
- e. Assists the national coordinator in providing interpretations and clarifications of umpire mechanics and procedures and develops new topics for rules or mechanics discussion and potential changes.
- f. Communicates with umpires, mechanics subcommittee, and conference coordinators for subject matter for collection, discussion, and dissemination.
- g. Attends NCAA Baseball Umpire Program annual meeting (if applicable) and Rules Committee meeting as required.
- h. Other duties as assigned by the national coordinator, NCAA Championships and Alliances staff and/or Baseball Committee.

## 3. Baseball Umpire Advisors

- a. Assist the national coordinator in the operation of the Baseball Umpire Program.
- b. Submit written umpire evaluations for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- c. Assist in the recommendation of championship umpires to the Division I Baseball Committee.
- d. Evaluate umpires during the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- e. Support the national coordinator in the planning and operation of preseason NCAA Umpire Clinics (online or in-person).
- f. Attend the NCAA BUP annual meeting with Division I conference representatives (if applicable).
- g. Serve as a liaison to various conference coordinators.
- h. Other duties as assigned by the national coordinator, NCAA Championships and Alliances staff and/or Baseball Committee.

## 4. Conference Baseball Coordinators

- a. Selected by each Division I conference that receives automatic qualification.

- b. Assist the Baseball Umpire Program in evaluating umpires throughout their respective conference(s).
- c. Submit an annual roster of all umpires on their staff.
- d. Assist with the administration of the NCAA umpire clinics (if applicable).
- e. Provide an annual preseason and in-season list of recommended umpires from their conference(s) that meet the assignment criteria and are eligible and available for championship selection.

### **1.3 NCAA BASEBALL OFFICIALS WEBSITES**

1. Website for NCAA Baseball Officiating Bulletins, Updates, Video Bulletins, and Interpretations. (Registration is required):

**<http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com>**

2. Website for NCAA baseball championship information, rule books, and handbooks:

**<http://www.ncaa.org>**

Go to championships administration, then Division I baseball.

3. Website for verification of NCAA clinic attendance, background check information, and required testing results have been received on the NCAA baseball website:

**<http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com>**

To access information: sign in with your email address and password. Click on the ELIGIBILITY tab to verify your clinic, rules test, and background check status. Each requirement will be green when satisfied and red when not.

These features are only viewable after you register as an NCAA baseball umpire on the NCAA baseball website.

**Reminder: The deadline for completion of all requirements is  
January 22, 2021 at 5 p.m. Eastern time.**

**SECTION 2: 2020-21 IMPORTANT DATES**

December 1	ArbiterSports registration is open ( <a href="http://ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com">ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com</a> )	
December 7	2021 NCAA online umpire clinic opens	
January 7-10	ABCA convention	Virtual Convention
January 8	Rules test available at 8 a.m. Eastern time <a href="http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com">www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com</a>	
January 22	2021 NCAA online umpire clinic closes (5 p.m. ET)	
January 22	Rules test completion deadline (5 p.m. ET)	
February 3	Conference call with conference coordinators and liaisons (11 a.m. ET)	
March 3	Conference call with conference coordinators and liaisons (11 a.m. ET)	
April 7	Conference call with conference coordinators and liaisons (11 a.m. ET)	
May 5	Conference call with conference coordinators and liaisons (11 a.m. ET)	
May 14	Conference recommendations due to NCAA national office	
May 16-18	Baseball umpire advisor meeting	Indianapolis, Indiana
May 23	Conference call with officiating subcommittee (7 p.m. ET)	
May 24	Conference call with Division I Baseball Committee (2 p.m. ET)	
May 24	Umpire selections confirmed and posted on <a href="http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com">www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com</a> (5 p.m. ET)	
May 31	Regional teams and sites announced	
May 31	Regional umpire crews and sites determined and announced	



May 31	Regional crew chief conference call (7 p.m. ET)	
June 4-7	NCAA Division I Baseball Regionals	
June 8	Super Regional umpire crews and sites determined and announced	
June 8	Super Regional crew chief and umpire conference call (7 p.m. ET)	
June 11-13 or 12-14	NCAA Division I Baseball Super Regionals	
June 17	College World Series pre-championship administrative meeting	Omaha, Nebraska
June 18	College World Series ground rules meeting	Omaha, Nebraska
June 19	College World Series crew meeting	Omaha, Nebraska
June 19-29/30	College World Series	Omaha, Nebraska
June 27	College World Series crew meeting	Omaha, Nebraska
July 8	NCAA Baseball Umpire Program annual meeting	Via Microsoft Teams
July 13-15	Baseball Rules Committee meeting	Via Microsoft Teams
August 5	Division I Baseball Committee meeting	Via Microsoft Teams

## **SECTION 3: CHAMPIONSHIP ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES**

### **3.1 SELECTION CRITERIA**

#### **1. Criteria for Assignment to NCAA Division I Regional**

- a. Must be recommended by at least one Division I conference.
- b. Must be scheduled to work a minimum of six regular season in-conference games and be recommended by that conference.
- c. Must have at least five years experience at the Division I level with a minimum of 25 NCAA games each year OR at least three years of professional baseball experience plus two years at the Division I level.
- d. Must work a minimum of 25 Division I games in the current season.
- e. Must attend an NCAA Umpire Clinic (if applicable) or view the NCAA rules clinic online.
- f. May not serve as a conference umpire coordinator or assign umpires to work Division I games.
- g. Must receive a passing grade of 85% or better on the annual NCAA baseball test by the deadline date.
- h. Submit the signed release form and final authorization form by the deadline date which will authorize a background check to be conducted.
- i. The national coordinator, baseball umpire advisors, and Division I Baseball Committee will select 96 umpires from the conference approved lists, taking the following into consideration:
  - 1) College World Series Experience.
  - 2) NCAA Division I Super Regional experience.
  - 3) NCAA Division I Regional experience.
  - 4) Division I conference tournament experience.
  - 5) Division II or Division III championship experience.
  - 6) Division I conference experience.
  - 7) Quality of schedule.
  - 8) Number of games officiated in the conference that has recommended them.
  - 9) Previous evaluations.
  - 10) Off field conduct (professionalism).

#### **2. Criteria for Assignment to NCAA Division I Super Regional**

- a. Must be recommended by at least one Division I conference.
- b. Must be selected to work a Division I Regional in the current year.
- c. May not be selected in the same year that assignment to the CWS occurs. (Exception: CWS alternate)

- d. It is preferred that an umpire have worked at least four previous regionals.
- e. Must work a minimum of 25 Division I games in the current season.
- f. Must attend an NCAA Umpire Clinic (if applicable) or view the NCAA rules clinic online.
- g. May not serve as a conference umpire coordinator or assign umpires to work Division I games.
- h. Must receive a passing grade of 85% or better on the annual NCAA baseball test by the deadline date.
- i. Submit the signed release form and final authorization form by the deadline date which will authorize a background check to be conducted.
- j. The national coordinator, baseball umpire advisors, and Division I Baseball Committee will select 32 umpires from the conference approved lists, taking the following into consideration:
  - 1) College World Series experience.
  - 2) NCAA Division I Super Regional experience.
  - 3) NCAA Division I Regional experience.
  - 4) Division I conference tournament experience.
  - 5) Division II or Division III championship experience.
  - 6) Division I conference experience.
  - 7) Quality of schedule.
  - 8) Number of games officiated in the conference that has recommended them.
  - 9) Previous evaluations.
  - 10) Off field conduct (professionalism).

**3. Criteria for Assignment to the NCAA Men's College World Series (CWS)**

- a. Must be recommended by at least one Division I conference.
- b. Experience working a minimum of two Division I Super Regionals.
- c. Must work a minimum of 25 Division I games in the current year.
- d. Must attend an NCAA Umpire Clinic (if applicable) or view the NCAA rules clinic online.
- e. May not serve as a conference umpire coordinator or assign umpires to work Division I games.
- f. Must receive a passing grade of 85% or better on the annual NCAA baseball test by the deadline date.
- g. Submit the signed release form and final authorization form by the deadline date which will authorize a background check to be conducted.
- h. The national coordinator, baseball umpire advisors, and Division I Baseball Committee will select eight umpires from the conference approved lists, taking the following into consideration:

- 1) College World Series experience. (As applicable for the fourth consecutive year, the preference that an umpire work the CWS only once in a three-year period is no longer applicable).
- 2) NCAA Division I Super Regional experience.
- 3) NCAA Division I Regional experience.
- 4) Division I conference tournament experience.
- 5) Division II or Division III championship experience.
- 6) Division I conference experience.
- 7) Quality of schedule.
- 8) Number of games officiated in the conference that has recommended them.
- 9) Previous evaluations.
- 10) Off field conduct (professionalism).

#### 4. **Conference Recommendation Procedures**

NCAA Division I conferences that receive an automatic qualification to the championship tournament are asked to submit a list of umpires from their conference that qualify and that they recommend for a postseason assignment. In order for a conference to receive an automatic umpire assignment into the Regional tournament, a conference coordinator is strongly urged to attend the previous year's NCAA Baseball Umpire Program annual meeting (in-person meeting or via teleconference) and one of the NCAA Umpire Clinics in its entirety (if applicable) or view the online NCAA rules clinic. These lists must be completed and submitted based on current season evaluations and must be received by the date set each year. A conference may recommend as many umpires as they deem qualified for consideration but must recommend a minimum of five individuals. If less than five are recommended, the conference is subject to loss of its umpire selection automatic qualifier. Conferences may only recommend umpires that have been assigned six or more conference games. The list should be submitted in rank order of recommendation and provide all requested information. Conferences may only formally recommend for championship consideration those umpires who they submitted on their respective watch list.

Umpires must have worked a minimum of 25 Division I games as confirmed by the conference coordinator in order to be nominated for assignment to the championship. Each conference coordinator must ensure that any umpire being recommended for possible assignment to the championship meets all selection criteria. The Division I Baseball Committee is required to select at least one umpire from each automatic qualifying conference list. However, they are not required to select umpires in the order recommended. **NO UMPIRE WILL BE ASSIGNED UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED BY AT LEAST ONE DIVISION I CONFERENCE.**

#### 5. **Assignment Procedures**

The national coordinator and baseball umpire advisors will evaluate recommended umpires based on the criteria listed above and make a formal recommendation to the officiating subcommittee of the Division I Baseball Committee. The subcommittee will review these recommendations and make any changes they deem appropriate. These recommendations are then sent to the full Division I Baseball Committee for approval and notification. The Committee does not set a maximum number of umpires that can be assigned from a given conference in the Regional or Super Regional tournaments. For the College World Series, the Committee must be aware of not assigning too many umpires from any one conference so as to prevent any perception of bias at the championship. No conference is ever guaranteed an umpire automatic qualification into the College World Series. The Committee's overriding goal is to select the very best available officials each year.

Aside from the criteria listed above, the following are taken into consideration when making recommendations and final selections:

- a. Where each umpire is ranked on the conference list.
- b. If the umpire is ranked on other conference lists and their ranking on those lists.
- c. If the umpire was selected to work the conference tournament this year.
- d. In-season evaluations by the national coordinator and baseball umpire advisors.

Umpire selections will be posted on the Arbitrator NCAA website on Monday, May 24 by 5 p.m. Eastern time.

## **SECTION 4: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR UMPIRES**

1. In order to be considered for NCAA Division I umpire championship selection and assignment, the following eligibility requirements must be satisfied by the deadline dates:
  - a. **Attendance at an NCAA Umpire Clinic (if applicable) or viewing the online NCAA rules clinic** - See Appendix A for clinic sites (if applicable) and information.
  - b. **Receive a Passing Grade of 85% or Better on the Annual NCAA Baseball Test.** Online rules test must be completed on [www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com) by Friday, January 22, 2021, 5 p.m. Eastern time.
  - c. **Submit the Signed Release Form and Authorization Form which will authorize a Background Check to be Conducted** - See Appendix B for process.
2. **Verification of Completion of Eligibility Requirements.**

Officials may verify that clinic attendance (or online viewing of the rules clinic), required testing results, and background check authorization have been received on the NCAA baseball website:

**<http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com>**

To access information: sign in with your email address and password. Click on the ELIGIBILITY tab to verify your clinic, rules test, and background check status. Each requirement will be green when satisfied and red when not.

These features are only viewable after you register as an NCAA baseball umpire on the NCAA baseball website.

NOTE: When you register for the clinic, be certain that you use the same email address that you used for your NCAA Baseball Central Hub to ensure you receive credit in the Eligibility Center. This includes background checks.

## **SECTION 5: DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP TRAVEL**

### **5.1 TRANSPORTATION**

#### **1. Regional Umpires.**

Regional site and crew assignments will be made on May 31. You will be contacted by your crew chief or assistant crew chief and notified of your site not later than Tuesday night, June 1. Please do not call the NCAA office or national coordinator unless you have not been contacted by this time. Once you have received your assignment, contact Short's Travel Management (Short's Travel) at 866-821-8547. Identify yourself as an NCAA Division I umpire and book your coach class tickets. In some cases, depending on the host site, you will be flying into a nearby hub airport (e.g., Atlanta for Auburn or Clemson; or Dallas for Baylor). This is being done in an effort to be fiscally responsible as well as ensuring the best possible chance of getting home as soon as possible. Luggage costs will be handled per NCAA policy. You are required to fly round-trip to and from the same airport unless previously approved by the NCAA staff. You must be in the host city the night of June 3. Book your return for Tuesday and adjust as necessary. Please note that due to weather conditions, it may be necessary to extend the competition. By accepting this assignment, you are committing to **stay at least through** Tuesday, June 8. On receipt of your itinerary, check it for accuracy and notify your crew chief of your arrival time and flight number. If you are assigned to a site less than 400 miles from your home, you are required to drive to your Regional site. You will be reimbursed mileage for this trip at the NCAA current rate per mile. If you are 400 miles or more from the site and choose to drive, you will be reimbursed your actual mileage at a rate of 53 cents per mile, up to the cost of the lowest available coach airline ticket. Mileage reimbursement is meant to cover gas, tolls, and parking expenses. Do not consume any alcohol until after all tournament related activities have concluded for that day during any round of the championship.

#### **2. Super Regional Umpires**

Super regional site and crew assignments will be made June 8. You will be contacted by your crew chief and notified of your Super Regional site not later than Tuesday night, June 8. You must be in the host city the night before competition begins. Book your return for the day after a potential third game in the super regional.

#### **3. College World Series Umpires**

As soon as you receive your CWS assignment, contact Short's Travel at 866-821-8547. Identify yourself as a College World Series baseball umpire and book your coach-class tickets. You must be in Omaha by Thursday, June 17. Schedule your departure for Thursday, July 1.

#### **4. Dress Code**

Umpires **must** be dressed in the following manner while traveling to and from the host city and **all** tournament functions:

##### **Acceptable**

Coat and tie  
Sport jacket with dress casual shirt  
Golf shirt

##### **Not Acceptable**

Denim jeans of any type  
Shorts of any type  
T-shirts of any type  
Warm-up suits  
Any university/conference/  
professional logo item

## **5.2 RENTAL CARS**

### **1. Regional Umpires**

Your crew chief and assistant crew chief (or a second member of the crew if determined by the crew chief) will make reservations through Short's Travel for a rental car (vans or SUVs are preferred for one of the vehicles) in their names. It is each umpire's responsibility to coordinate arrival with the crew chief for transportation to the hotel. If you choose to fly in at a time (or to a different city) that cannot be coordinated with either of the drivers, it is your responsibility to arrange your own transportation to the host city and hotel. During the tournament, the crew chiefs are responsible for the cars and all transportation. These cars are for the use of all members of the umpiring crew and should not be used by just one person. If you have guests attending the tournament, arrange for their transportation separately as to not impose on members of the crew. No umpire should drive an automobile having consumed any alcohol products during any round of the championship. Rental cars will be direct billed to the NCAA. Fuel purchased personally during a tournament is not reimbursable. **Decline the insurance coverage if rental vehicles are through Enterprise or National.**

### **2. Super Regional Umpires**

Your crew chief will make reservations through Short's Travel for a rental car (preferably a van) in his name.

### **3. College World Series Umpires**

The two crew chiefs will have rental vehicles for the crews' use for the entire tournament. Reservations will be made by the NCAA. On arrival at the airport in Omaha, the designated drivers should proceed to the designated car rental counter to obtain their vehicles. The rest of the crew can proceed to the baggage claim area and call the hotel to request its shuttle van for pick up. It is approximately five miles from the airport to the hotel.

## **5.3 HOTEL**

### **1. Regional and Super Regional Umpires**

The host institution will make a hotel reservation for each crew member. The rooms will be set-up as a direct bill for the room and taxes. Any and all personal incidental charges are the responsibility of the umpire. Be sure to settle all charges before you leave the site. If you have guests attending the tournament, they may stay with you or you may make other arrangements. Do not ask the host institution, tournament officials, or the hotel for any extra rooms at no charge or to upgrade your room.

### **2. College World Series Umpires**

Umpires will have individual rooms at:

Fairfield Inn & Suites  
1501 Nicholas Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102  
(p) 402-280-1516

Rooms will be set-up as a direct bill for the room and tax. If umpires want to ship their equipment to Omaha, it should be sent to the Umpires Locker Room, c/o Tyler Shaw, TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, 1200 Mike Fahey Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. The phone number is 402-599-5571. You are responsible for this expense.



## **SECTION 6: DIVISION I PRE-TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

### **6.1 PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING**

1. **Regional Umpires**

The NCAA site representative(s) and host institution will arrange a meeting on Thursday between the coaches, administrators of each institution and other game management personnel. The umpire crew chief and assistant crew chief are NOT required to attend. The site representative(s) will set up a meeting with the entire umpire crew at the game site at least two hours prior to the first game to discuss and confirm ground rules, umpire rotations and other procedures.

2. **Super Regional Umpires**

The NCAA site representative(s) and host institution will arrange a meeting on the day prior to competition between the coaches, administrators of each institution and other game management personnel. The crew chief is NOT required to attend the pretournament meeting. The site representative(s) will set up a meeting with the entire umpire crew at the game site at least two hours prior to the first game to discuss and confirm ground rules, umpire rotations and other procedures.

3. **College World Series Umpires**

The national coordinator will meet with the NCAA staff, the Division I Baseball Committee, and team representatives at a pre-tournament meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at 6 p.m. Central time.

### **6.2 UMPIRE CREW MEETING**

1. **Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

Before the tournament, the crew chief and assistant crew chief will conduct a meeting with the entire crew. It is preferred that the meeting be held the morning of the first game. The crew chief will conduct a thorough review of the four-man mechanics that are to be used during the tournament, and announce the rotation for the tournament. He will discuss off-field behavior, set a time to review ground rules with the NCAA site representative(s), and answer any questions from the crew.

2. **College World Series**

The entire crew will tentatively meet Friday, June 18 at 1 p.m. Central time at the umpire locker room to walk the field and discuss ground rules. A video review procedures meeting will also be scheduled. The crew pre-tournament meeting will be held in the umpire's conference room at 9 a.m. Central time on Saturday, June 19. Game assignments for the first four days will be announced at this meeting. The crew will also meet on Sunday, June 27.

### **6.3 TICKETS**

1. **Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

Tickets for tournaments must be arranged for and purchased from the host institution. No umpire should ask for or receive tickets for guests at no charge. It is recommended that host institutions provide seats for non-working umpires.

## 2. College World Series

Tickets for the College World Series can be purchased in advance based on availability through the NCAA national office. Requests must be received not later than Friday, June 4. If tickets are needed during the College World Series, please reach out directly to the on-site NCAA ticketing staff contact for assistance. Umpires will receive a credential for admittance to the stadium. **Guests must have a ticket for each game.**

### **6.4 PAYMENT OF FEES AND EXPENSES**

#### 1. Regional Umpires

The NCAA national office is responsible for the payment of your game fees and expenses through ArbiterSports/ArbiterPay. Umpires must sign up for a linked ArbiterSports/ArbiterPay account to be reimbursed for all fees and expenses. Chad Tolliver (317-917-6706) will coordinate all payments. Each umpire will receive \$2,431 in game fees (regardless of how many games are worked). Each umpire also will receive \$45 per day for meals and incidentals beginning with the day of arrival and ending with the day of departure. In addition, airline luggage expenses for a maximum of two bags may be submitted for reimbursement if receipts are submitted. The NCAA and host institutions do not reimburse umpires for airport parking, laundry, or any other expenses. These are the responsibility of the umpire.

#### 2. Super Regional Umpires

Each umpire will receive \$1,737 in game fees.

#### 3. College World Series Umpires

Each umpire will receive \$6,171 in game fees.

### **6.5 PRE-TOURNAMENT BANQUET**

Per NCAA policy, game officials may not attend pre-tournament banquets or social events involving participating coaches or teams before the competition. Please note that these such events are actually not permissible.

### **6.6 COVID-19 RETURN TO CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES**

Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be additional return to championship guidelines provided closer to the date of the actual championship.

## **SECTION 7: AROUND THE STADIUM**

### **7.1 TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE STADIUM**

#### **1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

All umpires must coordinate with the crew chief and assistant crew chief (for Regional Tournaments) as to their transportation plans to and from the stadium. Please notify the crew chief if you plan to arrange for your own transportation. All umpires scheduled to work, including the alternate, must be at the stadium at least one hour and 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.

#### **2. College World Series**

Parking for rental or personal cars will be very limited. If you plan to use your own car, please notify the national coordinator. Umpires should plan to use the hotel parking lot.

### **7.2 LOCKER ROOMS**

The host institution will provide the umpires with a secure locker room to be used for the duration of the tournament. This locker room is for the exclusive use of the umpires. No visitors will be allowed at any time. **AT NO TIME SHALL A COACH OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF A PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION BE ALLOWED IN THE UMPIRE LOCKER ROOM.** The crew chief and assistant crew chief must make sure this is enforced. NCAA personnel, the NCAA site representative(s), and clubhouse attendants are the only other individuals permitted in the locker room. The crew chief will coordinate the handling of the locker room to ensure security. It is strongly recommended that valuables not be left in the locker at any time. If any valuables are left in the locker, it is the umpire's responsibility to secure their valuables. Remember you are guests of the host institution and always be respectful of their facilities. **There will be no tobacco products or alcohol allowed in any locker room.**

Visitors are permitted in the lounge area of the TD Ameritrade Park Omaha umpire locker room only if they have appropriate credentials for access. However, umpires and families should not abuse this privilege. The lounge is not a place to watch games as it is a working area. Please note that due to COVID-19, this privilege will most likely not be provided in conjunction with the 2021 CWS.

### **7.3 CLUBHOUSE ATTENDANTS**

Host institutions normally assign one or more individuals to assist the umpiring crew during a tournament. The attendants may arrange for meals and drinks for umpires, the laundry of game uniforms, shoe polishing, etc. It has been customary for the crew to give the attendants a gratuity after the completion of the tournament. This is up to the discretion of the crew and should be coordinated by the crew chief. Treat these people with the utmost respect, as they usually bend over backward to accommodate you. If you have a problem regarding the attendant, the crew chief will be responsible for handling the situation with the appropriate tournament administrator.

## **7.4 GAME BALLS**

### **1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

Game balls will be delivered to the crew chief before the tournament. In most cases, the umpires will be responsible for rubbing up the baseballs before each game. As baseballs are being applied mud before the games, water must be used as opposed to saliva and spitting. It is the policy of the NCAA to allow each umpire one new game ball as a souvenir. Any umpire discovered taking more than one ball may be subject to discipline by the NCAA. If it appears additional game balls might be necessary, please notify the NCAA site representative(s) promptly.

### **2. College World Series**

Game balls will be handled by the NCAA and will be located near the third base dugout. It is the policy of the NCAA to allow each umpire two new game balls as souvenirs of the tournament. The crew chief will be responsible for distributing these balls. Any umpire discovered taking more than two balls may be subject to discipline by the NCAA.

## **7.5 PRESS BOX**

### **1. Regional, Super Regional Tournaments**

The press box is off limits to all members of the umpiring crew at all times.

### **2. College World Series**

The press box, club, suites, NCAA and press meal areas, baseball committee seating and ESPN tent is off limits to all members of the umpiring crew at all times.

## **7.6 DRESS CODE**

### **• Regional Tournaments, Super Regional Tournaments and the College World Series**

All umpires will dress appropriately for travel to and from the stadium each day. Long pants and a dress, casual, or golf shirt are required. It is not acceptable to wear dress shorts, cutoffs, denim jeans, t-shirts, or warm-up suits. You are not allowed to wear any university, conference, or professional team logo item. Remember you are representing the NCAA from the time you leave your home until the time you return.

## **7.7 MEDIA/PRESS STATEMENTS**

### **1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

In the event of an odd or confusing play or situation, a pool reporter, selected by the tournament media coordinator, will be escorted to the umpire's locker room area by the NCAA site representative(s) to receive a rule interpretation. All interpretations will be made by the crew chief or assistant crew chief if the crew chief was involved in the play. During a Super Regional, if the crew chief was involved in the play, another umpire will provide the interpretation.

### **2. College World Series**

The national coordinator of umpires and baseball secretary-rules editor will collectively handle all press inquires.

## **7.8 GIFTS**

Host institutions may not give any member of the umpire crew any gift or memento. No umpire should request gifts or souvenirs from anyone involved in the tournament.

## **7.9 SECURITY**

The host institution must provide adequate security as umpires enter and exit the playing field and at the umpire locker room. Crew chiefs should discuss this with the NCAA site representative(s) before the tournament begins. It is recommended that at least one security officer accompany game officials to and from the playing field and their locker room.

## **SECTION 8: ON THE FIELD**

### **8.1 ASSIGNMENTS/ROTATIONS**

#### **1. Regional Tournaments**

All assignments and rotations are made by the national coordinator with final approval by the NCAA site representative(s). Rotations will be announced to the crew at the pre-tournament umpires meeting and to the public on game day. Either the crew chief or assistant crew chief must be on the field for every game. Umpires are not guaranteed a specific number of games (plate or bases) during the tournament. An alternate umpire must be in the stadium at all times. Generally, the umpire who just worked home plate should be the alternate; however, this may change if an umpire wants to stay at the stadium for some reason. Umpires are required to be in the locker room at least one hour and 15 minutes before each game that they are assigned to work [or two hours before the first game for a scheduled meeting with the NCAA site representative(s)].

The rotation for all regional tournaments will be as follows:

Home Plate / Off (Alt.) / Third Base / Second Base / First Base / Off

In the event of injury, illness, or any other reason an umpire is not available to work as scheduled, the crew chief will coordinate an adjusted rotation with the national coordinator. The goal is to not require an umpire to work more than two games in a day.

#### **2. Super Regional Tournaments**

All assignments and rotations are made by the national coordinator with final approval by the NCAA site representative(s). The rotation will be announced to the crew at the pre-tournament umpires meeting and to the public on game day. Umpires must be at the stadium at least one hour and 15 minutes before each game [or two hours before the first game for a scheduled meeting with the NCAA site representative(s)].

#### **3. College World Series**

The national coordinator, in consultation with the chair of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee and the applicable NCAA staff, makes all assignments. Assignments for the first four days of the tournament will be made at the pre-tournament umpires meeting. After the first four days, assignments will be made for the remainder of the CWS and then made for the championship series (CWS Finals) and will be posted in the locker room. Due to numerous factors, the rotation will most likely not remain the same for different portions of the CWS. Umpires are not guaranteed a specific number of games (plate or bases) during the tournament.

An alternate umpire must be in the stadium at all times. Generally, the umpire who just worked second base should be the alternate; however, this may change if an umpire wants to stay at the stadium for some reason.

#### **4. Injury or Illness**

The alternate will take the position on the field of any base umpire who becomes ill or injured during a game. If the plate umpire becomes ill or injured, the alternate will work second base and the second base umpire will take over behind home plate. It is allowable to make the change at second base a half inning prior to the plate change to minimize transition time. No umpire, unless ill or injured, shall leave any tournament before the conclusion of the championship game. The crew chief should contact the national coordinator if any member of the crew is unable to work the remainder of a tournament. The

national coordinator will decide if a replacement is necessary and will select such person in consultation with the officiating subcommittee of the Division I Baseball Committee and the NCAA staff.

## **8.2 TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The use of all tobacco products by umpires at the site of competition (i.e., umpire locker room, playing field, other areas of the stadium, etc.) as well as during other championship activities such as meetings, press conferences, postgame interviews, shall be prohibited. The games committee, in accordance with the misconduct provisions, shall deal with violations of this regulation.

## **8.3 UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT**

### **1. Regional Tournaments**

NCAA umpires should take pride in their appearance. Uniforms and hats shall be kept clean, pressed, and in first class condition. Uniforms will be worn only in the dressing room and on the field. Umpires may not sit in the stands or enter public areas of the stadium while in uniform. A stopwatch/timer must be used by the third base umpire for administration of all clock rules.

Each umpire is responsible for his own equipment and uniform. The NCAA will provide a sized hat to each regional umpire. The hats for the entire crew will be sent to the host institution and delivered to you on arrival.

See Appendix C for Smitty's Apparel Information and Order Forms.

The standard uniform options are as follows:

- a. Short Sleeve black shirt (reference Smitty's style BBS310 BK). A black or white t-shirt may be worn underneath the black shirt. All members of the crew must wear the same color on the bases.
- b. Short sleeve blue shirt (reference Smitty's style BBS310 CB). A black or blue t-shirt or mock turtleneck may be worn underneath the blue style shirt. However, any shiny or dazzle cloth versions of these shirts are not acceptable.
- c. All shirts must have the "NCAA" letters embroidered on the left breast pocket.
- d. Black pullover jacket with convertible sleeves and "NCAA" lettering on the left chest (reference Smitty's BBS323 BK). A black, polo blue, or white T-Shirt or mock turtleneck may be worn underneath.
- e. Black blazer.
- f. Grey pants (reference Smitty's BBS390 CG or BBS394 CG; BBS392 CG or BBS396 CG for consistent color).
- g. Black ball bags.
- h. Black socks.

- i. Black shoes (white stripes are permitted).
- j. Black belt.
- k. Black gloves.
- l. Black hat with “NCAA” lettering. Each regional umpire will receive one sized hat.

No other variations are allowed and no conference or association patches are allowed. No uniform numbers will be worn in regional or super regional tournaments. All base umpires will dress in the same uniform top; the plate umpire may dress in the uniform of his choice. However, if all umpires are wearing shirts they must all be the same color. **It is not acceptable to wear a short sleeve shirt on the plate with a long sleeve shirt underneath.** No visible jewelry (excluding wedding bands and medical alert bracelets) or watches of any kind other than the pitch clock stopwatch/timer are to be worn on the field during any NCAA tournament game.

It is acceptable for umpires to wear athletic style sunglasses on the field if the conditions warrant. It is recommended that umpires carry the glasses onto the field during the pregame conference and put them on once they reach their respective positions.

## 2. Super Regional Tournaments

All umpires must bring plate equipment to the Super Regional tournament even if they are not scheduled to work the plate.

## 3. College World Series

The NCAA will provide sized NCAA hats, shirts with numbers, mock turtlenecks, a NCAA lettered black/white convertible jacket for use in case of inclement weather, slacks and a ball bag. Umpires must return the Smitty’s Apparel order form immediately upon selection for shipment.

Microphones shall be placed on umpires for purposes of airing audio during the ESPN broadcast, under the following conditions:

- a. Microphones on umpires are only permitted during the CWS; not preliminary rounds (e.g., Regionals or Super Regionals).
- b. All on-field umpires will have a microphone attached to their uniform. Unless there are special circumstances identified by the national coordinator, the home plate umpire will also wear a microphone.
- c. ESPN provides a live feed and speaker of the umpire microphones into the umpire room, the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee Room and NCAA Suite at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha. These ESPN feeds allow the NCAA to monitor all umpire audio throughout the CWS.
- d. ESPN does not have permission to use the umpire microphones to air live conversations. Rather, ESPN records the conversations and airs them during the next available break in action.
- e. The National Coordinator of Umpires also has a live feed of the umpire microphones connected to an ear piece. He is able to communicate with the ESPN Producer by phone from the umpire room. ESPN has the responsibility to obtain permission from the National Coordinator to air any potentially controversial or questionable topics or language.



- f. ESPN is instructed to cut off the usage of the microphones between innings, during which time the umpires usually converse amongst themselves, communicate to the grounds crew, stretch, etc.

## **8.4 TEAMWORK**

Games are to be officiated by a crew of umpires, not four or six individuals. Umpires should officiate and communicate as a team and should assist and support one another on the field at all times. Umpires should avoid any conduct (including communication both verbal and non-verbal) that would suggest to coaches, student-athletes, or fans the existence of dissention or friction within the crew.

## **8.5 STYLE AND FORM OF CALLS**

The NCAA allows individualism in style and form of basic umpire mechanics and recognizes that the individual styles of umpires have evolved over a number of years. However, certain fundamentals should be evident in signals and calls:

1. NCAA umpires shall make a signal on all calls with the exception of “ball” and an obvious catch of a fly ball. Signals are to be visible, crisp, and clear. Voice calls should be clearly audible.
2. All signals should project decisiveness to the teams, fans, and media. Signals should not be slow to the point of appearing uncertain or causing confusion for the fans or media.
3. NCAA umpires are expected to increase the assertiveness of their call (signal and voice) as the play becomes closer. A causal, laid back signal is not appropriate on a crucial, close play. However, over-elaborate, excessive signals also are not an acceptable technique.

## **8.6 ATTITUDE**

The NCAA expects energetic and earnest work from every umpire working a championship assignment. Umpires must be 100% focused every pitch of every game without regard to the score, inning, record of teams involved, or any other external factor. Umpires must present themselves with a high level of intensity and concentration throughout every game. They are expected to display an alert, eager, confident, enthusiastic demeanor on the field. Unacceptable demeanor includes appearing bored, lethargic, casual, arrogant, cocky, antagonistic, timid, lackadaisical, and other unprofessional appearances.

## **8.7 CHARACTER**

NCAA umpires are expected to exhibit and uphold the standards of integrity of the umpiring profession. The image of an NCAA umpire demands honesty and a sense of high ethical standards. NCAA umpires should make every decision based on the circumstances and facts presented, regardless of an umpire’s past history with a particular student-athlete or team. No umpire should ever threaten a student-athlete, coach, or team with future retaliation. NCAA umpires should accept constructive criticism from conference coordinators of umpires or baseball umpire advisors.

## **8.8 FRATERNIZATION**

NCAA umpires should avoid excessive casual, unnecessary conversations with student-athletes, coaches, team personnel, or fans during the progress of a game. Umpires may not visit team or university offices unless official business requires otherwise. To avoid appearances of impropriety, umpires should be cautious regarding any casual fraternization with university employees.

## **8.9 HUSTLE AND ENTHUSIASM**

The NCAA expects a consistently high level of hustle and enthusiasm from every umpire. These qualities should be evident in all movements and mannerisms on the field. Umpires are expected to hustle to and from positions while not exhibiting “false or over hustle”. They must demonstrate a keen interest from start to finish and must not appear disinterested at any time. They must also remain focused and intense regardless of their position on the field or the status of the game. Every pitch and every play must be treated with the same respect. Umpires must assume a ready position (hands on knees or walking into the pitch) before every pitch. Hands on hips or arms folded across the chest are not acceptable ready positions.

## **8.10 GETTING THE CALL RIGHT**

It is the philosophy of the NCAA that umpires always seek to “**GET THE CALL RIGHT**”. This may involve the reversal of a previously rendered decision. **The correct decision, not the pride of any umpire, must prevail. Umpires must understand the importance of their calls and how important it is to work as a crew to GET THE CALL RIGHT. If a calling official has any doubt of his call or if any unusual play develops that causes confusion, get the crew together, consider all aspects of the play, and make sure the correct call is being made.**

Following are general guidelines for this policy:

1. NCAA rule 3-6-g states “No umpire shall criticize or interfere with another umpire’s decision, unless asked by the one making it; however, if there is a misinterpretation of a rule, it should be brought to the attention of the umpire-in-chief”. **Therefore, except in special situations such as those outlined in the next paragraphs, the umpire making the call must be the one to seek assistance of a partner.**
2. An umpire is urged to seek help when his view is blocked or positioning prevents him from seeing crucial elements of a play. An umpire is also encouraged to seek help in instances when he has any doubt and a partner has additional information that could lead to the proper ruling.
3. In situations such as those listed below, a partner who is 100% certain he has additional information unknown to the umpire making the call should approach unsolicited and alert the other umpire to such information. **However, the ultimate decision to change a call rests with the calling umpire.**
  - a. Deciding if a home run is fair or foul.

- b. Deciding whether a batted ball left the playing field for a home run or ground rule double.
- c. Cases in which a foul tip is dropped or trapped by the catcher.
- d. Cases in which a foul fly ball is caught or not caught.
- e. Cases when an umpire clearly errs in judgment because he did not see a ball dropped or juggled after making a tag or force.
- f. Spectator interference plays.
- g. Balks called by an umpire who clearly did not realize the pitcher's foot was off the rubber.
- h. Changing a call of "foul" to "fair". The umpires may conference after a batted ball that first touches the ground or a fielder beyond the initial position of the first or third baseman has been ruled foul. After consultation with the entire umpire crew, the Crew Chief will place the base runners where the crew believes they would have advanced had the ball been first ruled fair. The Crew Chief and crew should be conservative on their placement of runners.
- i. Changing a call of "catch" to "no catch". The umpires may conference after a fair batted ball has been hit into the outfield or on any foul ball to determine whether the fielder did or did not make a catch. *Note: If the ball is foul, it remains a foul ball.*
  - 1) The ball is dead.
  - 2) The batter is placed at first base.
  - 3) Each base runner is advanced one base from the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- j. Changing a call of "no catch" to "catch". The umpires may conference after a fair batted ball has been hit into the outfield or on any foul ball to determine whether a fielder did or did not make a catch.
  - 1) The ball is dead.
  - 2) All action prior to the ball becoming dead shall be disallowed.
  - 3) The batter shall be declared out.
  - 4) All base runners shall be returned to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch.  
*Note 1: A call of "no catch" within the infield can be changed to a "catch" if there are one or more runners on base and the change to a "catch" results in the third out, or at any time with no base runners and the change affects the batter only.*  
*Note 2: For the purpose of applying the changing of a call of "catch" to "no catch" (Section 9) or "no catch" to "catch" (Section 10), a fair batted ball shall be considered "hit into the outfield" when it is hit into the outfield area beyond the*

*nearest infielder. A line drive hit directly toward an infielder shall not meet the requirement for a potential change of the initial call.*

4. Umpires are not required to seek help on plays on which they are 100% confident in their judgment and view of the play. **Head coaches are not entitled to a second opinion when the calling umpire is certain his decision is correct.** On the other hand, and contrary to past practice, umpires are not to “die with a call” in cases where:
  - a. The calling umpire is not 100% certain he is right, and
  - b. Another umpire has additional information which could lead to a proper ruling. Both NCAA philosophy and umpire integrity - consistent with NCAA rules - dictate that calls are reversed in this situation.
  - c. Any unusual play develops in a game that causes confusion or that may present a need for the entire crew to get together to make sure that all aspects of the play are considered such as interference, obstruction and the placement of runners.
5. When an umpire seeks help, he should do so shortly after making the original call. Umpires should not have a lengthy discussion with the head coach or others and then ask for help. (The umpire may actually speed the game up by sending the coach back to his position and then requesting the crew to get together.) If the calling umpire seeks help, all members of the crew are to get together and should avoid multiple meetings. This conversation must take place away from players or coaches. All coaches must return to their position (coaching box or dugout) and, by rule, may not leave their position once the decision is made or continue arguing the call. If a call is reversed, coaches are entitled to an explanation. The Crew Chief is expected to ensure that NCAA philosophies are enforced over any single umpire’s pride.
6. Judgment calls, which have traditionally not been subject to reversal, include force plays (when the ball is not dropped and the foot is not pulled), and balls and strikes (other than half swings). This practice shall continue. Also, some calls cannot be reversed without creating larger problems.

Overall, umpires are urged to seek help on reversible plays in which they may have erred by not seeing a crucial element of a play. Such meetings, while necessary, should be infrequent and not become a substitute for umpires seeking proper angles, exercising sound judgment, and having the conviction to stay with a call that an umpire believes was properly made.

### **8.11 VIDEO REVIEW PROCEDURES – REGIONALS, SUPER REGIONALS AND THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES**

The NCAA baseball playing rules (Appendix E) permit the use of video review. In conjunction with the playing rules, the Division I Baseball Committee has approved centralized video review at the Regionals, Super Regionals and at the Men’s College World Series.

**The following plays will be reviewable by the crew chief at his discretion at any time during the game or with the use of a coach's challenge. If a head coach is successful in overturning a call, the coach will retain the challenge to use if needed later in the game:**

1. Deciding if a batted ball is fair or foul. The ball must first touch the ground or a fielder beyond the initial position of the first or third baseman.
2. Deciding if a batted ball is either a ground-rule double or a home run.
3. Any "catch" or "no catch" ruling in the outfield or foul territory.
4. A "no catch" ruling in the infield in some instances. With runners on base, a "no catch" within the infield can be changed to a "catch" only if it results in a third out. With no runners on base, a "no catch" within the infield can be changed to a "catch" at any time.
5. Spectator interference.
6. Deciding scoring plays at home plate inclusive of collisions (illegal and/or malicious slides) or time plays.

**The following plays will be reviewable only by a coach's challenge at any time during the game or at the crew chief's discretion during the last two innings of regulation and any extra innings:**

7. Force and tag play calls at any base.
8. Calls involving whether a base runner passes a preceding runner; determining whether a base runner scored ahead of a third out; and upon an appropriate appeal by the defensive team, determining whether a base runner touched a base.
9. Plays involving a hit by pitch.
10. Deciding if a runner failed to retouch a base after a fair or foul ball is legally caught.
11. Non-home run boundary calls including the placement of runners following a boundary call.
12. Deciding if interference occurred on a runner's attempt to break up a double play.

The process will be handled in the following manner:

When centralized video review is used, the off-field video review official will be considered an extension of the umpiring crew and will have the ability to notify the umpires on the field that a review should be initiated. The video review official will be permitted at any time to initiate a review for plays included in the first list (1-6) above. For the second list (7-12), the video review official can initiate review during the final two innings of regulation and during extra innings.

The following criteria will be used by institutions and conferences using video review during the regular season and by the NCAA during championship play:

1. Video review is a video process which falls within the NCAA Baseball Rules in Appendix E: Getting the Call Right. It can be used to either let stand a ruling on the field by the game officials or to confirm or reverse that ruling.
2. The video review process operates under the fundamental assumption that the ruling on the field is correct. Only if there is indisputable video evidence to remove all doubt that a ruling was incorrect will a call be changed. Absent that evidence, the original call will stand.
3. Any video review must occur before the next pitch or play. If it occurs after a game ending play, it must be called for before all umpires leave the field of play.
4. Unless a coach's challenge is used, the crew chief makes the determination to use video review.
5. If video review is used, the crew chief and the calling umpire will gather all necessary facts from the crew regarding the play (i.e., where runners were at the start of the play, etc.) and then would go to the designated on-field video review area. If the crew chief is the calling official, he will designate one additional member of the crew to remain with him during the review. ***Both individuals involved in the replay ideally will wear a headset; however, if only one headset is provided, the crew chief will wear the headset.***
6. The on-field video review area is a secure environment completely clear of all other persons except the on-field technician (video review facilitator) assisting the crew and possible security personnel.
7. During a video review the defensive team shall maintain their positions on the field and may practice throw if desired. Offensive base runners and the on-deck hitter shall maintain their positions. Other personnel shall remain in the dugout. Any defensive or offensive conferences will be charged as during any other part of the game. The Umpire Crew will use the headset(s) and step away (clear themselves) from all dugout personnel.
8. While there is no time limit for the video review, lengthy reviews (more than two-three minutes) are discouraged and are possible evidence that there will be no indisputable video evidence to change a call.
9. All equipment should be tested by appropriate personnel before each game and a test connection should be made to the centralized location.
10. The crew chief may confer during the review with other members of the umpiring crew but the ultimate final decision is with the centralized review official(s). This final decision may not be argued by either head coach.
11. If the reversing of a call results in the need for decisions on the placement of base runners, the centralized review official(s) will use his best judgment to determine their locations as if the call had been made correctly. These decisions are also not to be questioned by the head coach. Some situations are predetermined by the NCAA baseball playing rules.
12. If a call has been changed, the crew chief would notify both head coaches of the ruling.

13. When the umpires conference and then determine that the play will be reviewed, the PA announcer will announce “The play is under further review”.
14. After a review, the crew chief will designate the following (whichever may be applicable on the play):
  - a. Give the home run signal or fair ball signal;
  - b. Point to the bases to be occupied by runners;
  - c. Give the foul ball signal;
  - d. Signal Catch or No Catch;
  - e. Signal Out or Safe.
15. During Regionals, Super Regionals and the Men’s College World Series, the video review crew at the centralized location will be determined by the NCAA Baseball Umpire Program (names will not be publicized). The individuals will be the most familiar with the NCAA playing rules, umpire mechanics and the video review protocol procedures.
16. The video review officials will review all relevant angles provided by the television crew and quickly render a decision. The video review officials will work under the assumption that the on-field decision is correct unless there is indisputable video evidence that shows otherwise. If the individuals cannot agree on the outcome, the on-field decision will stand.
17. The review official will be responsible for the direct communication between the centralized location and the on-field crew chief. The review official will also be responsible to ensure that the call is reviewable and that all aspects of the review policy and the NCAA playing rules are adhered to during the review.
18. There are three options: Confirmed, Stands or Overturned.

### **8.12 BETWEEN INNING CLOCK PROCEDURES FOR TELEVISION GAMES**

The between half innings and between pitches clock protocol and rules with no runners on base are in effect. The expectation is that the NCAA rules are to be followed. Certainly, common sense must be used when enforcing these rules if there are delays beyond the control of the participants such as those listed in Appendix F in the rule book.

1. For games with live television (TV), the NCAA has determined that the time between half innings will most likely be 120 seconds (two minutes). This timing will be umpire controlled, even though there will be a TV Timeout Coordinator (TOC) or Red Hat on-site.
2. For games with no TV (e.g., live Internet video streaming or radio broadcasts), there will be 120 seconds between half innings, which begins when all defensive players have started to leave their positions after the last out has been made and stops when the umpire calls “Play” to begin the next half inning. The pitcher should be holding the ball and touching the pitcher’s plate and the first batter should be in the batter’s box ready to hit within this time limit.

3. The clock will be kept on the field unless a visible clock is available in the stadium (recommended). The clock will be kept and/or monitored by the third base umpire.
4. Normal grounds crew and field maintenance must occur during the allotted time between half innings and should not delay the between innings clock or the resumption of play.
5. For the fifth inning head coaches interviews (top of fifth and bottom of fifth – e.g., when the head coach’s team is on defense or in the field), the time will be extended until the head coach’s live TV interview has concluded. This is subject to change by an inning or two.
6. The third base umpire should cue or signal to the TV TOC/Red Hat and the home plate umpire, and the clock operator (when a visible clock is used) when the clock starts and when there are 30 seconds left and 15 seconds remaining in the between innings time limit. These cues and/or signals will alert TV, and, allow the home plate umpire to prepare the batter and pitcher to get ready to resume play.
7. There is not an enforceable rule that says we are unable to begin until the time limit has elapsed (due to live TV coverage), or are unable to go over the time limit allotted (without penalty to pitcher or batter if there is a delay beyond the control of the participants). However, we need to consistently begin the half inning on time. Any obvious or flagrant violations by a pitcher or batter should be enforced and penalized.

### **8.13 HANDLING SITUATIONS**

NCAA umpires must walk a fine line between keeping the game under control and not exacerbating situations with overly aggressive or arrogant actions. Although every situation is unique, the NCAA strives for uniformity in dealing with situations on the field with the following general guidelines:

1. Umpires should remain calm, professional, tactful, firm, in control, fair, and impartial. They cannot be perceived as overly aggressive, confrontational, hot-headed, short-tempered, timid, intimidated, or nervous. Umpires must never display impatience or a condescending attitude.
2. Umpires are expected to understand their role as a steady, calming influence on the game. Umpires must be able to sort out complex and important situations and cannot be hesitant to make unpopular decisions.
3. Umpires should never ignore occurrences on the field that require their attention to maintain order and control. But when difficult situations arise, it is essential that umpires stay above the emotional fray and never lower themselves to the excitable level of a particular student-athlete or coach. Umpires must be clear and decisive, while not overly aggressive or overbearing. They are expected to become more assertive if the situation calls for such, but must control their temper at all times. Umpires must calm volatile situations while keeping control and managing them.
4. Umpires are required to listen to head coaches if discussions are reasonable and non-emotional. Umpires are to be firm and authoritative in conversations with head coaches, but never should initiate an argument. Umpires must not create unnecessary friction by ignoring reasonable inquiries. At the same time, NCAA umpires must command respect and never tolerate personal abuse.



5. Umpires should AVOID sarcastic remarks or profanity and not insist on the last word. The NCAA will not tolerate umpires' language, which if used by a student-athlete or coach toward an umpire, would result in discipline. Umpires should not curse regardless of the situation.
6. Umpires must not charge a student-athlete or coach or follow him if the argument is over and he is walking away. Umpires cannot look for trouble or invite arguments. If a situation can defuse itself, umpires must allow it to happen. Umpires must not be perceived as having escalated a situation.
7. Umpires must NOT initiate contact with a student-athlete or coach. Initiating contact, including "bumping" and physical finger pointing will subject umpires to discipline.
8. Umpires must never be resentful or hold grudges. Decisions must be made individually regardless of past history with a particular student-athlete, coach, or institution. Umpires should never attempt to "even-up" with a student-athlete or coach with whom he has had previous problems.

#### **8.14 EJECTIONS/SUSPENSIONS**

##### **1. Ejections**

Umpires are entrusted with the power to remove any participant from a game. This responsibility should never be taken lightly. The NCAA recognizes that every situation is unique and that umpire discretion is essential to proper game management. Notwithstanding unique or extraordinary circumstances, student-athletes and coaches look to umpires for uniformity in applying consistent standards for ejections. The following general principles should be considered when deciding whether to eject a coach, student-athlete or another member of the team personnel from a game.

- a. Use of profanity specifically directed at an umpire or vulgar personal insults of an umpire, including accusations of bias or cheating are grounds for an immediate ejection (NCAA 2-26).
- b. Once a ball-strike warning has been issued and the umpire notifies the head coach, no coach or player is allowed to continue to argue balls-strikes or half swings from any location. Offenders are subject to immediate ejection (NCAA 3-6-f, Note 1).
- c. Physical contact with an umpire including bumping, spraying, shoving, kicking, spitting or any other physical abuse or threat of physical abuse is an automatic ejection and suspension without a warning (NCAA 5-16-b).
- d. Refusal to stop arguing and further delaying the game after the umpire has provided the head coach an adequate opportunity to make a point are grounds for ejection. The umpire should warn the head coach that he has been heard and that he should return to his position or be ejected. Following an ejection a prolonged argument by any team personnel will lead to suspension (NCAA 2-26-h, NCAA 5-15-a-4).
- e. If a coach or student-athlete leaves his position or the dugout to argue balls and strikes (including half swings) the individual will be subject to immediate ejection (NCAA 3-6-f Note 2).
- f. "Step balk," the head coach is allowed to receive an explanation from the umpire that the call was a "step balk". Should the head coach continue to argue the "step balk" call, he will be warned to immediately return to his position (or the dugout) or be subject to immediate ejection.

- g. During an argument, if a coach or student-athlete makes reference to having observed a video replay that purportedly contradicts the call under dispute, such person is subject to immediate ejection.
  - h. The use of histrionic gestures (e.g., jumping up and down, violently waving one's arms, or other demonstrations) while arguing with an umpire or stepping out of the dugout or out of the batter's box and making gestures toward the umpire are grounds for ejection.
  - i. Throwing anything out of the dugout (e.g., towels, cups, equipment, etc.) is grounds for an automatic ejection. Actions by players specifically intended to ridicule an umpire are grounds for ejection. An example would include drawing a line in the dirt to demonstrate where the player thought the pitch was thrown.
  - j. Throwing equipment in disgust over an umpire's call will be grounds for ejection. The umpire may warn the offender for throwing equipment, but if the umpire deems the action severe, the umpire may eject without warning.
  - k. Any coach or student-athlete who fails to comply with an order from an umpire to do or refrain from doing anything that affects the administering of the rules and regulations governing play is subject to ejection. Examples of this include failure to stay within the lines of the batter's box after a warning, refusal to submit a piece of equipment for an umpire's inspection, etc.
2. Ejected persons must comply with the NCAA rules and be out of "sight and sound". Once the ejected person has left the field or dugout, it is the responsibility of the ejected person and of the home institution's game management to ensure they comply with all NCAA rules regarding ejections and to report any infractions to the NCAA and respective conference office.

While the standards listed above justify an ejection, they are not all inclusive and umpires are granted discretion to eject any participant without a warning for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language. Many ejections also carry automatic suspension penalties depending upon the specific personnel ejected and the reason for the ejection. In addition, there are other situations that result in immediate ejections, such as the pitcher in possession of a foreign substance, a batter charging the pitcher with the intention of fighting, a pitcher intentionally throwing at a batter after a warning or in some instances, without a warning.

**If an ejection does occur, the umpire must complete the NCAA Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report online on ArbiterSports and send the online report to the national coordinator of umpires within one (1) hour after the completion of the game. A call should also be made following the game to the national coordinator of umpires.**

3. **Suspensions**

If the student-athlete or coach commits an act that by rule is cause for suspension, the umpire must notify the head coach and the tournament manager and the NCAA site representative(s) immediately. **The umpire must complete the NCAA Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report and send the online report to the national coordinator of umpires within one (1) hour after the completion of the game. A call should also be made following the game to the national coordinator of umpires.**

See Appendix D for a sample Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report Form.

## **8.15 RAIN/LIGHTNING SITUATIONS**

### **1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

The umpire-in-chief will work with the crew chief, assistant crew chief, the NCAA site representative(s), tournament manager and the grounds crew in determining when to use the tarp and when the game will be halted and/or resumed. The NCAA site representative in conjunction with the host institution tournament manager will monitor for severe weather/lightning. **If field conditions become dangerous to student-athletes, the umpire-in-chief and crew chief should halt the game and consult with the NCAA site representative(s).**

### **2. College World Series**

All decisions to cover the field will be made by the NCAA staff in consultation with stadium personnel and broadcast partners. **If field conditions become dangerous to the student-athletes, the umpire-in-chief and crew chief should halt the game and consult with NCAA staff and stadium personnel.**

## **8.16 PROTESTS**

Any 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. If the game ends (legal contest) in a situation, the offended team has until all fielders have left fair territory to voice its protest intentions. All protests must be made to the crew chief. However, if he is not working the game, the assistant crew chief or the home plate umpire shall receive the protest. No protest shall be allowed that involves a judgment decision by an umpire. All protests must be ruled on immediately by the protest committee. The committee shall confer with the umpires before making its decision, and the NCAA site representative(s) will make a written report to the Chair of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee.

## **SECTION 9: OFF THE FIELD**

### **9.1 CREW CHIEF**

Once notified of his site and crew, the crew chief should first contact his assistant crew chief and start the process of notifying the other members of the crew. He should then contact the tournament manager and NCAA site representative(s) to confirm any pre-tournament information and the umpire/site representative(s) meeting. If all members of the crew have not been contacted and the response received by Tuesday night, June 1 for Regionals and Tuesday night, June 8 for Super Regionals, the crew chief should contact the national coordinator of umpires.

The crew chief should confirm the hotel arrangements and then notify the national coordinator of umpires with the following numbers:

1. Crew chief cell phone.
2. Assistant crew chief cell phone.
3. Locker room phone.
4. Press box phone.
5. Hotel (phone and fax).

**Aside from the leadership responsibilities on the field, crew chiefs are responsible for conduct of the umpires off the field as well. The crew chief must file a written report of any incident of misconduct, unprofessional behavior, or violation of these guidelines with the national coordinator of umpires immediately after the tournament. Crew chiefs will be held responsible, and possibly disciplined for any incident not reported or for any umpire violations of these policies and procedures.**

### **9.2 EVALUATIONS**

#### **1. Regional and Super Regional Tournaments**

NCAA site representatives, assistant site representatives, baseball umpire advisors, coaches of participating institutions and anyone designated by the national coordinator of umpires are requested to complete an evaluation form for each member of the crew. See Appendix E for the online evaluation form, criteria and scale.

- a. Each umpire should submit an online composite self-evaluation form for each tournament worked.
- b. Each crew chief and assistant crew chief should submit an online composite evaluation form for each umpire of their crew for each tournament worked. The completion of comments is especially important.

All evaluations should be sent to the national coordinator of umpires no later than July 16. It is recommended that crew chiefs meet with each member of the crew to discuss his overall evaluation and any problem areas. It is not the policy of the NCAA to forward copies of any evaluations to umpires; however, any umpire may contact the national coordinator of umpires to discuss his evaluations.

## 2. **College World Series**

The national coordinator of umpires, baseball umpire advisors and umpire program staff, coaches, Division I baseball committee members or anyone designated by the national coordinator of umpires will complete online evaluation forms for each umpire.

## **9.3 GUESTS**

Some umpires like to bring spouses or other guests to tournaments. This is acceptable as long as the umpire does not abuse the situation or inconvenience his partners, NCAA site representatives, or anyone at the host institution. Umpires should not ask for free tickets, hotel rooms, or for any other special requests. Having these guests in attendance is the umpire's responsibility. While it is acceptable to have guests, please remember that your duties and responsibilities as a tournament umpire come first. Please note that due to COVID-19, it will most likely not be permissible to have any guests in conjunction with the 2021 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

## **9.4 ALCOHOL**

No alcoholic beverages of any type are permitted in the umpire locker room during a tournament. After an umpire has completed his assignments for a day (including serving as an alternate), he is allowed to drink alcoholic beverages. However, a few guidelines should be adhered to:

1. Do not drink at the stadium.
2. Do not drink in any public places at the hotel.
3. Find a reputable establishment that is not frequented by the media, coaches, or student-athletes.
4. If you are in an establishment when members of the media, coaches, or student-athletes arrive, you should finish your drink and leave.
5. Do not, under any circumstances, drive an automobile after having consumed alcohol.
6. Do not bring undue attention to yourself by announcing to people who you are and why you are in town.

We are all adults and should know these things but past experience mandates such policies. Umpires are very visible and, therefore, recognizable to the media, coaches, student-athletes, and fans. The Baseball Umpire Program wants every umpire to have fun and enjoy the experience of working championship tournaments; however, we must be aware of the perception that can be created by inappropriate behavior off the field. If you are not able to adhere to these policies for an entire tournament, you will be replaced.

## **9.5 OTHER**

Be very careful of what you say to anyone about your work as an umpire. Whether you are talking directly to a person or not, be aware that what you say can be overheard and misinterpreted. You should not socialize in any way with anyone from the host institution or from any of the participating institutions. Whenever possible, umpires should enter and exit the stadium together. If confronted by a coach, student-athlete, or fan, do not enter into a discussion; simply excuse yourself and leave.

You should also be extremely careful of any remarks made while traveling, in and around the stadium, and in any social situation that may be interpreted as harassing or sexually offending. Again, you are representing the NCAA at all times and your actions must be above reproach.

While the use or participation in various forms of social media is not prohibited, umpires are cautioned that they are solely and individually responsible for any content. Information or posting of content that is considered to be embarrassing or inappropriate to the NCAA baseball championship or to the umpiring profession is not allowed and will subject the umpire to disciplinary action.

**APPENDIX A****2021 NCAA Baseball Umpire Clinic**

The 2021 NCAA Baseball Umpire Clinic may be accessed via [www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com). The online clinic format will open on the video tab on Monday, December 7, 2020 and close Friday, January 22, 2021 (5 p.m. Eastern time).

In addition, via [www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com), the 2021 NCAA Baseball Preseason Rules Test will open on the testing tab, Friday, January 8, 2021 and remain open until 5 p.m. Eastern time on Friday, January 22, 2021.

In 2022, the NCAA Baseball Umpire Clinic will also be an online clinic. In 2023, the NCAA Baseball Umpire Clinics will return to an in-person format. The 2023 clinic dates are January 7, 14, 21, and 28.

## APPENDIX B



## MEMORANDUM

December 1, 2020

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Baseball Registered Umpires.

FROM: Ben Brownlee  
Assistant Director, NCAA Playing Rules and Officiating.

SUBJECT: NCAA Officials' Background Check Pilot Program.

Starting in 2014, the NCAA initiated a pilot program to conduct background checks on officials for NCAA championships in several different sports. The dual purpose of this background check pilot program is to ensure student-athlete safety and the integrity of the NCAA championships.

The NCAA will continue the officiating background check program during the 2020-21 championships seasons. The program will involve the following sports, all of which have an NCAA Central Hub on the ArbiterSports website: baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, bowling, field hockey, football, men's ice hockey, women's ice hockey, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, soccer, softball, women's volleyball, men's water polo, women's water polo and wrestling. Please note only those officials who consent to and satisfy the background check requirement will be considered for selection to work an NCAA championship. There is no additional cost to officials who consent to the background check. The background check will include:

- National Database Sources including county and state jurisdiction, and
- National and State Sex Offender Registries.

Before a background check can be conducted, an official must consent to the background check by electronically signing the final authorization. This consent must be completed through the NCAA Central Hub on the ArbiterSports website. Officials who decline to consent to a background check will be ineligible to officiate an NCAA championship. Additionally, the following criteria will be used in the evaluation of an official's background check to determine the official's eligibility to officiate any NCAA championship:

1. An individual will be **automatically ineligible** to officiate in any NCAA championship if a background check search reveals that the individual:
  - a. Has been convicted of a felony within the last seven (7) years; or
  - b. Is listed on a national or state sex offender registry.
2. An individual **may be ineligible** to officiate in any NCAA championship if a background check search reveals that such individual has been convicted of or has a pending charge for any of the following:

National Collegiate Athletic Association

*Creating a pathway to opportunity for college athletes*

The NCAA is an equal opportunity employer that values inclusive excellence in the workplace.



## NCAA Background Checks

December 1, 2020

Page No. 2

- a. A non-felony within the last seven (7) years.
- b. Any felony, regardless of the date.
- c. A misdemeanor, regardless of the date, which includes any of the following:
  1. Physical contact or attempted physical contact with another person or another person's property (e.g., assault, battery, theft);
  2. An element of deception (e.g., identity theft, fraud, forgery); and/or
  3. Illegal gambling or sports wagering.
- d. More than one alcohol and/or drug offenses.
- e. More than one felony and/or misdemeanor offenses.

At the discretion of the NCAA, any other criminal record may be reviewed, and an individual may be ineligible to officiate in any NCAA championship.

During the background check consent process, officials will have the option to authorize the NCAA to share background check reports with the Divisions I, II and III conferences designated by that official during the registration process. Each designated conference will thereafter have access to the official's background check report once it is available (beginning no earlier than September 17). If an official does not designate a conference(s) during the registration process, the official will be able to add a conference(s) at a later date. The NCAA will have no role in determining whether or how a conference chooses to use the background check report. An official is not required to authorize the NCAA to share his/her background check report with a conference(s) in order to be eligible to officiate an NCAA championship. If an official chooses to withdraw from the background check process after providing authorization, the official must provide written notification of that decision to Ben Brownlee ([bbrownlee@ncaa.org](mailto:bbrownlee@ncaa.org)) and the conferences with whom the official is affiliated.

Peopletrail, LLC, a company that specializes in background checks, will conduct background checks under this program. ArbiterSports has integrated its technology with Peopletrail and will provide instructions for the background check process through ArbiterSports to all registered NCAA baseball umpires. Officials failing to satisfy the background check requirement will be notified by the NCAA via ArbiterSports.

As in the past, officials under consideration for the Division I Baseball Championship will be required to consent to a more extensive background check that will include a credit report check. Sterling Volunteers will conduct these background checks. Details regarding these checks will be sent by Sterling Volunteers directly to the involved officials by late April.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Brownlee ([bbrownlee@ncaa.org](mailto:bbrownlee@ncaa.org) or 317-917-6944). Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

BB

APPENDIX C

**2021 NCAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ORDER FORM**

For 2021 Smitty Officials Apparel will supply uniforms for all NCAA Baseball Championship umpires. Below are the items required to wear during NCAA Baseball Championship games. These uniforms *ARE NOT* authorized for wear during the regular season. Orders for these items will not be processed until championship assignments are confirmed. Orders will be processed once you are assigned a championship game. Remember that this website is for championship umpires only. Orders placed by umpires not working championship assignments will be cancelled immediately.

Congratulations on being selected to umpiring the 2021 NCAA Baseball Championships.

Forward all questions about ordering to: [customerservice@smittyapparel.com](mailto:customerservice@smittyapparel.com)

Thank you,

*REQUIRED apparel for NCAA Championship Games:*

Item Code	Description	Sizes Available	Price
BBS310 BK	Smitty Black Short Sleeve Shirt w/ Pinstripe	S - 4XL (sized for plate)	\$ 24.00
	NCAA Logo and Flag		
BBS310 CB	Smitty Carolina Blue Short Sleeve Shirt w/ Pinstripe	S - 4XL (sized for plate)	\$ 24.00
	NCAA Logo and Flag		
BBS390 CG	Charcoal Grey Poly/Spandex Base Pant	30 - 50 (even sizes only)	\$ 43.00
	Non-Expander Waistband		
BBS392 CG	Charcoal Grey Poly/Spandex Plate Pant	30 - 50 (even sizes only)	\$ 43.00
	Non-Expander Waistband		
BBS394 CG	Charcoal Grey Poly/Spandex Base Pant	30 - 50 (even sizes only)	\$ 47.00
	Expander Waistband		
BBS396 CG	Charcoal Grey Poly/Spandex Plate Pant	30 - 50 (even sizes only)	\$ 47.00
	Expander Waistband		

*OPTIONAL apparel for NCAA Championship Games:*

Item Code	Description	Sizes Available	Price
HT304BK	NCAA Logo Smitty 4-Stitch Black Flex Fit Hat	S/M/L (Flex Fit)	\$ 13.00
	S (6 3/4 - 7 1/8) M (7 1/4 - 7 3/8) L (7 1/2 +)		
HT306BK	NCAA Logo Smitty 6-Stitch Black Flex Fit Hat	S/M/L (Flex Fit)	\$ 13.00
	S (6 3/4 - 7 1/8) M (7 1/4 - 7 3/8) L (7 1/2 +)		
HT308BK	NCAA Logo Smitty 8-Stitch Black Flex Fit Hat	S/M/L (Flex Fit)	\$ 13.00
	S (6 3/4 - 7 1/8) M (7 1/4 - 7 3/8) L (7 1/2 +)		
R530 BK	NCAA Logo Richardson 4-Stitch Black Fitted Hat	6 3/4 - 8	\$ 16.00
	Fitted Sizes Available		
R540 BK	NCAA Logo Richardson 6-Stitch Black Fitted Hat	6 3/4 - 8	\$ 16.00
	Fitted Sizes Available		
R550 BK	NCAA Logo Richardson 8-Stitch Black Fitted Hat	6 3/4 - 8	\$ 16.00
	Fitted Sizes Available		
BBS311 BK	Smitty Black Long Sleeve Shirt w/ Pinstripe	S - 4XL (sized for plate)	\$ 28.00
	NCAA Logo and Flag		
BBS311 CB	Smitty Carolina Blue Long Sleeve Shirt w/ Pinstripe	S - 4XL (sized for plate)	\$ 28.00
	NCAA Logo and Flag		
BBS323 BK	Black w/ White Piping Convertible Jacket	S - 4XL	\$ 38.00
	NCAA Logo and Flag		

To place orders - visit [www.smittychampionships.com](http://www.smittychampionships.com)





## 2021 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES UNIFORM ORDER FORM

The 2021 College World Series uniforms will be supplied by Smitty Official's Apparel. Smitty will provide an easy access order form to make the process more efficient and deliver your products in a timely manner. The order form will include the following products that will be supplied to each umpire.

### YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Four (4) Smitty MLB Style Short Sleeve Shirts (Smitty sized for use by Plate Umpires)
  - Two (2) Black and Two (2) Carolina Blue Shirts
  - Each umpire can order different sizes of each color for use on bases and plate
  - Size: S – 4XL
- One (1) Black MLB Style Long Sleeve Shirt
  - Sizes: S – 4XL
- Two (2) pair of Smitty Charcoal Grey 4-Way Stretch Umpire Pants
  - Styles to Select – (1) BBS390 or BBS394 Base or (1) BBS392 or BBS396 Plate
  - Available in Even Waist Sizes Only
  - Pants will be altered to inseam length provided
- One (1) Smitty Black BBS383 Ball Bag
- One (1) Smitty BBS322 Black Jacket with Convertible Sleeve and White Piping
  - Sizes: S – 4XL
- Two (2) Moisture Management Black Mock Turtleneck Shirts
  - Sizes: S – 4XL
- Two (2) Richardson Black Baseball Fitted Umpire Hats
  - Available in 4, 6 or 8 stitch bills
  - Sizes from 6 ¾" to 8" hat sizes

All orders will be delivered to each umpire's home address at least one week prior to departing for the 2021 College World Series.

Please call 330-858-5892 or email – [customerservice@smittyapparel.com](mailto:customerservice@smittyapparel.com) with any questions.

## APPENDIX D

## DI Umpire Incident/Ejection/Suspension Report

Note: Online submission of this form is intended only for use by umpires working a Division I game.

Procedure to follow after an ejection/suspension:

1. The ejecting umpire shall call his conference coordinator immediately after the game to report any ejection or incident.
2. Via the pull down menu – select the conference coordinator responsible for assigning the umpires to the game. Once the coordinator receives the report, he will then forward the report to the offending team's coordinator (if different); and finally, it is the responsibility of the conference administrator to forward the report to the applicable institution's director of athletics.
3. If there is a suspension, the appropriate suspension information must be completed in full on the report.
4. If there is a suspension, the head coach, acting head coach and game management administrator MUST be notified at the time of the suspension.
5. If an ejection occurs during the NCAA Division I postseason, the ejecting umpire must submit this report and contact the National Coordinator of Umpires by telephone immediately.

Division I National Coordinator of Umpires

George M. Drouches


cell: 612-432-5351

georgedrouches@gmail.com

Notes:

1. For "Email Address and "Phone Number" enter reporting umpire information. Please be careful to submit accurate information.
2. For "Send To" select coordinator responsible for the conference of the institution responsible for assigning umpires to the game. That coordinator will then forward to the offending team's coordinator (if different) who will forward to the conference administrator and institution's director of athletics.
3. When you hit "Submit," the coordinator will receive a copy and you will receive a confirmation email which may then be forwarded to anyone else who needs to see the report. Copies will automatically be sent to the National Coordinator of Umpires, Director of Umpire Training and Secretary-Rules Editor.

Date of Game \*

 /  /    
 MM DD YYYY

Start Time of Game \*

Location of Game \*

Home Team \*

Visiting Team \*

Reporting Umpire \*


   
 First Last

Email Address \*

Telephone Contact Information \*

-  -   
###    ###    ####

Date Report Was Completed \*

/  /    
MM    DD    YYYY

Time Report Was Completed \*

Send Report to DI Conference Coordinator \*

Select Coordinator Below 

Name of Home Plate Umpire \*

First                  Last

Name of First Base Umpire \*

First                  Last

Name of Second Base Umpire \*

First                  Last

Name of Third Base Umpire \*

First                  Last

Names of Players/Coaches/Personnel EJECTED (Include Full Names, Uniform Numbers, Titles): \*

Team and Conference of Players/Coaches/Personnel EJECTED: \*

Choose the single aspect that BEST describes the cause of the Ejection(s): \*

Select Cause of Ejection Below

Was an official warning (by rule) given before this ejection? \*

Please select below:

Was this a Post Participation Ejection? \*

Yes

No

Was there a Suspension(s) issued per NCAA Rules? \*

Yes

No

If there was a Suspension(s) issued, list the Names and Uniform Numbers of persons suspended: \*

IF there was a Suspension(s) issued, choose the aspect(s) that BEST describes the cause(s) of the Suspension(s) that you issued per NCAA Rules: (check ALL suspensions that apply): \*

- Rule 2-26-c, Appendix D: Post Participation Ejection (Suspension: 2 games, 1 game Head Coach, 4 games Pitcher)
- Rule 2-26-e and f: Other than the HC, Ejection; (Suspension: 1 game, First offense; 4 games Pitcher)
- Rule 2-26-h: Prolonged Arguing or Unsportsmanlike Conduct FOLLOWING an Ejection (Suspension 2 games)
- Rule 3-6-d, Notes 2 and 3: Failure to leave sight and sound following an Ejection (Suspension 3 games)
- Rule 5-16-a: Fighting (Ejection plus Suspension 4 games for first offense)
- Rule 5-16-b: Physical Abuse of game official (Ejection plus Suspension 4 games for first offense)
-

Rule 5-16-c: Leaving position to participate in a Fight (Ejection plus Suspension 4 games)

- Rule 5-16-c: Leaving Dugout or Bullpen at the time of a potential altercation (Ejection plus 1 game suspension)
- Rule 5-16-d and 9-2-g: Intentionally Throwing at Batter (Suspension 4 games for pitcher for first offense, 1 for coach if previously warned)
- Rule 9-2-e: Possessing/Applying Foreign Substance to the Ball (Pitcher is ejected and suspended 4 games)
- Other

Give a DETAILED and COMPLETE account of the situation that led to the Ejection(s): \*

Give a DETAILED and COMPLETE account of what happened on the field after the Ejection(s): \*

If a Warning(s) was issued prior to the Ejection, please state when and how each was issued and the response of those warned: \*

If a Warning(s) was issued after the Ejection but prior to any Suspension(s), please state when and how each was issued and the response of those warned: \*

Did all Ejected and Suspended personnel stay out of sight and sound after the incident? \*

Yes

No (3 game suspension) Explain below:

Provide Name, Team affiliation, when and how any notifications of Suspensions were provided (required at time of suspension): \*

Procedure to follow after an ejection or suspension:

1. The umpire crew shall notify the head coach of the ejection and/or suspension, either personally or through the home team game management administrator on site before the crew leaves the playing site.
2. If a situation occurs after the last out OR WINNING RUN to end a game and this conduct would result in an ejection during the normal course of play, the umpire/crew chief will issue a POST PARTICIPATION EJECTION.
3. The ejecting umpire shall call his conference coordinator/assignor immediately after the game to report any ejection or suspension.
4. The ejecting umpire shall file the NCAA ejection report on [www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com](http://www.ncaabaseball.arbitersports.com) within eight (8) hours after the completion of the contest.

For clarification, an individual serving a suspension is not allowed to:

- a) Once pregame activities begin (infield, batting practice, etc.) be in the stadium or on the field;



b) Be dressed in game uniform;

c) Communicate with umpires at any time, or with any team personnel until after the conclusion of the game.\*

I agree to follow these procedures.

/

## APPENDIX E

## EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCALE

### 2021 NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL

### Umpire Evaluation Standards

#### Grading Scale

- (5) **Outstanding** – never deviates from the listed standards
- (4) **Above Standard** – seldom deviates from the listed standards
- (3) **Meets Standard** – Adheres to an acceptable level from the listed standards
- (2) **Below Standard** – Occasionally deviates from the listed standards
- (1) **Unacceptable** – Consistently deviates from the listed standards

#### STANDARDS FOR NCAA UMPIRE EVALUATIONS

#### Plate Work

##### **Stability of Head and Body Position**

- Establishes “locked in” position on every pitch
- Does not drift side to side or up and down with pitch
- Does not flinch on swings or foul tips
- Maintains proper spacing from catcher as not to become entangled if catcher moves quickly and unexpectedly
- Eyes remain at horizontal level with ground and does not dip as game goes on. Head at proper height to allow unobstructed view of entire plate
- Works in the “slot” not over top of catcher or to the outside
- Does not set in an unusually high or deep position that would draw attention or questioning of judgment

##### **Timing**

- Does not anticipate pitch
- Allows everything that can happen, to happen, before making DECISION, then makes a call
- Does not make a call as the ball is approaching the plate or crossing, but after the catcher has caught the ball
- Stays down in position to call balls

##### **Proper Positioning for Plays**

- Attains the appropriate angle and distance for plays
- Not too close nor too far from the play
- Works to get angle over distance when appropriate
- Adjusts position for poor throws or unusual play

**Style/Mechanics of Call**

- Gives clear authoritative signals and uses correct signals
- Possesses smooth, relaxed style that projects confidence
- Coordinates voice and signals to give professional appearance. Voice is loud enough to be heard but does not draw undue attention
- Does not showboat or change the mechanics of his call during the course of a game

**Judgment, Interpretation and Consistency of Strike Zone Throughout the Game**

- Maintains the same zone throughout the game
- Is the same for both teams
- Has a grasp of how zone can be adjusted in lopsided game
- Interprets and calls the zone to its written limits
- Does not call “unhittable” pitch a strike nor zone is too small
- Makes concerted effort to call pitches above the belt as strikes

**Crew Mechanics and Communications**

- Adheres to the mechanics, procedures, and points of emphasis as stipulated in the 2021 CCA Baseball Umpires Manual
- Has good knowledge of proper mechanics and rotations
- Rotates to first and third as needed
- Uses proper verbal and non-verbal communication
- Makes good eye contact with partners between hitters and during developing plays

**Base Work****Proper Positioning for Plays**

- Attains appropriate angle and distance for plays
- Not too close, not too far from the play
- Works to get angle over distance when appropriate
- Adjusts position for poor throws or unusual play

**Style/Mechanics of Call**

- Gives clear authoritative signals. Possesses smooth, relaxed style that projects confidence
- Coordinates voice and signals to give a professional appearance
- Does not showboat or change the mechanics of the call during course of game
- Uses a voice that is loud enough to be heard but does not draw undue attention

**Timing/Judgment**

- Does not anticipate the play
- Allows everything that can happen, to happen, before making DECISION
- Gets the call right

**NCAA Mechanics/Crew Communication**

- Has a good knowledge of proper mechanics and rotates in the proper situations and is alert enough to adjust if one of the umpire’s partners misses coverage
- Reads partners and fly balls well on outfield coverage and goes out as needed
- Uses proper verbal and non-verbal communication
- Establishes eye contact with partners between hitters and during developing plays

**Reactions to Developing Plays**

- Exhibits knowledge and perception of how play will develop through correctly anticipating where, how, and the speed at which the play will occur

**Adhering to the National Program****NCAA Policies and Procedures**

- Adheres to all policies and procedures as outlined in the **2021 NCAA Division I Baseball Game Officials Manual**

**NCAA Policies-Playing Rules and Points of Emphasis**

- Adheres to and applies rules, accepted practices, and interpretations detailed in the **2021 and 2022 NCAA Baseball Rule Book**.

**Situation Management, Ejections and Warnings**

- Adheres to provisions of the **2021 NCAA Division I Baseball Game Officials Manual**

**Focus and Hustle**

- Concentrates consistently on the crucial elements throughout the game
- Is prepared for every pitch and play, developing plays and situations
- Is aware of all that is going on within a game including dugout situations and inter-team developments
- Moves with a purpose during a play to get into proper position to cover plays
- Does not over hustle to draw attention to themselves

**Appearance and Demeanor**

- Proper display of uniform and fit or athletic appearance within the uniform
- Displays a conscientious and earnest desire to carry out on-field duties
- Exhibits posture that reflects interest in the game

**Mobility**

- Possesses physical ability to move into proper position on field
- Runs athletically and is able to keep pace

**Fraternization**

- Avoids excessive, casual, and/or unnecessary conversation with uniformed personnel or spectators during the game.

## NCAA Baseball DI Umpire Postseason Evaluation Form

Instructions: Complete the form below. When you click "Submit" a copy will automatically be sent to NCAA Division I National Coordinator of Umpires, George Drouches. A confirmation email containing your form information will also be sent to the email address you enter below.

Name of Umpire Being Evaluated \*

--	--

First

Last

Position of Umpire Being Evaluated \*

Game Site \*

Game Date(s) \*

Visiting Team \*

Home Team \*

Your Name \*

--	--

First

Last

Your Email Address \*

There are two parts to the following three questions. The first part requires a rating, and the second part requires a written description.

Was the plate umpire consistent with all NCAA standards? Please give an accurate rating below. \*

- 5 - Outstanding
- 4 - Good
- 3 - Average
- 2 - Poor
- 1 - Unacceptable
- Not Applicable/Did Not Work Plate

Was the plate umpire consistent with all NCAA standards? Please give an accurate description below. If not applicable, please type NA in the box below. \*

Is the umpire poised to anticipate developing plays and move to the proper position to make the call? Please give an accurate rating below. \*

- 5 - Outstanding
- 4 - Good
- 3 - Average
- 2 - Poor
- 1 - Unacceptable

Is the umpire poised to anticipate developing plays and move to the proper position to make the call? Please give an accurate description below. \*

Did the umpire demonstrate consistent professional integrity at all times? Please give an accurate rating below. \*

- 5 - Outstanding
- 4 - Good
- 3 - Average
- 2 - Poor
- 1 - Unacceptable

Did the umpire demonstrate consistent professional integrity at all times? Please give an accurate description below. \*

After you make your comments, please give the umpire an overall rating: \*

- 5 = Very capable and should continue working NCAA postseason tournaments
- 3 = Needs to make improvements in his umpiring to continue to work NCAA postseason tournaments
- 1 = Is not ready to work this level of NCAA baseball

Do you feel that this umpire should be selected (or considered) for future postseason assignments. \*

Please select below:

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## 2021 and 2022 Baseball Major Rules Changes

## APPENDIX F

The following rules changes were approved the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons.

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
2.37 and 7.8 Foul-tip	<p>Update the definition for a foul tip. “A batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher’s hands and is legally caught. <u>It is not a foul tip unless caught.</u> Any foul tip <del>that is caught</del> is a strike, and the ball is in play.”</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To allow that a foul tip no longer has to first touch the catcher’s hand or glove before being legally caught by the catcher.</p>
2.67.b Play or Attempted Play	<p>Add additional definition for the term “Play or Attempted Play” to identify that a play or attempted play shall be interpreted as a legitimate effort by a defensive player who has possession of the ball to retire a runner. This may include an actual attempt to tag a runner, a fielder running toward a base with the ball in an attempt to force or tag a runner, or actually throwing to another defensive player in an attempt to retire a runner. The fact that the runner is not out is not relevant. A fake or a feint to throw shall not be deemed a play or an attempted play.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Throughout the playing rules (base awards, appeals, batting out of order, etc.) there are references to when a time has occurred (before the next pitch, play, or attempted play). However, there is no definition of what defines a play. The current definition of play only references an umpire starting or restarting the game.</p>
5.5.k Re-Entry	<p>Establish a permissible re-entry rule for a player only in the instance of a potential a concussion.</p> <p><b>Rule 5.5.k.</b> A player who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (see Appendix H in the rules book) must be immediately removed and receive appropriate medical evaluation. The player may not return until cleared by the appropriate medical personnel.</p> <p><b>Rule 5.5.k.1.</b> While the evaluation is taking place, the injured player, whether a starter or a substitute, may be replaced by any eligible player who has not yet participated in the game.</p> <p><b>Rule 5.5.k.2.</b> If the injured player is cleared to resume participation, the player may re-enter in their original lineup spot only. A player may only reenter the game one time. The temporary replacement player may again participate in the game as a substitute in the same lineup spot only.</p> <p><b>Rule 5.5.k.3.</b> If the injured player resumes participation and is later substituted with a player other than the temporary replacement, the temporary replacement may return to the game only in same spot in the lineup.</p>



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	<p><b>Rule 5.5.k.4.</b> If a temporary replacement player is substituted for (pinch runner, pinch hitter or defensive substitution), that player may not re-enter the game.</p> <p><b>Rule 5.5.k.5.</b> If a temporary replacement player is removed for a concussion evaluation, that player may only reenter in that position in the lineup.</p> <p><b>Rule 5.5.k.6.</b> If a team has no remaining eligible players, a starter or substitute who has previously participated in the game may replace the injured player.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This proposal is intended to improve student-athlete safety and provide the opportunity to re-enter the contest if cleared by medical personnel following the concussion protocol (Appendix H in the rules book).</p>
5.16 Fight Rule	<p>Clarify that any team personnel (other than coaches) who leave the dugouts or bullpens to enter the field at the time of a potential altercation or fight shall be ejected. Ejections would carry a one-game suspension, unless the individual physically violates the fight rule.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Establishes a method and penalty for team personnel who leave the dugout or bullpen at the time of an altercation. This proposal is intended to prevent further escalations and unsportsmanlike conduct.</p>
6.1.g Live Ball	<p>Clarify the live ball rule as follows: “If a thrown or batted ball that remains in live-ball territory accidentally hits a spectator, authorized on-field personnel or an animal, the ball is live.                  Note: If a pitched ball strikes a bird in flight or other animal on the playing field, the pitch is nullified, and play shall be resumed with the previous count.”</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This change is intended to distinguish the difference between a thrown or batted ball inadvertently hitting an animal or authorized on-field personnel and a pitched ball striking an animal.</p>
7.2 Designated Hitter	<p>Simplify the current designated hitter rule to permit the starting pitcher to be co-listed in the lineup as the pitcher and designated hitter. Further, require that the listed designated hitter must bat at least one time unless the opposing team changes pitchers or the designated hitter becomes injured or ill before the player’s spot in the lineup comes to bat.</p>

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	<p><b>Rationale:</b> This change is intended to make the current rule similar to the professional baseball rule by simplifying the designated hitter rule while maintaining the ability of the two-way player (pitcher/dh) in the collegiate game.</p>
7.11.h Note Batter Interference – Dropped Third Strike	<p>Clarify interference. Specifically, after a third strike that is not caught by the catcher and the batter-runner clearly hinders the catcher in the catcher’s attempt to field the ball, the batter-runner is out, the ball is dead, and all other runners return to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch regardless of the number of outs. If the pitched ball deflects off the catcher or umpire and subsequently touches the batter-runner, it is not considered interference unless, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter-runner clearly hinders the catcher in their attempt to field the ball regardless the number of outs.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To simplify the administration of this rule regardless of number of outs and whether the action is intentional or unintentional. If the batter-runner hinders the catcher in any way on a dropped third strike (e.g., kicks the ball unintentionally hindering the catcher from making the play), time should be called immediately, the batter-runner is out and all runners return to their last legally occupied base, regardless if they were stealing or not.</p>
7.11.n Interference – Thrown Bat	<p>Clarify that if a whole bat is thrown into fair or foul territory, whether intentionally or not, and it interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play on the ball, interference shall be called.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To establish clearer guidance whether interference has occurred in situations of a fielder attempting to make a play when a bat is thrown in foul territory.</p>
8.4 Force Play Slide Rule	<p>Clarify that the Force Play Slide rule does not apply to the batter-runner at first base, as well as establishing that the other runners are not required to slide until they are in the vicinity of the base.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This provides additional clarification of the slide rule as it pertains to a batter-runner and other runners.</p>
8.6.a.3 Base beyond	<p>Establish that when a runner has gone beyond the base and must retouch that base before returning to the previous base(s) in order. Specifically, “A runner is considered to have passed a base if the player has both feet on the ground beyond the back edge of the base or beyond the edge of the base in the direction in which the player is advancing. The direction the runner is advancing determines the edges of the base when defining when a runner has passed a base.”</p>

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	<p><b>Rationale:</b> To provide clarification as to what part of the base the runner must have passed to be required to retouch the base before going back to the previous base safely.</p>
9.1.a The Windup	<p>Change the rule to the following:                  “a. The Windup. <del>The windup position is indicated when the pitcher stands with their chest and shoulders generally facing the batter, with the pivot foot on or in front of and touching the pitcher’s plate with the other foot free, and with the free foot touching or behind (breaking) the plane of the front edge of the pitcher’s plate. The pitcher shall stand facing the batter with their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate and other foot free.</del>  <u>In the windup position, a pitcher is permitted to have their “free” foot on the rubber, in front of the rubber, behind the rubber or off the side of the rubber. The pitcher may not take a second step toward home plate with either foot in his delivery of the pitch.</u>                  From this position...”</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To allow the pitcher more latitude and to provide clarification in the pitching rules for more equitable enforcement.</p>
9.1.b The Set	<p>Change the first sentence of the rule to read, “The set position shall be indicated when the pitcher stands facing the batter with his pivot foot in contact with, and his other foot in front of, the pitcher’s plate, holding the ball in both hands in front of his body and coming to a complete stop.” An additional paragraph will be added to read, “With a runner or runners on base, a pitcher will be presumed to be pitching from the Set Position if the pitcher stands with their pivot foot in contact with and parallel to the pitcher’s plate, and their other foot in front of the pitcher’s plate, unless the pitcher notifies the umpire that he will be pitching from the Windup Position under such circumstances prior to the beginning of an at-bat. A pitcher will be permitted to notify the umpire that the pitcher is pitching from the Windup Position within an at-bat only in the event of (1) a substitutions by the offensive team; or (2) immediately upon the advancement of one or more runners (e.g., after one or more base runners advance but before the delivery of the next pitch).</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To provide clarification in the pitching rules for more equitable enforcement.</p>
9.2.e Pitcher Applies a Foreign Substance	<p>Establish a stronger penalty for a pitcher using a foreign substance to the ball as follows:                  The pitcher shall not:</p>

	<p>e. <del>Have on their person or possession any foreign substance. Apply any foreign substance or moisture to the ball or to the pitching hand or fingers or do anything to deface the ball. The pitcher may use bare hands to rub up the ball. The pitcher or defensive player(s) shall not apply any foreign substance or moisture to the ball or to the pitching hand or fingers or do anything to deface the ball. The pitcher may use bare hands to rub up the ball.</del></p> <p><b>PENALTY</b> for e.: Eject the pitcher from the game. <u>Note: If the pitcher expectorates on their hand, ball or glove or rubs the ball on their glove, person, or clothing, and, in the judgment of the umpire, the pitcher did not intend to alter the characteristics of the baseball, then the umpire may, at the umpire’s discretion, warn the pitcher in lieu of ejecting the pitcher from the game. If the pitcher persists in violating this rule, the umpire shall then eject the pitcher from the game.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Establish a strong penalty for the use of a foreign substance on the ball. The current penalty would require a second use of a foreign substance and does not mention having a foreign substance in the player’s possession for the player to be ejected from the game.</p>
<p>9.3.i One foot catcher’s box</p>	<p>Modify the current rule as follows: “The pitcher pitches while the catcher is not in the catcher’s box. The catcher must have <u>at least one foot inside both feet within the catcher’s box until the pitcher begins the pitching motion-ball leaves the pitcher’s hand;</u>”</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Currently, the catcher is required to have both feet at the time of the pitch. This change will provide a more enforceable playing rule for umpires depending on where the catcher sets up to receive a pitch.</p>
<p>Appendix B – A.3 Rules for Scoreboards, Video and Audio</p>	<p>Modify the current rule as follows: “Any instance in which an umpire has made a judgment call may be replayed only one time at regular speed and must be replayed before the next batter (for either team) enters the dirt area around home plate. <u>An unlimited number of replays may be played on the video board at any speed, only after a play is under video review by the umpires; however, no replays shall be shown on the video board once a decision has been made by the umpires and/or replay official.</u>”</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To allow stadiums that have the capability to show different angles and speeds of a play without jeopardizing the integrity of the video review process.</p>

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Appendix B – A.4 Rules for Scoreboards, Video and Audio	Modify the current rule as follows: “ <del>No live</del> <u>Live</u> game action may be displayed <u>on the stadium video board</u> . Close-ups of the batter in the on-deck circle are <u>also permitted</u> . <u>Live game action may be displayed once there is contact between the bat and the pitch and must cease once the next batter (for either team) enters the dirt circle, but once a player enters the dirt circle, all live action must stop.</u> <del>A</del> <u>If live game action is not displayed</u> , a still shot, statistics or other nonmoving pictures must remain on the screen until the batter finishes the plate appearance.”  <b>Rationale:</b> Enhance fan experience.
Appendix E – 2 Getting the Call Right with Video Review – Coach’s Challenge	Clarify that if a coach's challenge is successful in overturning a call, the coach will retain the challenge to use if needed later in the game.  <b>Rationale:</b> Enhance the game to continue to correct incorrect calls if possible.
Appendix G Visual Inspection/ Bat Testing	Establish the following guidelines for NCAA required bat testing beginning with the 2021 season: 1. A visual inspection of the bat. 2. Conduct a ring test. 3. Conduct bat barrel compression testing. All bats used in competition must undergo the bat testing procedure and identified as approved with a destructible sticker.  *The effective date for barrel compression testing at Division II and Division III has been delayed to the 2022 championship season.  <b>Rationale:</b> Clearly define the process that must take place prior to competition to use legal and approved bats during competition to ensure the integrity of competition.