



UNDER
THE
STRIPES

BASEBALL

RULES REFERENCE

COLLEGIATE OFFICIALS QUICK GUIDE

2025-26 NCAA / CCA / NAIA CONTEXT

CODE & GENDER APPLICATION

NCAA baseball rules are not gender-specific. Confirm current conference and NAIA modifications.

Study aid only. Always use the current official rulebook, interpretations, mechanics manual, state or conference adoptions, bulletins and assignment instructions.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS

REAL OFFICIALS. REAL CONVERSATIONS. REAL IMPACT.

UNDER THE STRIPES NETWORK | VERIFIED JULY 23, 2026

1. Know Which Authority Controls

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rules authority	NCAA sport rulebook, approved interpretations and bulletins.
Mechanics authority	Use the current CCA manual when issued for the sport, plus NCAA coordinator/conference mechanics. CCA is not a separate playing-rules code.
NAIA layer	Most NAIA championship sports use an NCAA rules foundation with NAIA-approved modifications. Check the current NAIA sport manual and host-conference instructions.
Assignment control	The assigner/conference may prescribe crew size, replay availability, timing protocols, uniforms, reports and mechanics without rewriting the playing rule.

Pregame authority check

Topic	Collegiate reference
Code	Confirm NCAA, NAIA or another governing code.
Edition	Confirm rulebook year, interpretations and recent bulletins.
Mechanics	Confirm current manual, crew size, rotations and conference exceptions.
Technology	Confirm clocks, replay/challenge, headsets and approved communication.
Administration	Confirm rosters/lineups, timing personnel, reports and protest procedure.

2. Core Contest Reference

Topic	Collegiate reference
Game	Nine players; nine innings unless ended or modified by applicable rule.
Field	90-foot bases; pitching distance 60 feet 6 inches.
Pitch clock	College timing rules govern action with and without runners; visible clocks and operator coordination are essential.
Designated hitter	NCAA DH and pitcher/DH provisions differ from NFHS and professional codes.
Conferences	Charged-conference and pitching-change rules require precise crew records.
Replay	Only when authorized and available; use the current list of reviewable plays and conference protocol.

High-priority officiating focus

Topic	Collegiate reference
Pitch clock	Know start, stop, reset, violation responsibility and penalty with bases empty/occupied.
Obstruction / interference	Identify right of way, ball status, awards, malicious contact and force-play-slide implications.
DH / lineup	Verify lineup construction and track every substitution without importing pro rules.
Replay	Get the on-field ruling and crew information correct before any review.

3. Differences and Assignment Notes

Topic	Collegiate reference
Gender	Same baseball code for all participants.
NAIA	NCAA foundation plus current NAIA baseball modifications and championship procedures.
CCA	Baseball mechanics manual addresses crew positioning and responsibilities, not playing rules.
Conference	Run rule, replay, pitch-clock operation and reporting may be supplemented.

Postgame self-review

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rule	Which ruling needs a rule/case-book check before the next game?
Mechanic	Did positioning, coverage and communication match the current manual?
Crew	What information improved or delayed the final decision?
Reports	Were ejections, fights, protests, replay issues and unusual incidents reported on time?

Official reference path

Topic	Collegiate reference
NCAA Playing Rules	https://www.ncaa.org/championships/playing-rules/
NCAA Publications	https://www.ncaapublications.com/
NAIA Rules & Policy	https://www.naia.org/membership/legislative-and-policy/
NAIA Sport Resources	https://www.naia.org/membership/resources/coaches-corner/
CCA manuals	Access the current authorized manual through the collegiate officiating/central hub or publisher.