



MEMORANDUM

November 16, 2017

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Conference Baseball Administrators, Conference Baseball Umpire Coordinators and Directors of Athletics at Independent Baseball Playing Institutions.

FROM: Ray Tanner, chair
NCAA Division I Baseball Committee.

George M. Drouches, national coordinator
NCAA Baseball Umpires.

SUBJECT: Reminder about NCAA Baseball Umpire Policies in Effect for 2018.

The NCAA Division I Baseball Committee and Baseball Umpire Program (BUP) are committed to improving umpiring during the regular season, as well as during the NCAA baseball championship. The continued growth of college baseball makes it imperative that we strive to assign well-trained and qualified umpires to every game throughout the season.

There have been quite a few changes in the conference baseball umpire coordinators since the end of the 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. As such, we thought it would be important to remind you or inform the new conference coordinators for the first time of umpire assignment requirements and other points of emphasis pertaining to conference and non-conference games. Most of this information was originally communicated in correspondence from September 18, 2015.

1. Conferences are required to have their umpire coordinator directly assign and/or approve the assignment of umpires for all conference and non-conference games. An individual umpire may work no more than 50 percent of one institution's home non-conference game schedule. Schools that do not play as part of a Division I conference are required to select a conference within their region to assign umpires for all their home games. **Active umpires assigning regular season non-conference games will not be eligible for postseason selection. If you have any active umpires providing any such assignments, please inform both Randy L. Buhr at the NCAA National Office (rlbuhr@ncaa.org) and George Drouches (georged@autoporter.com) no later than February 15, 2018.**
2. A conference may not employ scratch procedures in the assignment of officials to its conference or non-conference games. Scratch procedures are those that provide coaches, either individually or collectively, with the direct or indirect authority to hire, retain or affect the assignment or release of any officials. Conference coordinators are encouraged to solicit, either orally or in writing, coaches' evaluations of officials, noting that this information would be treated as advisory only and that complete control of the officiating staff remains vested in the conference office.

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3. It is required that all neutral site games involving Division I opponents have conference coordinator approved umpires. Many such events occur early in the season at neutral sites; however, use of conference coordinators to approve officials will help ensure quality umpiring at such events inasmuch as these games may be factors in the evaluation and selection of teams for the championship.
4. Before the start of the season (championship segment), head baseball coaches at NCAA Division I institutions are required to view an NCAA baseball rules video or attend an NCAA umpire officiating clinic (if applicable in a given year). If an institution's head baseball coach is unable to or chooses not to attend a clinic or view the video, the institution is required to send a full-time coaching staff member to one of the four umpire clinics. Please note that this requirement must be satisfied before the 2018 season by viewing the NCAA baseball rules video, as the in-person umpire clinics will be replaced during this non-rule making year by an online officiating clinic.
5. It was required effective with the 2017 season that at least three umpires be assigned for all Division I conference and non-conference games. It is important that a minimum level of umpiring be used in all Division I baseball games and that there be a minimum level of consistency in umpire crews (as some conferences are beginning to use four umpires more often). This policy will remain in effect for the 2018 season and beyond.
6. Each umpire shall be strongly recommended to annually take the NCAA administered rules test and pass it after two attempts with a minimum score as established by the conference. It is highly recommended that a minimum score of 85% be established as the passing score by each conference office. As one element of the championship selection criteria, an umpire must achieve an 85% passing score if they want to be considered for the postseason.
7. Finally, a new element for the 2018 season is that those umpires submitted on the watch list by each respective conference baseball umpire coordinator will be the only umpires who coordinators may formally recommend for 2018 championship consideration.
8. Please note that if these baseball umpire policies are not followed during the 2018 season, representatives of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee, the NCAA Baseball Umpire Program staff, and the NCAA staff may conduct a conference call with the applicable conference and/or institutional staff that may not have followed these policies. It is our hope that none of these calls will be necessary.

We hope that this information educates each of you about these important policies and points of emphasis for the upcoming season. We look forward to working with all of you this spring.

cc: Division I Baseball Committee
Selected NCAA Staff