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The following is the result of the Colorado State University (CSU) protest of their non-conference game against the University of Florida (UFL) on Sunday, March 13th.

Game protested by CSU for UFL slide violation at home plate.

Requested action – Nullify Game

Protest:

CSU is protesting their one non-conference game against UFL on 3/13/16, requesting the NCBA to nullify the game due to an alleged UFL slide violation down at the Spring Training Showcase. NCBA rules state the following regarding Home Plate Slide Rules.

19.02.0: Home Plate

19.02.1: During all **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, the NCBA has adopted the **NCAA Collision Rule** regarding contact at the plate:

19.02.1.1: When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the **umpire shall judge**: (1) Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked); (2) Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder; or (3) Whether the runner was using flagrant contact to maliciously dislodge the ball.

19.02.1.1.1: PENALTY—If the runner attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

19.02.1.1.1.1: If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.

19.02.1.1.1.2: If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner was before the runner's touching the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead immediately. All other base runners shall return to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch.

19.02.1.1.1.3: If the contact was after a preceding runner had touched home plate, the preceding runner will be ruled safe, the ball becomes dead immediately and all other base runners will return to the base they had last touched before the contact.

19.02.1.1.1.4: If the runner is safe and the collision is malicious, the runner shall be ruled safe and ejected from the game. If this occurs at any base other than home, the offending team may replace the runner.

19.02.1.2: If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The umpire shall point and call, "That's obstruction." The umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in Rule 2 of the NCAA Rules and Regulations. The obstructed runner is awarded at least one base beyond the base last touched legally before the obstruction.

19.02.1.2.1: If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

Colorado State University Head Coach, Brian Dilley submitted a protest on March 13th stating "Score was 1-0 us in the top of the 4th inning. There was a play at the plate and the runner made contact with our catcher above the waist as he attempted jumping over the catcher. The player was tagged and called out. The protest was on the home plate contact rule. The umpire agreed that there was contact, but said it was fair as it wasn't malicious.



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According to NCAA Rule 8 Section 7, “Contact above the waist that was initiated by the base runner shall not be judged as an attempt to reach the base safely.” The protest was listed an On-Field protest with the umpire being aware that the game was being played under protest. The game was played to completion with UFL winning 19-2 and the protest was submitted after the game was played.

The home plate umpire was contacted by the NCBA and via phone and followed up with an emailed statement. The umpire stated the following, “UF player was trying to score by avoiding a tag. UF player left his feet and was tag out. The tag was the only contact made by the players. No malicious contact took place.”

Ruling: Protest Denied – After talking with the umpire he felt as though there was no slide violation on the play. There was no malicious contact and the only contact on the play was the tag. The umpire judged that there was no violation that took place. Also, no protests will ever be permitted on judgment decisions by the umpire. Since the slide rules clearly state that the umpire must judge several aspects of the slide, this decision is deemed a judgment call and no protest will not be permitted and thus denied.

Christian Smith
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