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The following are the results of the NC State University protests of their game against University of North Carolina on April 2nd, 2010.

Game protested by NC State for Uniform Violations by UNC.

Requested action - Forfeit games.

Protest:

NC State has protested the game stating that "UNC WAS UNABLE TO FIELD A TEAM OF 9 PLAYERS WITH THE SAME UNIFORM PANTS. PRIOR TO THE GAME I ASKED THE UMPIRE TO REQUEST THAT ALL THE PLAYERS ON THE FIELD WEAR THE SAME PANTS, AND THAT IF THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, I WANTED TO PLAY THE GAME UNDER PROTEST. HE INFORMED UNC'S COACHES OF THIS AND THEY RESPONDED THAT THEY COULD NOT PUT A TEAM ON THE FIELD IN UNIFORM. WITH THAT, I INFORMED THE UMPIRE THAT WE WOULD PLAY UNDER PROTEST. IN A WELL PLAYED GAME BY BOTH TEAMS, UNC WON 2-1."

NC State has additionally provided the following statement: "I GET THAT IT'S NOT EVERYONE'S GOAL TO WIN THE WORLD SERIES. THAT'S PART OF WHAT MAKES CLUB BASEBALL APPEAL TO SO MANY PEOPLE. BUT AT NO LEVEL OF COMPETITIVE, ORGANIZED BASEBALL DO YOU SEE A TEAM ON THE FIELD WITH FIVE TO 6 DIFFERENT KINDS OF PANTS ON. NOTHING COULD SCREAM "SANDLOT/PICKUP GAME" MORE TO A CASUAL PASSER-BY THAN SEEING 2 TEAMS PLAYING AGAINST EACH OTHER NOT IN UNIFORM. THAT IS NOT THE PRODUCT THE NCBA WANTS TO PUT ON THE FIELD, NOR THE PRODUCT THEY SOLD THEIR SPONSORS. THE NCBA HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH QUALITY SUPPLIERS TO ENSURE THAT AFFORDABLE UNIFORM OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO EVERY TEAM. IT IS CLEARLY STATED IN THE NCBA/NCAA RULES THAT EVERY PLAYER AND COACH ON THE FIELD OR COACHES BOX SHOULD BE IN UNIFORM, OR BE CONSIDERED INELLIGIBLE. THIS HAPPENS MORE THAN IS REPORTED AND EASILY MORE THAN IS ENFORCED BY THE UMPIRES. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS MADE A POINT OF EMPHASIS WITH THE NCBA AND UMPIRES SO THAT TEAMS NOT FEEL GUILTY OR LIKE "THE BAD GUY" FOR REQUESTING THAT TEAMS FOLLOW THE RULES."

NCBA Rule:

8.00.00 (Uniforms)

8.01.0 Players Uniform

8.01.1 The NCBA will adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding player's uniforms excluding the following exceptions.

8.01.1.1 It is **NOT** required that each team have **TWO** sets of uniform jerseys of contrasting colors.

8.01.1.2 It is the responsibility of the visiting team to wear a contrasting uniform color to the jersey worn by the home team **ONLY** if a contrasting uniform color is available.

NCAA Rule 1:

Uniforms



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SECTION 14. The uniforms of all participating players and coaches of the team shall be of the same color and style. It is required that each team have two sets of uniform jerseys of contrasting colors. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to wear a contrasting uniform color to the jersey worn by the home team. It is recommended that both teams wear the full pregame or regular-game uniforms when entering the playing field.

After review, NC State's Head Coach, Craig Allen, noticed prior to the start of the game that at least three specific players (#22 David Coffey (Grey Pants), #19 Keaton Highfill (White Pants with Navy Pinstripes), and Brett Walters # Unknown (White Pants with two finger width, navy stripes outlining a white stripe down the side)) were not wearing the same uniform pants as the majority of the UNC team (White pants with light blue piping). This would be considered a "Uniform Violation" and an "On Field" protest. Craig asked the umpire to request that all the players on the field wear the same pants. The umpire did so and UNC was unable to get these players in to matching uniform pants with the rest of the team. Craig then informed the umpire that they would be playing under protest. The game proceeded to play as normal, with UNC winning 2-1.

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.

NC State filled out and submitted the appropriate protest form on time and did inform the umpires that they were playing the game under protest. Thus the NCBA has determined this to be a valid protest.

Investigation:

After discussing the protest with UNC Club President, Chase Wellford, he has admitted that #22 David Coffey wore grey pants because he cut his hand and had blood on his uniform pants, #19 Keaton Highfill wore white pants with navy pinstripes because his uniform pants were ripped the weekend before and had yet to be replaced, and was not aware if Brett Walters did or did not have pants with double piping as he was only concerned with trying to find uniform pants for Coffey and Highfill who's pants were noticeably different than the rest of the team.

Defense:

UNC in their defense pointed out that Only NCBA rules 8.03.1.1 and 8.03.2.3 defines a player as being ineligible based on wearing a non Richardson brand hat or a hat not containing the official NCBA logo respectively. The NCAA rule book does not state that a player out of uniform is ineligible, just that the uniforms shall be of the same style and color, and that there is no penalty listed for this infraction.



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Further Investigation:

Page 11 of the NCAA rules states under the heading "Major Rules Differences" that "NCAA baseball rules essentially are the same as for professional baseball; however, there are some safety-related differences"

Since there are many forms of professional baseball with varying sets of rules, the question becomes which professional baseball rules are NCAA baseball rules essentially the same as?

After communication with the NCAA Conference Umpire Contact for the Big 12, he acknowledged that when a rule is not specifically covered in the NCAA Rule book, that they defer to MLB rules.

MLB Rule 1.11.a.1 states "All players on a team shall wear uniforms identical in color, trim and style, and all players uniforms shall include minimal six-inch numbers on their backs."

MLB Rule 1.11.a.3 states "No player whose uniform does not conform to that of his teammates shall be permitted to participate in a game."

After communication with the NCAA Secretary Rules Editor, he confirmed that there is no penalty designated for a player who participates in an NCAA game while being dressed in violation of the uniform rules.

After communication with the NCBA Director of Umpires, John King, he stated; "A player out of uniform for any reason whether noticed by an umpire or by the other team would [should] have an opportunity to get in proper uniform. There would be no penalty if he does comply. If he will not or cannot comply the penalty is that he can no longer play"

Facts:

The NCBA has determined with out a doubt that #22 David Coffey and #19 Keaton Highfill did in fact play the game in pants that did not match the uniform pants of the rest of the UNC and thus are in direct violation of NCBA and NCAA and MLB Uniform Rules.

The NCBA acknowledges that the while the NCBA, NCAA, and the MLB Uniform Rules require players to be in uniforms of the same style and color, neither set of rules declares that a player in violation of these rules is deemed "Ineligible" as initially reference by NC State.

The NCBA acknowledges (after extensive research) that based upon the procession of NCBA Rules to NCAA rules to MLB rules that those UNC players whose uniform did not conform to that of their teammates should not have been permitted by the umpire to play in the game.

Ruling: Protest Denied - While the evidence in this protest has determined that at least two UNC players were in fact in violation of the NCBA's uniform rules, no where in the NCBA, NCAA, or MLB rules does it explicitly say that a player who does violate these rules becomes officially "Ineligible" or that a team should be issued a forfeit for players who are allowed to participate while in violation of the uniform rules. The NCBA does acknowledge that the umpires had every right to not



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allow those players in question to compete while out of uniform, but in this case it was judgment of the umpires not to prevent the players from playing.

Notes: The NCBA agrees 100% with the opinions of NC State that nothing screams "sandlot/pickup game" like seeing two teams compete in mismatched uniforms. For the past 10 years, the NCBA has worked exceptionally hard to raise both the level of play as well as the public persona regarding the validity of collegiate club baseball. When the NCBA first started in 2000, the term "club" was often confused with the term "intramural" which brought about public images of "pickup" or "sandlot" baseball. The NCBA has worked diligently to provide our member teams quality affordable equipment and uniform options so that the teams can raise the aesthetic credibility of their programs and ultimately of the NCBA and club baseball as a whole.

In order to clarify the vagueness of the consequences of violating the NCBA's Uniform Rules, the NCBA Commissioner will be making a recommendation to the NCBA Rules Committee to establish a clear and specific penalty for incorporation in to the NCBA rules should future uniform violations occur.

Disciplinary Action: The NCBA is very sensitive towards protecting the progress which has been made over the past 10 years to raise the level of public perception surrounding the credibility of collegiate club baseball both on and off the field. The NCBA feels that UNC's failure to put a team on the field adorning matching uniforms did in fact put the reputation of the NCBA league as whole at risk. This act by UNC 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 placing the University of North Carolina Club Baseball team on probation for the remainder of the 2010 NCBA season. If UNC concludes the remainder of the season with out further incident, the NCBA will remove them from probationary status.

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.

Sandy Sanderson
President