



Playing Rules - Rules Change and Waivers due to COVID-19 for 2021 Spring Sports

Rules Change	Sport (Rules Reference)	Rationale
<p>To permit that if the assigned umpire crew is reduced to only one available umpire due to illness, injury or other unforeseen circumstances and video review is being utilized, the umpire working alone is allowed to review any of the 12 types of reviewable plays at any time during the game at their discretion. Each coach is allowed two (2) challenges per game.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Umpires can review, at their discretion at any point during the game without a coach's challenge, six (6) specific types of reviewable plays. There are also six (6) plays that are only reviewable with a coach's challenge until the last two innings of regulation or during any extra inning.</p>	<p>Baseball (App. E, Section 2)</p>	<p>Allow for the completion of contests due to potential positive tests of umpires.</p>

Waivers	Sport (Rules Reference)	Rationale
<p>To permit teams to utilize a designated area in the bleachers to space uniformed team personnel.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The team is restricted to the dugout and identified dead ball areas on the outfield side of the dugout.</p>	<p>Baseball (1.16.b)</p>	<p>Promote social distancing and reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To permit the pitcher to have a wet rag in their back pocket to prevent a pitcher from going to the mouth or blowing on their hand before delivering the pitch.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The pitcher may go to the mouth, when not on the pitcher's plate, with the pitching hand to get moisture on the hand for grip. The pitcher must wipe the hand before engaging the pitcher's plate.</p>	<p>Baseball (9.2.d and 9.2.e Note 3)</p>	<p>Reduce the spread of germs.</p>

Waivers	Sport (Rules Reference)	Rationale
<p>To permit the start or completion of a game with one umpire.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The minimum number of umpires by rule is two. The game officials are the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) and one, two, three or five field umpires.</p>	<p>Baseball (3.6)</p>	<p>Allow for the completion of contests due to potential positive tests of umpires.</p>
<p>To require that the coach may only come to the middle point of their respective foul line when coming to the field to ask a question about a call in the field. To also require that the coach may not enter the dirt circle around home plate to ask a question about a call at the plate, when making a line-up change or during the pre-game/home plate meeting.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The head coach is permitted to enter the field of play to perform certain responsibilities including communicating line-up changes to the umpire and the right to appeal an umpire's decision or challenge a play under the rules of video review.</p>	<p>Baseball (3.6.e; 4.4; 5.5; App.E)</p>	<p>Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To allow, by conference rule or mutual agreement prior to the start of the game, teams to start each extra inning (10th inning in a 9-inning game or 8th inning in a 7-inning game) with a runner on second base.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> If the score is tied at the end of regulation, play shall be continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings.</p>	<p>Baseball (5.8.d)</p>	<p>Safety due to consolidated playing schedule during the 2021 season.</p>
<p>To permit each team area to extend outward 10 additional yards towards the goal line extended.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Each team area shall extend from the table area 20 yards parallel to the sideline.</p>	<p>Men's Lacrosse (1-12)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>In emergency situations, to permit a game to be started and completed with two officials.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> A minimum of three officials shall be used.</p>	<p>Men's Lacrosse (2-6)</p>	<p>Allow for the completion of contests due to potential positive tests of an official.</p>

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<p>To limit the pregame head coaches meeting, which takes place at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start, to one head coach and one official.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Officials shall be on the field at least 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time to meet with both head coaches.</p>	<p>Men's Lacrosse (2-7)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To limit the coin toss to one captain from each team and one official. The coin toss shall be conducted with each captain standing five yards from the official standing at the center of the field.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The captains of each team shall be called together at the center of the field by the officials before game time.</p>	<p>Men's Lacrosse (4-1)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To limit the pregame faceoff meeting to one representative from each team and one official to explain any special ground rules.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The referee shall assemble the players in lines facing each other at the center of the field with their left sides they are defending and explain any special ground rules.</p>	<p>Men's Lacrosse (4-2)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>

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<p>To establish the following faceoff procedure for officials to conduct quick and efficient faceoffs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officials should put the ball on the ground and back away. 2. Instruct the players to go "Down" for the faceoff. Both players shall immediately align correctly. 3. Officials shall give the "Set" command and then blow the whistle to start play. <p>Play-On Technique – As a reminder, the play-on technique allows the offended team the opportunity to gain possession of the ball. Do not let these situations drag on. If possession is not quickly gained by the offended team, then the whistle should be blown, and the ball is awarded to the team that was fouled. Officials are being asked to have zero tolerance when players are not aligned properly.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The official conducting the faceoff will start the procedure by holding the ball and bringing the players together.</p>	<p>Men's Lacrosse (4-3.b)</p>	<p>Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To split the substitution box into two and move each 1-yard away from the 50; carded penalties served within individual team sub box.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> One substitution box; carded penalties served in the penalty area.</p>	<p>Women's Lacrosse (1.10)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To permit each team bench area to extend outward 10 additional yards towards the goal line extended.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Team bench area is defined as the area from the end of the substitution area to the team's restraining line.</p>	<p>Women's Lacrosse (1.12)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To limit the pregame stick check to one official per team. Also, team lays sticks on field and official picks eight to check.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Two officials would check together; sticks would be handed to officials.</p>	<p>Women's Lacrosse (2.6-7)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>

Waivers	Sport (Rules Reference)	Rationale
<p>To limit the pregame head coaches meeting, which takes place at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start, to one head coach and one official.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Multiple officials would be involved with the pregame coaches meeting.</p>	<p>Women's Lacrosse (3.2)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To limit the coin toss to one captain from each team and one official. The coin toss shall be conducted with each captain physically distanced from the official.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The number of captains per team was not defined.</p>	<p>Women's Lacrosse (3.6)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing; Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To permit teams to utilize an area designated by the host team in the bleachers/stands to space uniformed team personnel. Rules related to electronic equipment use and positioning on a live ball must be adhered to in these designated areas.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Team personnel engaged in the game were restricted to the dugout, bullpen or other identified dead-ball areas.</p>	<p>Softball (2.13, 5.9 and 6.5.3)</p>	<p>Enhance physical distancing and reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To prohibit offensive team personnel from congregating anywhere outside the dugout to congratulate a runner(s) on a home run.</p> <p>NOTE: Umpires and coaches are encouraged to collaborate to ensure offensive team personnel do not congregate outside the dugout. Should teams violate this COVID-19 waiver, umpires are instructed to warn (see Rule 13.1.1) the offending team and advise them that they must remain in the dugout. For further violations by a team, umpires are instructed to solicit assistance from the on-site administrator and file an NCAA Softball Incident Report.</p> <p>Only violations of 12.17.3.4.1 will require a warning and out on subsequent violations per the EFFECT written in the rules book.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> Offensive team personnel may congregate in foul territory around home plate to congratulate a runner(s).</p>	<p>Softball (12.17.3.4.2)</p>	<p>Reduce the spread of germs.</p>

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<p>To permit an increase to the interval time between periods and halftime to allow for the bench area to be sanitized to permit teams to switch bench areas (Rule 2.2.c).</p> <p><u>Previous Rule:</u> The interval time between the first and second periods and third and fourth period are three minutes and the interval time between the second and third period is five minutes.</p>	<p>Water Polo (4.2)</p>	<p>Reduce the spread of germs.</p>
<p>To permit that when institutional policy or if the facility would prohibit teams being able to change benches at the end of the quarters or half, teams may remain at the same bench for the entire game with the visiting team choosing the bench that they will play from during the captains meeting. This would allow institutions to comply with any local regulations regarding social distancing.</p> <p><u>Previous Rule(s):</u> A waiver was provided for 2020-21 to extend the interval times between periods for the purposes of cleaning the bench areas. By rule (Rule 2.2.b) teams change ends of the pool at the end of the quarter or at the half. The rules subcommittee approved the previous waiver because of the significant number of outdoor facilities in water polo, and not changing of ends of the pool could impact the competitive equity of the game.</p>	<p>Water Polo (2.2.b and 4.2)</p>	<p>To promote social distancing and reduce the spread of germs.</p>

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