

Summary of Rule Changes for Baseball Canada 2021

The Official Playing Rules Committee made the following changes that will be in effect for the 2020 season:

- Amended Rule 3.03(e) to prohibit pitchers from wearing sleeves that are white, gray, or in the judgment of the umpire, distracting in any manner. **Recommend to approve**
- Amended Rule 4.03(c) to require that, in advance of each game, each Major League Club designate each player on its lineup card as a position player, pitcher, or “Two-Way Player,” as well to outline the roster limits and the guidelines regarding when each is allowed to pitch in a game. **Not Recommended**
- Amended Rule 5.07(a) Comment to indicate that a second step towards home plate by the pitcher should be treated as an illegal pitch when there are no runners on base. **Recommend to approve**
- Amended Rule 5.09(a)(2) Comment to state that a foul tip can be caught after striking any part of the catcher’s body or paraphernalia. **Recommend to approve**
- Amended Rule 5.10(g) to specify that the Three-Batter Minimum has been adopted for use at the Major League level. **Not Recommended**
- Added Rule 5.10(g) Comment to illustrate the qualifications required for a batter’s plate appearance to count towards the Three-Batter Minimum. **Not Recommended**
- Added Rule 5.10(i) Note to specify that the substitute batter exception does not apply to substitute pitchers who return for subsequent innings without having satisfied the Three-Batter Minimum. **Not Recommended**
- Amended Rule 5.10(m) to clarify that that the pitcher must come out of the game as a result of an illegal Mound Visit upon the completion of three batters or the end of the inning, whichever comes first. **Not Recommended**
- Amended Rule 6.01(a) dictating who the next batter is following a runner being declared out for interference on a foul batted ball. **Recommend to approve**
- Amended Rule 6.01(d) Comment defining the actions that would be considered intentional interference. **Recommend to approve**
- Amended Rule 6.02(d)(4) to clarify the penalty for a pitcher engaging in prohibited actions listed in Rule 6.02(c)(2) through (7) if the offensive manager chooses not to accept the result of the play after which the violation was noted. **Recommend to approve**
- Amended Rule 6.04(d) Comment dictating where a suspended manager, coach, or player may be both before and during a game. **Recommend to approve**

- Amended Rule 7.02(c) Comment outlining pitchers resuming suspended games and their Three-Batter Minimum requirements. **Not Recommended**
- Amended Rule 7.04 dictating that game protests are no longer permitted. **Protested Games allowed in Canada – Canadian Content rule will need to created**
- References to game protests were removed from Rule 3.02(c) Comment, Rule 9.01(b)(3), Rule 9.01(b)(3) Comment, and General Instructions to Umpires. **New Canadian Content Rule will need to include references from Rule 3.02(c) Comment, Rule 9.01(b)(3) Comment, and General Instructions to Umpires.**
- Amended Definition of Terms (“FOUL TIP”) to reflect the changes made to Rule 5.09(a)(2) Comment. **Recommend to approve**

Additional entries were also made to the Index.

New Canadian Content for 2021

- Create Rule 7.04:

7.04 Protesting Games

Each league shall adopt rules governing procedure for protesting a game, when a manager claims that an umpire's decision is in violation of these rules. No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions by the umpire. In all protested games, the decision of the League President shall be final.

Even if it is held that the protested decision violated the rules, no replay of the game will be ordered unless in the opinion of the League President the violation adversely affected the protesting team's chances of winning the game.

Rule 7.04 Comment:

Whenever a manager protests a game because of alleged misapplication of the rules the protest will not be recognized unless the umpires are notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play. A protest arising on a game-ending play must be filed before the home plate umpire leaves the field.

As it relates to 3.02(c) a protest shall not be allowed on a play where the 18 inch pine tar rule is violated.

As it relates to 9.01(b)(3) the official scorer shall make note of the exact situation at time of protest and if a game is to be resumed from the point of protest that the game resume with exactly the same situation as just before the protested play.

As it relates to General Instructions to Umpires, Do not allow criticism to keep you from studying out bad situations that may lead to protested games. Carry your rule book. It is better to consult the rules and hold up the game ten minutes to decide a knotty problem than to have a game thrown out on protest and replayed.