

Disciplinary Action

The following is a description of an incident that took place during the Buffalo vs. Oswego game on April 13th, 2019.

INCIDENT: On April 13th, 2019 at 12:02 AM EST, Director of DII Baseball Operations Eric Curitore received an email from Neal Turvey, the Facility Manager of Sal Maglie Stadium, with a subject of “Game Issue Report.”

The following was the contents of the email:

“I want to reach out to you about an issue we had at a Club Baseball game tonight. My name is Neal Turvey, I am the Coach of the Niagara University Club Baseball Team and am the Operator of Sal Maglie Stadium in Niagara Falls where we play our home games. The University at Buffalo Club Baseball team asked to schedule a three game series (one game Friday night 4/12 and a doubleheader on Saturday 4/13) against Oswego at Sal Maglie Stadium. I had to cancel the use of the stadium on Saturday for the games because UB had beer in their dugout at tonight's game. During my security rounds of the facility I walked into the UB dugout on my way into their clubhouse and smelled a strong beer odor. I asked clearly if there was any beer in the dugout and it was denied. After walking through the clubhouse I returned to the dugout and walked by the trash can and was overwhelmed by the beer smell again. I then dug into the barrel and found multiple Molson Canadian cans (some partials). The dugout garbage cans were all emptied this morning and we hosted a High School game before the Club game so it was clear that someone in the UB dugout had the beer, which was confirmed by a couple players after being individually asked. I talked to the UB Club President privately after discovering the issue and he claimed that the people with the beer were not players on the team but I had no way of telling who brought the beer on site, who was a member of the team in the dugout or who was consuming the alcohol. At that point I informed the Club President that I could not allow them back into the stadium after tonight's game. I stayed in the UB dugout for the final 4 1/2 innings to make sure the game could be completed safely. We have hosted a number of College games at the stadium and do not allow tobacco or alcohol (per NCAA & NCBA directives). I also copied Derek Puff (my Director of Club Sports at NU) and Robert Slemmer (Coordinator of UB Club Sports) on this.”

After reviewing the disturbing allegations reported by Mr. Turvey, Eric Curitore and the NCBA deemed that this should be investigated further and began an investigation into the incident.

The NCBA’s stance on alcohol is listed in NCBA rule 22.03.1: “By signing the liability waiver each player agrees that the use of drugs, alcohol, or any other substances that could cause danger or detrimental effects upon the participant’s performance as a member of this organization is strictly prohibited during NCBA Sanctioned Competition.”

The next morning, Eric Curitore reached out to the Coordinator of Club Sports at UB, Mr. Robert Slemmer, to touch base on the situation. Mr. Slemmer informed Eric that the Student Association at UB will be internally investigating the situation & will gladly share all details & findings with the NCBA once concluded.

With UB confirming they received a similar report, the NCBA allowed the UB administration to conduct an internal investigation and notify the NCBA of their findings. The NCBA has a set precedence of disciplinary

action regarding drinking and notified UB Administration on what information they needed in order to penalize the UB team, should the allegations be factual.

Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Association, Anyssa Evelyn, supplied the NCBA with a full report of findings through their investigation. The NCBA also worked additionally with Mr. Turvey on additional details, as he was directly on site and oversaw the events taking place. The NCBA also received a statement from the President of the team, providing additional details from their perspective.

The following was determined:

- 2-3 individuals who were not on the roster OR listed as coaches within the team were in the dugout throughout the game.
- These individuals were consuming alcohol in the dugout.
- The school & the team both confirmed the team was not initially aware of the alcohol consumption within the dugout until Mr. Turvey approached them in the 4th inning.
- Mr. Turvey remained in the dugout until the game was completed.
- Mr. Turvey confirmed at least 7 empty beer cans were found in the dugout garbage
- Mr. Turvey prohibited UB from using the facility for their 2 remaining games that weekend.
 - Buffalo was forced to forfeit their final 2 games for failing to secure a facility for their home schedule games.
- UB administration confirmed both the President & Vice President of the team were present during the game.

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After reviewing the facts as well as reviewing precedent's set forth by past situations sharing similar details, the NCBA is issuing the following penalties:

-Buffalo Club Baseball will be placed on Probation for the remainder of the 2018-19 season in addition to the entire 2019-20 season for conduct of their baseball operations in a manner which is VERY much unacceptable by NCBA standards.

- Buffalo Club Baseball will be eligible for post-season play, but will be INELGIBLE for the at-large bid selection for the 2018-2019 season as well as the 2019-2020 season.

-Both the President & Vice President of the club will be handed 3 game suspensions. They must sit the teams next 3 completed games → regardless if that's within this year's Regular Season, this year's potential Playoff run or next year's Regular Season's games. They are not permitted to dress or travel with the team during those 3 games.

-These individuals are the highest ranking individuals for the team & were present during these events. It's their lack of leadership & blatant disregard of their surroundings that caused these events to take place.



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Lastly, as a reminder to all reading this, the NCBA also wants the final note that was stated by the Commissioner of the NCBA, Sandy Sanderson in the previous incident where drinking was taking place to be a reminder that actions like these are not acceptable and will be punished severely.

“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. Thus the NCBA expects its member teams and participants to conduct themselves with a minimal level of common sense which protects the integrity and image of the NCBA and the game of baseball itself. When NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games are treated like “Beer League Softball”, the credibility of the NCBA as a legitimate collegiate baseball league is tarnished. The NCBA is proud of the fact that we are able to facilitate the opportunity for college students to play competitive baseball. More so, we are proud of the growth in reputation that collegiate club baseball has achieved since the NCBA’s inception, and we will not allow one team or one individual to jeopardize that reputation. We owe it to all our member teams and participants to protect it for both club baseball players now and in the future.”

NCBA President and Commissioner, Sandy Sanderson.

Eric Curitore
Director of DII Baseball Operations
National Club Baseball Association