



## 2020 and 2021 Baseball Rules Changes

*The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book during the next publication for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons.*

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
1-15.d	<p>To require, effective January 1, 2021, that all catchers must use a chest protector certified to the NOCSAE commotio cordis protective device standard at the time of manufacture, or they must wear an alternative protective device certified to the NOCSAE commotio cordis protective device standard at the time of manufacture.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Commotio cordis though rare, is a typically fatal condition caused by the impact of a high velocity object (e.g. thrown or hit baseball) to the anterior chest causing cardiac arrest and death. Newly developed performance standards for the NOCSAE and SEI certification testing standards for baseball chest protectors can mitigate or eliminate the risk of this preventable condition. [Note: This rules change was initially scheduled to be effective January 1, 2020; however, based on a recommendation from the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport (CSMAS), the effective date is delayed until January 1, <b>2021</b>, based on product availability.]</p>
Appendix F	<p>To require, a 20-second action rule be administered when runners are on base. The time limit will be kept on the field by a base umpire in the same manner the current 20-second pitch clock is administered with no runners on base.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Consistent with other sports (e.g., football and basketball), baseball benefits from having action rules to speed up pace of the game. Requiring an action rule extending the current 20-second play clock to situations with runners on base should reduce unnecessary delays during the game and improve the pace of play.</p>