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The following are the results of the Penn State protest of the March 27, 2010 games against the University of Pittsburgh.

Games protested by Penn State over Pitt's failure to secure a playable field for these games.

**Requested action** - Make up the games the weekend of April 3-4 at Penn State's Medlar Field to provide greater chance of games being played and avoid a recurrence of not having a playable field.

After reviewing the facts in the protest submitted by Penn State, the NCBA shared Penn State's ultimate concern stated in the document that "There is a legitimate concern that this kind of action and corresponding result [no games played] is going to happen again if the Penn State Baseball Club travels to Pittsburgh this coming weekend."

There were multiple factors that made this concern a valid one in the eyes of the NCBA. While there had been rain earlier in the week, there was no rain the day of or the day prior to the scheduled game, and baseball was played on various fields throughout Pittsburgh that day. NCBA President Sandy Sanderson inspected the field at 112 Steuben Street on the day the game was scheduled for, and observed that the field was not in bad shape and could have been made playable with minimal work. According to NCBA President Sandy Sanderson, "Baseball should have been played that day, and it wasn't."

The combination of frequently uncooperative weather and a limited number of available weekends to schedule games in the North Atlantic Region make it imperative that teams in the region take advantage of all playable weekends.

While the fact that the games were not played on March 27<sup>th</sup> was inconvenient to both teams and disappointing to the NCBA, this was not a punishable offense by Pittsburgh Club Baseball. Pitt Club Baseball does not own the field and is thus at the mercy of its owner/operator as to when they can/can't play on it and what maintenance they are permitted to perform on the field in the event of rain. In this particular instance, Pitt Club Baseball was not permitted to do maintenance work on the field to prepare it for the games. On Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, the day before the games, the field maintenance official for the field notified Pitt's President that due to the poor conditions from the rain they had received, Pitt would not be able to play these games the next day. Pitt notified Penn State that the games would not be played the next day and would have to be re-scheduled. The decision of whether or not to play was out of Pitt's hands, and they can not be penalized for cancelling the games.

In accordance with NCBA rules, the two games that were rained out were to be re-scheduled to be played at Pittsburgh. They were initially rescheduled for the next day, Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, but those games ended up getting rained out as well. After reviewing the remaining season schedule, Regional Director Peter Chalfin and both teams all agreed that the preferable weekend to make these games up would be the upcoming weekend, April 3-4. Penn State submitted a protest suggesting that a return trip to Pittsburgh could very possibly yield the same result since evidence from last weekend's events suggest that Pitt has trouble securing fields that allow maintenance work. After reviewing the facts provided in the protest, the NCBA agreed that this was a legitimate concern to be taken seriously because, as mentioned above, the North Atlantic region simply can not afford to miss out on any opportunity to get games in. At the same time, this one-time incident was not enough justification to force a home team to travel for what remained a home series. As a result, the following stipulation was given to Pitt in order to provide the NCBA with confidence that Pitt could host these games and make sure they would indeed get played:



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The University of Pittsburgh Club Baseball program had until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday morning to provide written documentation that they had a field reserved for the two games AND they were permitted to do maintenance work on the field in the event of inclement weather. If the NCBA did not receive such documentation in time, or the documentation provided by Pitt did not sufficiently convince the NCBA that Pitt was capable of hosting and playing these games, the NCBA would rule that the games be played at Penn State.

At 10:57 a.m. Thursday morning, three minutes prior to the deadline, a fax was received by the NCBA front office that read:

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*Pitt Club Baseball has reserved Wheat Field at Meyer and Middleton Park for a doubleheader against Penn State University on Saturday, April 3, 2010, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Should inclement weather occur, they have permission to work on the field, within reason, in order to make the games playable.*

*Signed, Mike Calabrese, President CIT Baseball/Softball Assoc.*

The North Atlantic Regional Director deemed that this was sufficient documentation to instill confidence that a recurrence of last weekend would not take place if the games were to be played in Pittsburgh. As such, there was no reason to force the teams to play at the visiting team's field.

**Ruling:** Protest denied. The games will be played on Saturday, April 3, 2010 at Wheat Field at Meyer and Middleton Park in Pittsburgh PA. **Should the two games not get played when baseball could reasonably be expected to play, Pitt Club Baseball will be held accountable and will be charged two forfeit losses.**

Notes: For all future home games, it is strongly recommended by the NCBA that Pitt Club Baseball does everything in their power to secure a field on which they are permitted to do maintenance work. This action would go a long way toward preventing a repeat of this same scenario and ensuring that as many games get played as possible.

Both the initial protest submitted by Penn State and the subsequent response submitted by Pitt contained arguments that were not relevant to the protest at hand, and thus, not discussed in the above ruling. The issue of Penn State traveling to Pittsburgh for the rescheduled games that were ultimately rained out on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> does not come into play, as no NCBA rules are in question of being violated. In accordance with NCBA policy, Pitt, in hopes of getting the games in on Sunday, instructed Penn State to make the trip to Pittsburgh. Penn State obliged, but the field on Sunday was not playable, and the games were cancelled. It is noted that Penn State's head coach visited the field on Saturday and argued that "It was easy to tell that the field was unplayable [and] unless other arrangements were being made, it made no sense for Penn State to travel to Pittsburgh." However, by NCBA rule, it is ultimately the home team's call as to whether or not the field is playable. Penn State did the right thing by making the trip to Pittsburgh, and both teams acted in accordance with NCBA policies. Thus, none of the actions taken by either team on Sunday were liable to protest.

**Peter Chalfin**  
**North Atlantic Regional Director**