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The following are the results of the University of Montana protests of their games against Idaho State University on April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11th, 2010.

Games protested by Montana for failure to provide Official NCBA Baseballs for the games by Idaho State.

**Requested action** - Forfeit games.

Game 1 (Sat 4/10/10 3:00pm)

NCBA Rule:

10.00.00 (Official League Ball)

10.01.0 The official league ball of the NCBA will be the A.D. Starr AD600N professional baseball featuring the NCBA logo.

10.02.0 During **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, the home team is responsible for providing a sufficient quantity of official league baseballs for each competition.

10.03.0 Any game played without the official league ball will result in a forfeit against the home team.

After review, Montana's Club President, Ryan Sharkey, claims that "The host team (Idaho State) did not provide official A.D. Starr AD600N NCBA Professional for the duration of the series. The baseballs used were not in game condition, nor did they replace their baseballs when given the opportunity to. Upon requesting that the NCBA balls be put into play, Coach Hunt (ISU) proceeded to tell the umpires it was the visiting teams responsibility to provide a dozen baseballs. This issue was brought to the umpire's attention and the home club failed to use the correct baseballs." This would be considered an "Equipment Violation" and an "On Field' protest. The game was played with Idaho State winning 7-2.

21.02.0 On Field Protests

21.02.1 On Field Protests consists of protests regarding Uniform Violations, Equipment Violations, Umpire decisions believed to be in violation of NCBA rules, Umpire qualifications, and In-Game Known Roster Violations.

21.02.2 Any On Field protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed.

21.02.2.1 If the game ends (legal contest) in a protest able situation, the offended team has until all fielders have left fair territory to voice its protest intentions.

21.02.2.2 All On Field protests must be made to the umpire-in chief.

21.02.2.3 All On Field protests must be reported to the NCBA (via the NCBA GAME PROTEST FORM) no later than midnight E.S.T. of the Tuesday following the "NCBA Week" in which the protested game occurred.

After further review, Idaho State's Head Coach, Bob Hunt, claims that "First of all, nothing about balls was ever brought to anyone's attention until ten minutes prior to our first game played on Sunday which would have been the second game played of the 3 game series. Game one was played without any mention of any issue concerning the type of balls used."

Following a phone call with Game 1 Umpire, Norman Hall, he confirmed that no mention of illegal baseballs was mentioned during game 1 (Sat 4/10/10 3:00 pm) of the



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series and that the only major incident of the game was that an ISU player was ejected from the game.

Montana filled out and submitted the appropriate protest forms on time, but despite their claims the umpire has stated that they were never informed that Montana was playing the game under protest.

**Ruling:** Protest Denied - All "Equipment Violations" must be made by the coach of a competing team at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed. Since, the NCBA has decided that Montana did not inform the umpires of their intent to protest, their protest of the Saturday April 10th game is denied.

Game 3 (Sun 4/11/10 3:00pm)

NCBA Rule:

10.00.00 (Official League Ball)

10.01.0 The official league ball of the NCBA will be the A.D. Starr AD600N professional baseball featuring the NCBA logo.

10.02.0 During **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, the home team is responsible for providing a sufficient quantity of official league baseballs for each competition.

10.03.0 Any game played without the official league ball will result in a forfeit against the home team.

After review, Montana's Club President, Ryan Sharkey, claims that "The host team (Idaho State) did not provide official A.D. Starr AD600N NCBA Professional for the duration of the series. The baseballs used were not in game condition, nor did they replace their baseballs when given the opportunity to. Upon requesting that the NCBA balls be put into play, Coach Hunt (ISU) proceeded to tell the umpires it was the visiting teams responsibility to provide a dozen baseballs. This issue was brought to the umpire's attention and the home club failed to use the correct baseballs." This would be considered an "Equipment Violation" and an "On Field' protest. The game was played with Idaho State winning 11-10.

21.02.0 On Field Protests

21.02.1 On Field Protests consists of protests regarding Uniform Violations, Equipment Violations, Umpire decisions believed to be in violation of NCBA rules, Umpire qualifications, and In-Game Known Roster Violations.

21.02.2 Any On Field protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed.

21.02.2.1 If the game ends (legal contest) in a protest able situation, the offended team has until all fielders have left fair territory to voice its protest intentions.

21.02.2.2 All On Field protests must be made to the umpire-in chief.

21.02.2.3 All On Field protests must be reported to the NCBA (via the NCBA GAME PROTEST FORM) no later than midnight E.S.T. of the Tuesday following the "NCBA Week" in which the protested game occurred.

After further review, Idaho State's Head Coach, Bob Hunt, claims that "First of all, nothing about balls was ever brought to anyone's attention until ten minutes prior to our first game played on Sunday which would have been the second game played of the 3



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game series. Because we had run out of NCBA balls I had to purchase some new Wilson A1010 baseballs that we kept on hand for use until the NCBA balls could be replaced. U of M brought this matter to the attention of the umpire in chief who then brought it to my attention just prior to game two on Sunday (11:00am 4/11/10). I indicated to them that if U of M had NCBA balls for us to use that we should and I would trade out for using their balls in exchange for our balls. U of M then provided the umpire with the NCBA baseball(s) and that's how we started the game that second day of the first game (Game 2 Sun 4/11/10 11:00am). After losing several balls that went foul we ended up having to utilize the Wilson A1010 balls that are a top level ball. All of the balls we provided for the games played were in excellent condition if not brand new from that point on. When the umpire addressed the issue after we had to use the Wilson A1010 balls as to whether or not U of M wanted to protest with the home team they declined the offer and we resumed play for the rest of the day without issue."

Following a phone call with Game 2&3 Umpire, Norman Hall, he confirmed that Montana had voiced their intent to play the game (Game 2 Sun 4/11/10 11:00am) under protest, but upon winning game 2 by a score of 7-5 they decided to drop the protest. Umpire Hall, then stated that it wasn't until the conclusion of game 3 that Montana approached him and said they wanted to play game 3 (Sun 4/11/10 3:00pm) under protest for the use of illegal baseballs by Idaho State.

Montana filled out and submitted the appropriate protest forms on time, but despite their claims, the umpire has stated that they were not informed by Montana that they wished to protest the game until the game had finished.

**Ruling:** Protest Denied - All "Equipment Violations" must be made by the coach of a competing team at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed. Since, the NCBA has decided that Montana did not notify the umpires of their intent to protest until the conclusion of the game rather than "at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest" their protest of the Sunday April 11th 3:00pm game is denied.

**Disciplinary Action:** Upon speaking with Norman Hall (Ump for all 3 games), he expressed major displeasure with the conduct and sportsmanship of both teams and their fans. Sighting excessive trash talking by both teams as well as the fans. As per his request, both teams are receiving formal warnings by the NCBA to make sure they conduct themselves with the upmost class and sportsmanship before, during, and after any and ALL NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games.

#### 19.00.00 (Ejections)

19.01.0 In the event that a player or coach should be ejected from an **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game**, it is required that the team's primary representative complete an NCBA Ejection Report and submit it via email to both the appropriate Regional Director and NCBA Commissioner.

19.01.1 The team's primary representative has 72 hours from the time of the ejection to complete and submit the Ejection Report.

19.01.2 If a team fails to report an ejection within 72 hours of the ejection, the team is automatically placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

Over the course of this investigation, the umpire informed the NCBA that an ISU player had been ejected in game 1 of the series. However, No ejection report was ever filed with the NCBA by Idaho State. Thus since Idaho State violated NCBA Rule 19.01.1, they



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are automatically placed on probation for the remainder of the 2010 season in accordance with NCBA Rule 19.01.2.

#### 22.00.00 (Team Probation/Expulsion)

22.01.0 A team can be placed on probation if they forfeit 3 or more NCBA scheduled conference games in a single season, forfeit to 2 or more conference opponents in a single season, or if they conduct the baseball operations of their team in a manner not considered acceptable by NCBA standards.

The NCBA is very sensitive towards protecting the integrity of the NCBA Rulebook as well as the league sponsors (AD STARR-Baseballs) which are a driving force in the successful growth of the NCBA over the past 10 years. Without the NCBA Rulebook the league would be in chaos, and without the financial support of our sponsors the NCBA would have to more than double league dues in order to operate at status quo. The NCBA feels that ISU's failure to use the mandated official AD STARR baseballs, did in fact undermined the integrity of the NCBA Rulebook while putting the NCBA's relationship with one of its most dedicated supporters (AD STARR) at risk. This act by ISU has been deemed as conducting their baseball operation in a manner not considered acceptable by NCBA standards. Thus in accordance with NCBA Rule 22.01.0, the NCBA is sanctioning that Idaho State University will remain on probation for the duration of the 2011 NCBA season as well. If ISU concludes the remainder of the season 2010 and 2011 seasons with out further incident, the NCBA will remove them from probationary status.

**Sandy Sanderson**  
**President**