January 2016

Appendix E 9) and 10) A.R. 1

For purposes of applying the changing of a call of “catch” to “no catch” (Section 9) or “no catch” to “catch” (Section 10), a fair batted ball shall be considered “hit into the outfield” when it is hit into the outfield area beyond the nearest infielder. A line drive hit directly toward an infielder shall not meet the requirement for a potential change of the initial call.

March 2016

Appendix E 9) and 10) A.R. 2

A call of “no catch” within the infield can be changed to a “catch” if there are one or more runners on base and the change to a “catch” results in the third out, or at any time with no base runners and the change affects the batter only.

Rule 2 – 26 Misconduct Penalty Chart and Rule 3 – 11 Penalty Tobacco Rule

The offending individual and head coach are disqualified for the remainder of the contest. A one game suspension will be issued for anyone other than the head coach, except if the ejected player’s last listed position during that game is that of a pitcher, the suspension is four games.

April 2016

Rule 4 – 1 (c) Use of Alternate Baseballs

The umpire should be the sole judge of whether the ball should be checked and should certainly do so if the ball has bounced off equipment or a fence/wall, if it appears “discolored, scuffed or otherwise unsuitable for play”, or if the pitcher requests a different ball as stated in Rule 4 – 1 (c). Umpires do not need to routinely check the ball each time a ground ball is hit to the infield or each pitch that is not cleanly caught by the catcher. Weather and field conditions should be a factor in deciding when to check the ball.
Rule 9 – 2 (h) Tattoos

Tattoos on a pitcher’s body that a batter or umpire considers distracting must be legally covered.

May 2016

Rule 2 – 13, Page 23

“The area in foul or dead-ball territory, generally between the dugout and outfield fence, where substitute pitchers, catchers and other players warm up. It must contain two regulation pitching rubbers and home plates and should have seating for four to six players.”

Interpretation:
During a game, facilities used for potential substitute pitchers or other players to warm up should be comparable for both home and visiting teams. Pitchers should be warmed up in the designated bullpen area, not in another facility or location out of sight and sound of the playing field.

Rationale:
Especially during games played in inclement weather, there is a concern that home teams may have an unfair advantage if they have facilities available to warm up pitchers that are not available to the visiting team. In the interest of fair play, the bullpens should be used by both teams as defined in Rule 2 – 13.