



850 Ridge Avenue
Suite 301
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Office: (412) 321-8440
Fax: (412) 321-4088

The following is the result of the Colorado State University protest of their 2:00 pm game against University of Northern Colorado on April 5th, 2014.

Game protested by CSU for an Umpire decision in violation of NCBA Rules.

Requested action – Continuation of the game from the point of the protest.

Protest:

CSU is protesting their 2:00 pm, 4/5/14 game against UNC, requesting a continuation of the game from the point of protest because UNC was allowed to insert a player into the game not listed on the lineup card as per section 5.03.0 of the NCBA Rule Book.

5.03.0 The lineup card must list the last name and number worn during that particular game for all starting players and available substitutes.

5.03.1 Only substitutes listed on the lineup card are eligible to compete in that particular game.

CSU Head Coach Nick Childs Stated, “IN THE TOP OF THE 4TH INNING OF GAME 2 ON SATURDAY, APRIL 5, WHILE THE SCORE WAS TIED 4-4, A PLAYER FROM UNC (#15) CHECKED IN TO PINCH HIT FOR A PLAYER WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EJECTED (#55). AFTER REVIEWING MY LINE UP CARD, I NOTICED THAT THE PLAYER CHECKING IN TO PINCH HIT WAS NOT LISTED. I NOTIFIED THE UMPIRE AND THE UMPIRES DELIBERATED AND DECIDED THAT THE PLAYER COULD BE ADDED. IT IS MY INTERPRETATION OF THE NCBA RULES THAT ALL PLAYERS MUST BE LISTED ON THE LINEUP CARD THAT IS TURNED IN AT THE UMPIRE MEETING AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH GAME.” “AS RULE 5.03.0 STATES: THE LINEUP CARD MUST LIST THE LAST NAME AND NUMBER WORN DURING THAT PARTICULAR GAME FOR ALL PLAYERS ON THE TEAM. ALSO, 5.03.1 STATES THAT ONLY SUBSTITUES WHO ARE ON THE LINEUP CARD ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN THAT PARTICULAR GAME. SO UNC DIRECTLY VIOLATED THE RULES, ANND THE UMPIRES INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED OUR RULES WHICH IS UNDERSTANDABLE CONSIDERING THE MULTIPLE LEVELS OF BASEBALL THAT THEY OFFICIATE. AT THE TIME OF PROTEST, I TOLD THEM THAT OUR RULE BOOK STATES THIS EXACTLY, BUT I DID NOT SHOW IT TO THEM IN WRITING.” “IN REFERENCE TO RULE 14.02.0 THAT STATES THAT THE HOME TEAM MUST PROVIDE A NCBA RULE BOOK TO THE UMPIRES, WE HAVE USED THE SAME UMPIRE ORGANIZATION FOR THE LAST 4+ YEARS FOR OUR HOME GAMES, AND IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THEY REVIEW THIS ON A YEARLY BASIS. MANY OF THE UMPIRES ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR REVIEW OF OUR RULES AT THE PREGAME MEETINGS, AND WE ALWAYS GO OVER THE FACT THAT IT IS A MODIFIIED NCAA RULE BOOK, BUT THEY ALSO UMPIRE HIGH SCHOOL NCAA AND PROFESSIONAL GAMES AND SOMETIMES MIX THE RULE BOOKS.”

Defense:

UNC Club Baseball President Kevin Weed stated, “After Luke was ejected in the fourth inning, I chose Roland Pussich #15 to hit in his spot as the DH. This was simply because he has the most experience of our players on



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the bench. When his spot in our order came up he reported the change to the plate umpire and Nick immediately came to home plate with the lineup card. I was on deck to hit and Roland told me that he was not listed on the lineup. I checked our personal dugout lineup sheet and he was not listed as a sub. For no other reason than I simply forgot, he was in the starting lineup the game before however. When i realized my mistake I approached the umpire and apologized and had another bench player ready with a helmet on to hit instead because a pitch had not been thrown to Roland yet. At this point Nick was back in his dugout and the umpire told me we were good to go and Roland could hit. At no point did he tell me that the game was under protest. If he would have let me switch my other bench guy with Roland there would be no reason to protest anyway. Since Nick admitted in his protest that he did not show the umpires a rule book at the time, he cannot logically blame what the umpire told me on my team. I believe that the umpires were under the assumption that we were playing NCAA rules because during the following half inning, the field umpire told me that as long as the player is on our roster, he can be inserted into the game. It doesn't seem fair to me to replay the game when I offered to reverse the substitution before the change was made and a pitch was thrown.”

Investigation:

The NCBA interviewed the home plate umpire who worked the game in question. Plate Umpire Mason, stated that he was unaware that the NCBA had a different rule than the NCAA regarding eligible subs based on the lineup card at the time of the incident. He stated that he was not provided a copy of the NCBA rules prior to or during the game in question. He admitted that later that evening (after the conclusion of the game) he was able to gain access to the NCBA rules and determined that he was wrong in allowing the substitution based on the NCBA rule book.

Ruling: Protest Denied – While the NCBA agrees that an NCBA rules violation was allowed to occur during the game in question, NCBA Rule 14.02.0 states “It is the responsibility of the home team (CSU) to provide the umpires with a copy of the Official NCBA Rules prior to the start of each game.” Thus the NCBA feels that CSU is just as at fault as the umpire that this rules violation was allowed to occur. Had CSU provided the umpire with NCBA rules as required by rule 14.02.0 either prior to the start of the game or at least at the time of the protested incident, the umpire would have know about the differing NCBA rule and the rule violation could have been avoided. Had the umpire known the rule and still allowed the violation to occur, then the NCBA would have upheld this protest and ruled that the game should be replayed from the point of protest.

Sandy Sanderson
NCBA President