



**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

January 11, 2011

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

FROM: Tim Weiser, chair  
NCAA Division Baseball Committee.

Gene McArtor, national coordinator  
NCAA Baseball Umpire Program.

SUBJECT: NCAA Baseball Umpire Policies in Effect for 2011.

The NCAA Baseball Umpire Improvement Program (UIP) continues to expand its programs. The NCAA Division I Baseball Committee is committed to the UIP's goal of improving umpiring during the regular season, as well as the NCAA baseball championship. The growth of college baseball makes it imperative that we strive to assign well-trained umpires to every game through the season.

We would like to remind you of the umpire assignment requirement pertaining to conference and non-conference games. Effective since the 2005 baseball season, conferences are required to have their umpire coordinator directly assign umpires or select some individual(s) (excluding baseball coaches within the conference) to directly assign umpires for the conference and non-conference games, and set 50 percent of a school's non-conference schedule as the maximum number of games in individual umpire may work during the season. 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 non-conference games.

We also would like to remind you of other requirements that have been in effect, which are listed below as points of emphasis:

1. Head baseball coaches at NCAA Division I institutions are required to view an NCAA baseball rules video or attend an NCAA umpire officiating clinic prior to the start of the season. 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 baseball coaching staff member to one of the five umpire clinics.
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 recommended that conference coordinators, rather than third parties, be used to assign umpires in non-conference neutral site games. Many such events occur early in the season at neutral sites, however, use of conference coordinators to assign officials will help ensure quality umpiring at such events.
4. It is also highly recommended that at least three umpires be used for all Division I conference and non-conference games. While there are certainly economic factors involved in using only two umpires for 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 begin to use four umpires more often).

We hope that this information clarifies these policies for the upcoming season. We look forward to working with all of you again in the spring.