

2022 Baseball Rules Survey Report

QUANTITATIVE DATA

June 3, 2022

Title	n	N	%
DI HC	201	292	69%
DII HC	153	258	59%
DIII HC	238	392	61%
TOTAL COACHES	592	942	63%
DI Athletic Director	115	292	39%
DII Athletic Director	95	260	37%
DIII Athletic Director	144	398	36%
DI Commissioner	21	71	30%
DII Commissioner	14	43	33%
DIII Commissioner	25	72	35%
DI SWA	70	289	24%
DII SWA	54	254	21%
DIII SWA	68	383	18%
Umpire	1529	5605	27%

PROPOSED RULES CHANGES

1. Would you support a change to Rule 1, Section 16 (Dugouts) to require that the field side of the dugout be protected by netting or fencing?

Rationale: The change will protect players and team personnel from foul batted balls and errant throws. This proposed change would be phased in over a period of years, becoming required by 2024.

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	34%	68	35%	54	34%	82	34%	204
No Support	37%	75	42%	65	50%	118	44%	258
No Opinion	29%	58	22%	34	16%	38	22%	130
TOTAL	100%	201	100%	153	100%	238	100%	592

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	59%	68	60%	57	50%	71	56%	196	61%	877
No Support	24%	28	32%	30	29%	42	28%	100	10%	147
No Opinion	17%	19	8%	8	21%	30	16%	57	29%	410
TOTAL	100%	115	100%	95	100%	143	100%	353	100%	1434

Rule 1, Section 16 CONTINUED

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	76%	16	79%	11	56%	14	68%	41
No Support	19%	4	14%	2	24%	6	20%	12
No Opinion	5%	1	7%	1	20%	5	12%	7
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	60%	42	59%	32	57%	38	59%	112
No Support	29%	20	19%	10	22%	15	24%	45
No Opinion	11%	8	22%	12	21%	14	18%	34
TOTAL	100%	70	100%	54	100%	67	100%	191

2. Which of the proposed height options do you prefer?

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
0-5 feet	74%	50	74%	40	68%	56	72%	146
6-8 feet	21%	14	17%	9	26%	21	22%	44
More than 8 feet	4%	3	7%	4	6%	5	6%	12
None required	1%	1	2%	1	0%	0	1%	2
TOTAL	100%	68	100%	54	100%	82	100%	204

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
0-5 feet	57%	39	40%	23	34%	24	44%	86	35%	308
6-8 feet	35%	24	54%	31	56%	40	48%	95	46%	406
More than 8 feet	4%	3	4%	2	10%	7	6%	12	17%	153
None required	3%	2	2%	1	0%	0	2%	3	1%	9
TOTAL	100%	68	100%	57	100%	71	100%	196	100%	876

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
0-5 feet	33%	5	27%	3	15%	2	26%	10
6-8 feet	67%	10	64%	7	54%	7	62%	24
More than 8 feet	0%	0	9%	1	31%	4	13%	5
None required	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	11	100%	13	100%	39

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
0-5 feet	24%	10	31%	10	24%	9	26%	29
6-8 feet	59%	24	53%	17	65%	24	59%	65
More than 8 feet	17%	7	16%	5	11%	4	15%	16
None required	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
TOTAL	100%	41	100%	32	100%	37	100%	110

3. Would you support a change to Rule 1, Section 7 to replace the current 15-inch square bases at first, second and third bases with 18-inch bases?

Rationale: By enlarging the target area for both the offense and the defense, collisions and player injuries may be reduced at all bases. Defenders receiving a throw at a base will have more room to catch an errant throw and greater flexibility in setting up to receive a throw out of the runner's path thus avoiding obstruction calls. Runners will have more area to touch a base without contacting a defender or more space to slide around defenders. This proposed change would require the purchase of three, 18-inch square bases and may result in base anchors needing to be moved. Overall cost would be approximately \$975 (\$325/base).

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	32%	65	24%	36	31%	74	30%	175
No Support	51%	102	65%	99	55%	131	56%	332
No Opinion	17%	34	12%	18	14%	33	14%	85
TOTAL	100%	201	100%	153	100%	238	100%	592

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	43%	50	36%	34	32%	46	37%	130	40%	567
No Support	44%	51	46%	44	52%	75	48%	170	41%	592
No Opinion	12%	14	18%	17	15%	22	15%	53	19%	275
TOTAL	100%	115	100%	95	100%	143	100%	353	100%	1434

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	29%	6	50%	7	64%	16	48%	29
No Support	43%	9	36%	5	12%	3	28%	17
No Opinion	29%	6	14%	2	24%	6	23%	14
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	49%	34	61%	33	30%	20	46%	87
No Support	31%	22	28%	15	46%	31	36%	68
No Opinion	20%	14	11%	6	24%	16	19%	36
TOTAL	100%	70	100%	54	100%	67	100%	191

4. Would you support a change to Rule 1, Section 2 and Rule 1, Section 5 that would require padding on the backstops, sideline and home run fences constructed of wood, concrete or brick?

Rationale: Currently, there is no requirement or recommendation regarding padding for fences or walls constructed of wood, concrete and brick. This proposed change would be phased in over a period of years.

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	62%	125	48%	74	39%	92	49%	291
No Support	20%	40	35%	53	41%	98	32%	191
No Opinion	18%	36	17%	26	20%	48	19%	110
TOTAL	100%	201	100%	153	100%	238	100%	592

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	57%	65	43%	41	53%	76	52%	182	63%	904
No Support	29%	33	41%	39	27%	39	31%	111	11%	162
No Opinion	15%	17	16%	15	20%	28	17%	60	26%	367
TOTAL	100%	115	100%	95	100%	143	100%	353	100%	1433

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	62%	13	64%	9	80%	20	70%	42
No Support	29%	6	21%	3	8%	2	18%	11
No Opinion	10%	2	14%	2	12%	3	12%	7
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	74%	52	69%	37	66%	45	70%	134
No Support	19%	13	17%	9	18%	12	18%	34
No Opinion	7%	5	15%	8	16%	11	13%	24
TOTAL	100%	70	100%	54	100%	68	100%	192

5. Would you support a change to Rule 1, Section 12.d (Bat Description) to permit the use of embedded or attached data collection devices (swing sensors) exclusively on the knob end of the bat to be used during competition?

Rationale: The proposed change would only permit the use of these devices to collect data during competition. The use of electronic devices to review data collected during the game is not permitted by Rule 5, Section 2.f.

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	30%	60	26%	40	27%	65	28%	165
No Support	54%	108	54%	82	57%	135	55%	325
No Opinion	16%	33	20%	31	16%	38	17%	102
TOTAL	100%	201	100%	153	100%	238	100%	592

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	39%	44	24%	23	17%	24	26%	91	20%	282
No Support	45%	51	61%	58	66%	95	58%	204	54%	768
No Opinion	17%	19	15%	14	17%	24	16%	57	27%	383
TOTAL	100%	114	100%	95	100%	143	100%	352	100%	1433

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	24%	5	29%	4	16%	4	22%	13
No Support	38%	8	36%	5	60%	15	47%	28
No Opinion	38%	8	36%	5	24%	6	32%	19
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	24%	17	26%	14	21%	14	23%	45
No Support	60%	42	52%	28	59%	40	57%	110
No Opinion	16%	11	22%	12	21%	14	19%	37
TOTAL	100%	70	100%	54	100%	68	100%	192

6. Would you support a change to Rule 3, Section 6 (Umpires) to permit the start and/or completion of a game with one umpire?

Rationale: The proposed change would permit, not require, the starting and/or completion of a game if for unforeseen circumstances only one umpire is available.

A. Support, permitting both the start and completion of a game with one umpire.

B. Support permitting the completion of a game with one umpire

C. Support permitting the start of a game with one umpire

D. Oppose

E. No opinion

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
A.	18%	35	19%	29	30%	71	23%	135
B.	31%	62	40%	61	39%	92	36%	215
C.	1%	2	4%	6	5%	12	3%	20
D.	46%	91	34%	52	21%	50	33%	193
E.	5%	10	3%	5	5%	13	5%	28
TOTAL	100%	200	100%	153	100%	238	100%	591

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
A.	22%	25	38%	36	36%	52	32%	113	25%	359
B.	39%	45	37%	35	32%	46	36%	126	31%	441
C.	1%	1	4%	4	8%	11	5%	16	2%	28
D.	33%	38	19%	18	20%	28	24%	84	39%	561
E.	5%	6	2%	2	4%	6	4%	14	3%	45
TOTAL	100%	115	100%	95	100%	143	100%	353	100%	1434

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
A.	14%	3	36%	5	44%	11	32%	19
B.	29%	6	43%	6	36%	9	35%	21
C.	5%	1	7%	1	12%	3	8%	5
D.	52%	11	14%	2	8%	2	25%	15
E.	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
A.	20%	14	30%	16	22%	15	24%	45
B.	35%	24	31%	17	29%	20	32%	61
C.	0%	0	6%	3	4%	3	3%	6
D.	43%	30	31%	17	38%	26	38%	73
E.	1%	1	2%	1	6%	4	3%	6
TOTAL	100%	69	100%	54	100%	68	100%	191

7. Would you support a change to Appendix E, Section 1 (Video Review) to permit an umpire working alone (if that rule is approved) to use video review on 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.

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	76%	152	73%	111	55%	132	67%	395
No Support	12%	24	14%	21	17%	40	14%	85
No Opinion	12%	25	13%	20	28%	66	19%	111
TOTAL	100%	201	100%	152	100%	238	100%	591

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	66%	76	57%	54	31%	44	49%	174	73%	1048
No Support	28%	32	35%	33	50%	71	39%	136	21%	296
No Opinion	6%	7	8%	8	20%	28	12%	43	6%	89
TOTAL	100%	115	100%	95	100%	143	100%	353	100%	1433

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	52%	11	79%	11	44%	11	55%	33
No Support	38%	8	0%	0	16%	4	20%	12
No Opinion	10%	2	21%	3	40%	10	25%	15
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	69%	47	72%	39	50%	34	63%	120
No Support	25%	17	17%	9	34%	23	26%	49
No Opinion	6%	4	11%	6	16%	11	11%	21
TOTAL	100%	68	100%	54	100%	68	100%	190

8. Would you support a change to Rule 3, Section 6.e. to a) require all coaching appeals of an umpire's decision, or interpretation of the rules for a play on the bases, to be made at the middle point of the team's respective foul line and b) that the coach shall not enter the dirt circle for decisions or interpretations of the rules for plays at the plate and for lineup changes?

Rationale: The proposed change would identify a specific location for appeals or interpretations of plays to take place. This proposal is also intended to provide an opportunity to improve conduct during an appeal.

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	35%	71	29%	44	32%	77	32%	192
No Support	42%	84	48%	73	45%	106	44%	263
No Opinion	23%	46	24%	36	23%	55	23%	137
TOTAL	100%	201	100%	153	100%	238	100%	592

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	54%	62	61%	58	61%	87	59%	207	72%	1039
No Support	25%	29	23%	22	17%	24	21%	75	16%	236
No Opinion	21%	24	16%	15	22%	31	20%	70	11%	159
TOTAL	100%	115	100%	95	100%	142	100%	352	100%	1434

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	81%	17	79%	11	80%	20	80%	48
No Support	14%	3	0%	0	8%	2	8%	5
No Opinion	5%	1	21%	3	12%	3	12%	7
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	61%	43	50%	27	43%	29	52%	99
No Support	27%	19	26%	14	26%	18	27%	51
No Opinion	11%	8	24%	13	31%	21	22%	42
TOTAL	100%	70	100%	54	100%	68	100%	192

9. Would you support a change to Rule 5, Section 7, to require all doubleheaders to be played as two (2) seven-inning games?

Rationale: The proposed change is intended to maintain the quality of play on the field and promote student-athlete safety by greatly reducing the time spent on the field for everyone involved.

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	31%	63	29%	44	29%	68	30%	175
No Support	64%	129	62%	95	66%	157	64%	381
No Opinion	4%	9	9%	14	5%	13	6%	36
TOTAL	100%	201	100%	153	100%	238	100%	592

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	55%	63	67%	64	70%	100	64%	227	88%	1264
No Support	39%	45	26%	25	26%	37	30%	107	7%	102
No Opinion	6%	7	6%	6	4%	6	5%	19	5%	69
TOTAL	100%	115	100%	95	100%	143	100%	353	100%	1435

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	57%	12	50%	7	84%	21	67%	40
No Support	24%	5	43%	6	12%	3	23%	14
No Opinion	19%	4	7%	1	4%	1	10%	6
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	63%	44	72%	39	74%	50	69%	133
No Support	29%	20	28%	15	18%	12	24%	47
No Opinion	9%	6	0%	0	9%	6	6%	12
TOTAL	100%	70	100%	54	100%	68	100%	192

10. Would you support a change to Rule 2, Section 79, to require that all games to be played by the Ten-Run Rule?

Rationale: The proposed change is intended to promote student-athlete safety and reduce potential unsportsmanlike acts in contests where the result is a foregone conclusion.

HEAD COACH	DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC		Overall	
Support	44%	88	48%	73	46%	109	46%	270
No Support	48%	96	42%	65	48%	114	47%	275
No Opinion	8%	16	10%	15	6%	14	8%	45
TOTAL	100%	200	100%	153	100%	237	100%	590

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DI		DII		DIII		Overall		Umpire	
Support	76%	87	89%	85	86%	122	84%	294	95%	1365
No Support	22%	25	7%	7	9%	13	13%	45	3%	46
No Opinion	2%	2	3%	3	5%	7	3%	12	2%	25
TOTAL	100%	114	100%	95	100%	142	100%	351	100%	1436

COMMISSIONER	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	90%	19	86%	12	96%	24	92%	55
No Support	5%	1	14%	2	0%	0	5%	3
No Opinion	5%	1	0%	0	4%	1	3%	2
TOTAL	100%	21	100%	14	100%	25	100%	60

SWA	DI		DII		DIII		Overall	
Support	78%	54	87%	47	82%	56	82%	157
No Support	16%	11	11%	6	9%	6	12%	23
No Opinion	6%	4	2%	1	9%	6	6%	11
TOTAL	100%	69	100%	54	100%	68	100%	191