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The following is the result of the University of Miami protest of their 11:00am game against University of Florida on March 22nd, 2015.

Game protest by Miami for Florida failing to secure umpires for their scheduled NCBA conference game.

Requested action - Forfeit games.

Protest:

Miami is protesting their 11:00 am game on 3/22/15 against Florida, requesting one forfeit victory because Florida failed to provide umpires as per section 14.00.00 of the NCBA Rule Book.

14.01.0 During NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games, the home team is responsible for providing umpires for each competition.

14.04.0 It is required that the home team schedules two umpires to officiate each competition.

14.04.1 The game may be played provided that at least one approved umpire is present.

14.05.0 If no umpires have arrived within 15 minutes after the competition is officially scheduled to start, the game is forfeited to the visiting team.

Miami Head Coach Mike North provided this statement; “The University of Miami allowed for additional time for umpires to arrive but even at 11:40 a.m., just one umpire was 15-20 minutes away. Other alternatives such as having a spectator in attendance stand behind the mound to call balls and strikes, playing the third game as seven innings to decrease the game's duration before a 6-hour drive back to coral gables, and playing the game on a later date were discussed but all of these options were deemed not permissible by the NCBA.

I notified the University of Florida president (Corey Graf) of the intent to protest before leaving the field at around noon with no umpire present.”

Defense:

Florida Club Baseball President, Corey Graf, stated he did have umpires scheduled and reserved for the individual game. He also acknowledged due to an error on the umpire assigner’s part, umpires did not show up within the 15 minute window of the official start time per NCBA rules.

Ruling:

Protest Granted – While the NCBA recognizes Florida’s efforts to secure umpires for the games, the NCBA Rule Book clearly states that the visiting team is awarded a forfeit win if umpires are not present at the field within 15 minutes of the start of the first game. Miami will be awarded a 9-0 forfeit victory over Florida. Since this is also a forfeited conference game that was not played, Florida will also have \$100 deducted from the Performance Bond.

**Eric Curitore
South Atlantic Regional Director
National Club Baseball Association**