



MEMORANDUM

March 11, 2005

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TO: NCAA Baseball Conference Administrators, Umpire Coordinators, Head Coaches and Sports Information Directors.

FROM: Chris McKnight, chair  
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee.

Jim Paronto, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Doubleheaders, Seven-inning and Regulation Games.

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee is writing to reinforce the proper rules relating to regulation games and doubleheaders. The rules relating to these issues may be found in Rule 5-7 (doubleheader) and 5-8 (regulation game) of the 2005 NCAA Baseball Rules Book on page 52. It should be noted that these are not new rules; in fact, these rules have been in place for more than 25 years.

**Doubleheaders and Seven-inning Games.** There has been some confusion regarding seven-inning games, particularly in early-season tournaments with multiple teams. To clarify, the NCAA rules book only allows for a seven-inning game as part of a scheduled doubleheader. By definition, a doubleheader must meet the following criteria:

1. Scheduled contests between the same two teams;
2. Second game of a doubleheader must begin no more than 30 minutes after the first game;
3. Doubleheaders may be scheduled as two nine-inning games, a seven and a nine, or two seven-inning games.

Therefore, if Team A plays Team B in the morning and then plays Team C in the afternoon, this is not considered a doubleheader. In this example, both games must be nine-inning games to be considered regulation games (Rule 5-8). The only time a seven-inning game is valid is when it is part of a doubleheader.

**Shortened Games.** The committee is also aware of some situations in which games have been scheduled as or shortened to less than nine-inning games due to time constraints. This is in direct violation of Rule 5-8-f and these games also are not to be counted as regulation games.

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**Ten-run Rule.** The committee has also had a few questions regarding the 10-run rule, which may be used by conferences or by mutual consent of the coaches prior to the game. The 10-run rule (included in Rule 2 under definitions) states that a minimum of seven innings must be played for this rule to take effect.

**Mutual Agreement of Coaches.** It is noted that coaches are not permitted to mutually agree to play a single seven-inning game and count the results statistically for either the team or individual players.

**Reporting Statistics.** When conference offices and/or institutions report statistics to the NCAA, they are instructed to only include games that meet the criteria in the NCAA Baseball Rules Book as a regulation contest.

**Results for Championship Selection.** The respective NCAA baseball championships committees are aware of this situation and will not count contests that were not conducted according to NCAA rules.

Questions regarding this information should be directed to the following NCAA staff members (317/917-6222):

**Rules committee:** Ty Halpin, Associate Director of Playing Rules Administration.

**Statistics:** Sean Straziscar, Associate Director of Statistics.

**Division I Baseball Championship:** Dennis Poppe, Managing Director of Baseball and Football.

**Division II Baseball Championship:** Troy Arthur, Associate Director of Championships.

**Division III Baseball Championship:** Kristin Fasbender, Assistant Director of Championships.

CM/TYH:nb

cc: Baseball Rules Committee  
Mr. Dave Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association  
Mr. Dave Yeast  
Selected NCAA Staff Members