



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 24, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Legislative Items.**
 - **Weekly Hour Limitations -- Outside the Playing Season -- Four-Hour Limitation on Skill Instruction -- Eliminate Limitations on Skill Instruction.** (via electronic vote).
 - (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Baseball Oversight Committee recommends the NCAA Division I Cabinet adopt expediated legislation, for baseball, to eliminate the four-hour limitation on skill instruction outside the playing season.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. Eliminating the four-hour restriction on skill instruction will align out-of-season activities during the academic year with the current rules for summer athletically related athletic activities. This proposal maintains the limit of eight hours of countable athletically related activities outside of the playing season while providing individual institutions the autonomy to determine the activities to conduct.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal for there is no increase in the weekly hour time allotment.

KEY ITEMS.

- **Nonlegislative Items.**
 - **Experimental Rule – Electronic Ball-Strike Challenge System.**
 - (1) Recommendation. Permit the use of a challenge system for called balls and strikes. Note: A batter, pitcher, or catcher must initiate a challenge immediately. Each team starts the game with three challenges: (1) If a challenge is successful, the team retains that challenge; and (2) If the original call is confirmed, the team loses the challenge. If a team enters an extra inning with zero challenges remaining, they are awarded one challenge for every extra inning.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately for conference play only (including conference postseason tournaments).
 - (3) Rationale. Similar to Appendix E of the NCAA Baseball Rules Book, this recommendation is consistent with the premise to get the call correct.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. Experimental rule. Varies depending on equipment.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- a. **Automatic qualification for the 2027 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.** The NCAA Division I Baseball Oversight Committee approved the following 30 conferences to receive automatic bids for their conference champion into the 2027 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship:

America East Conference, American Conference, Atlantic 10 Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Sun Conference, Big 12 Conference, Big East Conference, Big South Conference, Big Ten Conference, Big West Conference, Coastal Athletic Association, Conference USA, Horizon League, Metro Conference, Mid-American Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Mountain West Conference, Northeast Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, Pac-12 Conference, Patriot League, Southeastern Conference, Southern Conference, Southland Conference, Southwestern Athletic Conference, Sun Belt Conference, The Ivy League, The Summit League, United Athletic Conference, and the West Coast Conference.

- b. **NCAA Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee annual meeting report and comment period results.** The Baseball Oversight Committee approved several rules change recommendations and experimental rules submitted by the Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee, which included:

1. Require the use of a double base at first base for regular season and postseason competition;
2. Permit the use of the 18-inch square bases at institutionally owned facilities, provided that a double base at first base is used. Note: The 15-inch square base remains the standard for use;
3. Permit the use of bat sensor technology for in-game swing data collection that must be embedded within or attached to the knob of the bat;
4. Require that a base coach may not be closer to the foul line than the inside edge of the coaches' box and no closer to home plate than the front edge of the box and no further than the back edge of the box once the pitcher has engaged the pitcher's plate;
5. Removal of the ejection penalty for players or team personnel who leave the vicinity of the dugout, bullpen, or position on the field at the time of a potential altercation or fight at the time of a verbal or physical altercation, and do not participate in any way (*Note: Players or other team personnel remain subject to a game suspension for leaving their position*);
6. Limit the use of electronic communication devices to defensive purposes only;

7. Increase of offensive conferences to six (from three) which would allow a batters' request to reset the action clock. A coach is allowed to be involved in a maximum of three (3) offensive charged conferences plus one additional conference in the event of an extra inning game;
8. Require that a fielder may not block the pathway of the base for the runner prior to having possession of the ball;
9. Permit the use of in-game data/technology in the dugout to access scouting and analytics information during a game, including the use of preloaded and non-live recorded video;
10. Permit any play that could result in a fair ball call being overturned to foul and any tag play regardless of the location to be reviewed;
11. Require 30-second timing rules for between batters, mound visits and offensive timeouts; and
12. Additional approved experimental rules included: Limiting a pitcher to two disengagements (pickoff attempts or step-offs) per plate appearance; and require a pitcher to either face a minimum of three (3) batters in an appearance or pitch to the end of a half-inning.

c. Governance and member service updates.

- **Complimentary admission to away-from-home athletic events – after commitment (via electronic vote).** In preparation for the Division I Cabinet's October 6-7, 2026, review of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-48 (Recruiting -- Precollege Expenses -- Complimentary Admissions To Away-from-home Athletics Events -- After Commitment – Basketball), which would specify that after an individual has signed the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or a settlement related benefits agreement, or after the institution has received the individual's financial deposit in response to its offer of admission, the institution may provide the individual (or the individual's relatives or legal guardians) with a maximum of three complimentary admissions (issued through digital ticketing or a pass list) to an away from-home athletics event in a facility in the locale of the individual's home or educational institution. The oversight committee discussed whether the proposal should apply to baseball. The oversight committee supports the proposal applying to baseball.

- d. Appointment of New Division I Baseball Oversight Committee and Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee Members.** The Baseball Oversight Committee appointed four student-athlete representatives to the committee. Additionally, the Baseball Oversight Committee appointed two at-large conference representatives, one active official, and one student-athlete representative to the Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee. Notifications to the appointees will follow the established process, and the rules subcommittee roster will be updated in accordance with their start date for service.
- e. Approval of the NCAA Division I Baseball Oversight Committee July 13, 2026, report.** The committee approved the July 13, 2026, videoconference report.

Committee Chair: Michael Alford, Florida State University.
Staff Liaisons: DJ Brown, Division I Governance and Member Services.
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.

Division I Baseball Oversight Committee August 24, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Michael Alford, Florida State University, Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Scott Dolson, Indiana University, Bloomington, Big Ten Conference.	
Jon Gilbert, East Carolina University, American Conference.	
Jeff Gosney, national coordinator of baseball umpires.	
Tim Johnson, Oral Roberts University.	
Craig Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Scott Leykam, University of Portland.	
Johnny Luetzow, Santa Clara University.	
Jeremy McClain, The University of Southern Mississippi, Sun Belt Conference.	
Randale L. Richmond, Kent State University.	
DeAmez Ross, University of Central Florida.	
Luke Russo, Farleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Rene Salinas, Appalachian State University.	
Casey Scott, Kansas State University, Big 12 Conference.	
Scott Stricklin, University of Florida, Southeastern Conference.	
Troy Sudbrook, Clemson University.	
Absentees:	
Randy Bruns, baseball secretary-rules editor.	
Greg Seitz, Jacksonville State University, Conference USA.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Connor Byrne, Seton Hall University.	
Steve Mattingly, incoming baseball secretary-rules editor.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
DJ Brown, Randy L. Buhr and Chad Tolliver.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden, Ben Coulthard, Lucas DuMars, Kristin Fasbender, Brandy Hataway, Blake Jacklin, Jay Jay Rackley, Luke Schultheis, Natalie Steger and Jeff Williams.	