

2007 Baseball Major Rules Changes

Note: The following rules changes have been approved by the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. The rules changes will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2007 season unless otherwise indicated. The only change from the list of proposals that was mailed to coaches for the comment period is that rule to prevent conferences from adding a more severe penalty for coaches ejected because of the tobacco rule was denied. This rule will NOT be incorporated into the rules book. The page references are from the 2006 Baseball Rules Book.

Rule 1-13, Pitcher's Glove. Add: "the glove may not be white or gray nor contain white or grey lettering." *Rationale:* Clarifies a previous interpretation.

Rule 2, Ejection. Add new A.R. 3: "Any player ejected after being removed from the game shall serve a post game ejection. (See Rule 8-7.)" *Rationale:* Properly penalizes a player that has been taken out of the game but commits an act that qualifies for an ejection.

Rule 2, Definitions (Last Time By). A definition for Last Time By will be added. The definition will read: "If the runner retouches a base or bases in advancing to the awarded base, or in returning to the original base at the time of the pitch, his failure to touch a base in returning is corrected under the theory that touching the base the last time by corrects any previous error." *Rationale:* To assist coaches and umpires in understanding the rules when a player overruns a base.

Rule 2, Definitions (Flagrant Collision). Flagrant collision will be defined and a reference will be added Rule 8-7. "A collision between a base runner and a fielder in which the runner attempts to maliciously dislodge the ball." *Rationale:* To assist understanding of this rule.

Rule 2, Definitions (Ejection). The post-game ejection procedure will be defined to help game administrators and coaches understand what is expected when this type of ejection occurs. It will read: "The ejected individual is not allowed to: a) Be dressed in game uniform; b) Communicate with any team personnel or umpires; c) Take part in any pre-game activities at the field; d) Be in street clothes and observing the contest at the field." *Rationale:* To assist in the administration of this rule and make it clear what the expectations are when a coach or player is ejected.

Rule 5-2, Positions of the Offensive Team. The rule will be altered to allow only one player in the on-deck area. *Rationale:* This rule, which will be in line with the Major League Rules regarding on-deck batters, will assist umpires in keeping the dugout area and live ball territory clear.

Rule 5-2-e, Positions of the Offensive Team. The rule will prohibit the offensive player in the on-deck position from being within a triangle created by an extension of the first base and third base foul lines. Additionally, the on-deck batter must be in the vicinity of the dugout. *Rationale:* This rule will assist umpires in keeping the dugout area and live ball territory clear and also limit how close on-deck batters may be to home plate.

Rule 5-16-b, Fight Rule. The penalty will be altered:

PENALTY--(1) For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the teams next **one three** contests;

(2) For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection plus suspension from the team's next **three five** contests.”

Rationale: To make the penalty for physical abuse of game officials or umpires the same as the fight rule in other areas of the rules book.

Rule 7-11-u, When Batter or Batter-Runner is Out. The rule will be revised to read: “A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught and who is not in the process of running to first base, shall be declared out once he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate heading towards his dugout.”

Rationale: This rule is intended to clarify when a batter is called out after a dropped third strike.

Rule 8-4, Force-Play-Slide Rule. The force-play-slide-rule will be altered to read: “A runner may slide legally directly to **and past** the base and not be subjected to this rule. The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of **all** the defensive players.

a. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground **before the base** in a direct line between the two bases. **It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended (see diagram).**

b. Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner **makes a legal slide directly to the base in the baseline extended (see diagram).**

c. (2) The runner uses a rolling **or** cross-body ~~or pop-up~~ slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder;

Also, b. (4)-A.R., c. (4) and c. (4)-A.R. were deleted and ‘pop-up slide’ was removed from illegal slides in this rule.”

Rationale: This rule, which is a safety rule to protect the fielder receiving a throw, has become more difficult to manage due to fielders taking advantage of this rule and attempting to create contact to force the umpire into a tough decision. This alteration allows runners to slide directly to and beyond the base while protecting the fielder everywhere else.