



NCAA Baseball Interpretation and Point of Emphasis February 16, 2018

Interpretation

Rule 2-67 - Definition of Quick Pitch; Rules 9-2-a and 9-3-d Quick Pitch Penalties

Several questions have been received about the legality of a pitcher changing the tempo of his delivery to the plate. Based on the amount of inquiries, it appears that a number of pitchers are being instructed to vary the tempo to keep the batter guessing about how the pitch will be delivered. This can be legal if the pitcher is following all the requirements for either a legal windup or set position and the delivery is not a “Quick Pitch”.

Review the requirements of a legal windup and set positions in Rule 9-1-a and b. A pitcher can vary the tempo but must make a legal delivery. For example, a recent video clip showed a pitcher taking the sign in a set position with the ball in his pitching hand at his side. Then instead of going into a stretch and “holding the ball in both hands in front of the body and coming to a complete and discernible stop” as required in 9-1-b, the pitcher just stepped to home and delivered a pitch. This is a balk with any runners on base and an illegal pitch with no runners (add a ball to the count), unless the batter (and any runners) advances one base. The only difference with no runners would be the pitcher does not need to come to a complete stop in a set position, but the hands do need to come together in front of the body before delivery. If the pitcher was using a windup, the hands do not need to come together.

The definition of a Quick Pitch in 2-67 is “an illegal pitch made with the obvious intent to catch the batter off balance”. If the batter is set (in the judgment of the umpire, he has his feet set, eyes up and ready to track the pitch and has the bat ready to decide whether to swing or not), the pitcher can deliver a legal pitch regardless of tempo. If the batter is not ready and the pitcher uses a delivery that was sped up to catch the batter off balance, it is a Quick Pitch.

Point of Emphasis

Rule 5-2-f - Restriction on transmission of scouting or game information to the playing field, team support areas, or team personnel, or the review of any such information during the game.

Coaches and team personnel are reminded that the only technology allowed for use during a game is a phone or walkie talkie to communicate between the dugout and bullpen. Any other data collected by team personnel in the stands using such tools as pitching charts, radar guns, or video cameras cannot be transmitted in any manner during the game. Any phones, iPads, tablets, computers, televisions, monitors, or software programs should not be viewed or accessed during a game.

If the umpire notices any other technology use in the dugout or is made aware of any team use, he may warn the violator. If the violator does not immediately comply, the individual may be ejected. Any suspected use of technology to access game information in the any team area (such as dugout, tunnels, clubhouse, team offices, etc.) should be reported to the umpire coordinator and handled at the conference or institutional level.

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