

## Union, Expos dispute visa use

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### **Body**

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The Major League Baseball Players Association says it plans to fight the Montreal Expos about visas that will permit players who are not U.S. citizens to play for Canadian teams in replacement games in the USA.

The Expos say the union has no case.

Montreal officials dealt with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and received clearance to use foreign players on the B-1 (tourist) visa. "I believe these guys aren't eligible for the B-1," says Gene Orza, the union's associate general counsel. "The B-1 is not for minor league baseball players coming in and earning a living."

Expos President Claude Brochu says "(Orza) is dead wrong."

The B-1 does permit a foreign national to visit to transact business in the USA. Brochu says the players were cleared as a matter of immigration reciprocity between the U.S. and Canada. "It is not a loophole; it's the law," says Brochu.

The Toronto Blue Jays are the other Canadian team. Their situation might be muddled because they play home replacement games in Dunedin, Fla. Ontario labor laws prohibit the use of replacement workers.

"We plan to talk to the INS and (Department of) State about players being abused here," Orza says. "I believe we'll see the loophole will not be a loophole."

### **Notes**

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

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