



2024 Men's Baseball Rules Results

Methods

- This was a survey of athletic directors, conference commissioners, head coaches and umpires aimed at obtaining their support for potential new rules topics/areas of emphasis.
- The survey was designed to take no more than 15-20 minutes and was administered online through the QuestionPro survey software.
- The survey was open from April 25 to May 19, 2024.
- The survey was distributed via email to over 3,500 coaches and officials. The link to the survey was posted to an online survey dashboard designed for athletics directors and conference commissioners to provide rules feedback during the 2023-24 academic year. A notice about the use of the survey dashboard was emailed to all athletics directors and conference commissioners in fall 2023 and again in late January 2024. The survey availability was highlighted in the NCAA Weekly and follow-up emails were sent to coaches and officials. Of the 4,799 possible participants, there were 996 completed surveys (21 percent response rate).

SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

TITLE	RESPONSES	POSSIBLE	RESPONSE RATE
DI Head Coach	78	305	26%
DII Head Coach	46	255	18%
DIII Head Coach	119	387	31%
Total Coaches	243	947	26%
DI Director of Athletics	2	305	< 1%
DII Director of Athletics	1	255	< 1%
DIII Director of Athletics	141	387	36%
Total ADs	144	947	15%
DI Commissioner	0	30	0%
DII Commissioner	0	22	0%
DIII Commissioner	27	43	63%
Total Commissioners	27	95	28%
Umpires	582	2,810	21%
Total Officials	582	2,810	21%
TOTAL	996	4,799	21%

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

1. Require the use of the double first base (Rule 1.7) in all NCAA competitions.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	431	43%	60	42%	118	49%	11	44%	242	42%
Oppose	423	43%	57	40%	90	37%	8	32%	268	46%
No Opinion	138	14%	27	19%	35	14%	6	24%	70	12%
Total	992		144		243		25		580	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	45	58%	21	46%	52	44%
Oppose	22	28%	20	43%	48	40%
No Opinion	11	14%	5	11%	19	16%
Total	78		46		119	

2. Permit, at an institution's discretion, the use of an 18-inch base (Rule 1.7).

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	672	68%	79	56%	138	57%	19	73%	436	76%
Oppose	188	19%	32	23%	76	31%	6	23%	74	13%
No Opinion	127	13%	30	21%	29	12%	1	4%	67	12%
Total	987		141		243		26		577	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	53	68%	23	50%	62	52%
Oppose	17	22%	16	35%	43	36%
No Opinion	8	10%	7	15%	14	12%
Total	78		46		119	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

3. Amend Rule 1.12.d to allow bat sensor technology during competitions.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	394	40%	39	28%	109	45%	4	16%	242	42%
Oppose	375	38%	66	47%	106	44%	11	44%	192	33%
No Opinion	218	22%	36	26%	28	12%	10	40%	144	25%
Total	987		141		243		25		578	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	37	47%	21	46%	51	43%
Oppose	33	42%	15	33%	58	49%
No Opinion	8	10%	10	22%	10	8%
Total	78		46		119	

4. Require bat testing (Rule 1.12.g) to be conducted before each contest day (i.e. prior to the first game of a doubleheader).

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	557	56%	49	35%	89	37%	8	30%	411	71%
Oppose	306	31%	78	55%	128	53%	18	67%	82	14%
No Opinion	125	13%	15	11%	26	11%	1	4%	84	15%
Total	988		142		243		27		577	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	56	72%	15	33%	18	15%
Oppose	17	22%	24	52%	87	73%
No Opinion	5	6%	7	15%	14	12%
Total	78		46		119	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

5. Require an umpire to be present for oversight or to administer the bat testing process.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	242	24%	38	27%	100	41%	3	12%	101	17%
Oppose	651	66%	83	59%	115	47%	21	81%	432	74%
No Opinion	97	10%	20	14%	28	12%	2	8%	47	8%
Total	990		141		243		26		580	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	53	68%	17	37%	30	25%
Oppose	16	21%	24	52%	75	63%
No Opinion	9	12%	5	11%	14	12%
Total	78		46		119	

6. Amend the suspension rule (Rule 2.26.e) for pitchers to differentiate the length of a suspension for a pitcher who is ejected as a starting pitcher (4 games) versus a pitcher who is ejected as a relief pitcher (2 games). Further, to specify that a player who is ejected as a pitcher is only required to serve a one game suspension before returning to play a position other than pitcher (e.g. a starting pitcher who is ejected may return to play as an outfielder or pinch hitter upon serving a one game suspension).

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	560	61%	73	57%	168	72%	17	65%	302	56%
Oppose	239	26%	18	14%	28	12%	4	15%	189	35%
No Opinion	126	14%	37	29%	37	16%	5	19%	47	9%
Total	925		128		233		26		538	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	60	77%	35	80%	73	66%
Oppose	6	8%	3	7%	19	17%
No Opinion	12	15%	6	14%	19	17%
Total	78		44		111	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

7. Allow one-way electronic communication to be sent to from the 1st or 3rd base coach's box, or from the defensive position of catcher. The current rule (Rule 5.2) only allows transmission to be sent from the dugout.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	607	66%	61	48%	183	79%	12	48%	351	65%
Oppose	225	24%	41	32%	40	17%	7	28%	137	25%
No Opinion	94	10%	25	20%	10	4%	6	24%	53	10%
Total	926		127		233		25		541	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	59	76%	38	86%	86	77%
Oppose	14	18%	5	11%	21	19%
No Opinion	5	6%	1	2%	4	4%
Total	78		44		111	

8. Select the option most preferred regarding Rule 5.8.b.4 – the 10-run rule. In all scenarios, each team must play an equal number of innings unless shortened because the home team has no runs or only part of its half of the final inning.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	779	85%	104	82%	140	61%	24	92%	511	95%
Oppose	79	9%	8	6%	58	25%	0	0%	13	2%
No Opinion	61	7%	15	12%	30	13%	2	8%	14	3%
Total	919		127		228		26		538	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	53	71%	26	60%	61	55%
Oppose	11	15%	11	26%	36	33%
No Opinion	11	15%	6	14%	13	12%
Total	75		43		110	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

9. Amend the language of a player leaving their position rule (Rule 5.16.c) as specified.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	819	88%	110	87%	212	91%	25	96%	472	87%
Oppose	60	6%	4	3%	8	3%	0	0%	48	9%
No Opinion	48	5%	13	10%	13	6%	1	4%	21	4%
Total	927		127		233		26		541	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	72	92%	42	95%	98	88%
Oppose	3	4%	1	2%	4	4%
No Opinion	3	4%	1	2%	9	8%
Total	78		44		111	

10. Change the existing runners' lane (Rule 7.11.p) to include the 15-inch (or 18-inch) width of first base in fair territory.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	571	63%	88	71%	167	73%	21	81%	295	56%
Oppose	270	30%	19	15%	47	20%	2	8%	202	38%
No Opinion	66	7%	17	14%	16	7%	3	12%	30	6%
Total	907		124		230		26		527	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	59	79%	32	73%	76	68%
Oppose	12	16%	12	27%	23	21%
No Opinion	4	5%	0	0%	12	11%
Total	75		44		111	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

11. Require umpires to check pitchers for foreign substances (Rule 9.2) after each half inning.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	382	42%	44	35%	116	50%	14	54%	208	39%
Oppose	442	49%	53	43%	95	41%	9	35%	285	54%
No Opinion	84	9%	27	22%	20	9%	3	12%	34	6%
Total	908		124		231		26		527	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	53	70%	29	66%	34	31%
Oppose	20	26%	13	30%	62	56%
No Opinion	3	4%	2	5%	15	14%
Total	76		44		111	

12. Eliminate the limit on the number of warm-up pitches (Rule 9.2.i) between innings for a returning pitcher. The same principle should also be extended to warm-up pitches by a new/relief pitcher.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	535	59%	78	63%	171	74%	21	84%	265	50%
Oppose	327	36%	30	24%	52	23%	2	8%	243	46%
No Opinion	46	5%	16	13%	8	3%	2	8%	20	4%
Total	908		124		231		25		528	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	65	86%	32	73%	74	67%
Oppose	9	12%	11	25%	32	29%
No Opinion	2	3%	1	2%	5	5%
Total	76		44		111	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

13. Establish a 150 second limit on pitching changes and to eliminate the number of warm-up pitches permitted. (Currently, the limit is eight.)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	569	63%	74	60%	146	63%	24	92%	325	62%
Oppose	285	31%	31	25%	74	32%	0	0%	180	34%
No Opinion	55	6%	19	15%	12	5%	2	8%	22	4%
Total	909		124		232		26		527	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	51	67%	32	73%	63	56%
Oppose	20	26%	11	25%	43	38%
No Opinion	5	7%	1	2%	6	5%
Total	76		44		112	

14. To allow one re-entry per player, per game. This would exclude the pitcher and designated hitter. Currently, a player that is subbed out is effectively done for the remainder of game. (Rule 5.5)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	309	34%	59	48%	72	31%	15	60%	163	31%
Oppose	548	60%	52	42%	153	66%	4	16%	339	64%
No Opinion	52	6%	13	10%	7	3%	6	24%	26	5%
Total	909		124		232		25		528	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	21	28%	17	39%	34	30%
Oppose	54	71%	27	61%	72	64%
No Opinion	1	1%	0	0%	6	5%
Total	76		44		112	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

15. Insert [specified] language within the video review protocols (Appendix E) to specify that all obvious errors that may have a significant impact on the outcome of a game may be reviewed and corrected.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	660	75%	46	39%	166	73%	11	48%	437	85%
Oppose	73	8%	21	18%	6	3%	5	22%	41	8%
No Opinion	149	17%	50	43%	54	24%	7	30%	38	7%
Total	882		117		226		23		516	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	66	89%	38	88%	62	57%
Oppose	3	4%	0	0%	3	3%
No Opinion	5	7%	5	12%	44	40%
Total	74		43		109	

16. Permit a hitter one reset from the action per at-bat. (Appendix F)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	686	78%	78	67%	207	90%	19	76%	382	75%
Oppose	151	17%	12	10%	17	7%	4	16%	118	23%
No Opinion	41	5%	26	22%	5	2%	2	8%	8	2%
Total	878		116		229		25		508	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	67	89%	39	91%	101	91%
Oppose	8	11%	3	7%	6	5%
No Opinion	0	0%	1	2%	4	4%
Total	75		43		111	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

17. Change the time by which the batter must be in the batter's box and alert to the pitcher from 10 seconds to 8 seconds. (Appendix F)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	568	65%	67	58%	158	69%	19	79%	324	64%
Oppose	247	28%	25	22%	61	27%	3	13%	158	31%
No Opinion	62	7%	24	21%	9	4%	2	8%	27	5%
Total	877		116		228		24		509	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	64	85%	28	67%	66	59%
Oppose	10	13%	14	33%	37	33%
No Opinion	1	1%	0	0%	8	7%
Total	75		42		111	

18. Permit an umpire to call time and reset a pitch clock if a pitcher becomes set before a hitter is alert to the pitcher. (Appendix F)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	772	88%	88	76%	214	93%	17	74%	453	89%
Oppose	66	8%	4	3%	10	4%	2	9%	50	10%
No Opinion	41	5%	24	21%	5	2%	4	17%	8	2%
Total	879		116		229		23		511	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	71	95%	42	98%	101	91%
Oppose	3	4%	1	2%	6	5%
No Opinion	1	1%	0	0%	4	4%
Total	75		43		111	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

19. Reduce the pitch clock from 20 seconds to 18 seconds. (Appendix F)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	435	49%	52	45%	55	24%	16	64%	312	61%
Oppose	398	45%	49	42%	166	72%	5	20%	178	35%
No Opinion	48	5%	15	13%	8	3%	4	16%	21	4%
Total	881		116		229		25		511	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	24	32%	5	12%	26	23%
Oppose	48	64%	37	86%	81	73%
No Opinion	3	4%	1	2%	4	4%
Total	75		43		111	

20. Implement shift rules specifying that the four infielders must be within the boundary of the infield and must be on the appropriate side of the infield (e.g. 3B and SS on the left side of second base) when the pitcher is on the pitcher's plate.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	393	46%	53	50%	83	36%	13	57%	244	49%
Oppose	355	42%	26	25%	131	57%	7	30%	191	39%
No Opinion	103	12%	27	25%	14	6%	3	13%	59	12%
Total	851		106		228		23		494	

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	41	55%	11	26%	31	28%
Oppose	32	43%	29	67%	70	64%
No Opinion	2	3%	3	7%	9	8%
Total	75		43		110	

PROPOSED CHANGES

Please indicate your level of support for the following statements regarding proposed rules changes:

21. Effective January 1, 2025, the use of one or more visible clocks will be permissible during the game to enforce all timing rules. (Appendix F)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		HEAD COACHES		COMMISSIONERS		UMPIRES	
Support	182	63%	53	49%	106	69%	23	88%	-	-
Oppose	96	33%	50	46%	43	28%	3	12%	-	-
No Opinion	9	3%	5	5%	4	3%	0	0%	-	-
Total	287		108		153		26			

HEAD COACHES	DI		DII		DIII	
Support	-	-	33	77%	73	66%
Oppose	-	-	10	23%	33	30%
No Opinion	-	-	0	0%	4	4%
Total			43		110	

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

22. Please select the response below you feel is best regarding when a contest should stop based on the number of runs.

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		Commissioners	
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs.	608	66%	69	56%	19	73%
By conference rule, championship rule or by mutual agreement, contests may be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs (current rule).	198	21%	38	31%	3	12%
Should a rule requiring contest to stop after seven innings if one team is ahead by 10 runs or more, a full nine innings may be played if adopted by conference, championship rule or by mutual agreement.	56	6%	7	6%	4	15%
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 12 runs.	41	5%	7	6%	0	0%
None of the above.	22	2%	3	1%	0	0%

RESPONSE	Head Coaches		Umpires	
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs.	68	29%	452	84%
By conference rule, championship rule or by mutual agreement, contests may be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs (current rule).	114	49%	43	8%
Should a rule requiring contest to stop after seven innings if one team is ahead by 10 runs or more, a full nine innings may be played if adopted by conference, championship rule or by mutual agreement.	20	9%	25	5%
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 12 runs.	19	8%	15	3%
None of the above.	13	6%	6	1%

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

23. Select which situations you would be in support of adding to the list of reviewable plays: (Select all that apply)

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		Commissioners	
Tag plays regardless of location.	616	62%	45	31%	3	11%
A batted ball hitting the batter (in or out of the batter's box, foul ball).	612	61%	42	29%	5	19%
Interference or obstruction regardless of location.	577	58%	48	33%	5	19%
No additional plays should be added.	153	15%	61	42%	15	56%

RESPONSE	Head Coaches		Umpires	
Tag plays regardless of location.	186	77%	382	66%
A batted ball hitting the batter (in or out of the batter's box, foul ball).	170	70%	396	68%
Interference or obstruction regardless of location.	182	75%	342	59%
No additional plays should be added.	25	10%	52	9%

24. Select which policies related to the action clock and pace of play you support: (Select all that apply)

CLOCK	OVERALL		ADs		Commissioners		Head Coaches	
Umpire Authority	586	59%	32	22%	12	44%	116	48%
Clock Operator	496	50%	18	13%	3	11%	81	33%
Pitching Change	431	43%	31	22%	11	41%	79	33%
Mound Visit	414	42%	35	24%	10	37%	68	28%
Offensive Timeout	400	40%	30	21%	8	30%	80	33%
Between Batters	363	36%	28	19%	8	30%	51	21%
None of the Above	168	17%	57	40%	6	22%	77	32%

CLOCK	Umpires	
Umpire Authority	426	73%
Clock Operator	414	71%
Pitching Change	310	53%
Mound Visit	301	52%
Offensive Timeout	282	48%
Between Batters	276	47%
None of the Above	28	5%

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

25. Select which situation you would be in support of related to challenges initiated by the head coach:

RESPONSE	OVERALL		ADs		Commissioners	
To allow coaches to have two challenges per game and those challenges are valid prior to the 8th inning. In the 8th inning and beyond all challenges will be innated by the Crew Chief. The coach is always required to challenge a play to begin the review process. If the CC accepts the challenge in the 8th inning and beyond, all aspects of that play will be reviewable from the time the ball was put into play. (Appendix E)	408	47%	22	20%	2	9%
To allow only two head coach challenges through nine innings and zero (0) crew chief-initiated reviews other than the instances of a potential home run or malicious contact. Additionally, one extra challenge is provided in extra innings. (Appendix E, Section 2).	245	28%	25	22%	5	23%
None of the above.	219	25%	64	58%	15	68%

RESPONSE	Head Coaches		Umpires	
To allow coaches to have two challenges per game and those challenges are valid prior to the 8th inning. In the 8th inning and beyond all challenges will be innated by the Crew Chief. The coach is always required to challenge a play to begin the review process. If the CC accepts the challenge in the 8th inning and beyond, all aspects of that play will be reviewable from the time the ball was put into play. (Appendix E)	109	50%	275	53%
To allow only two head coach challenges through nine innings and zero (0) crew chief-initiated reviews other than the instances of a potential home run or malicious contact. Additionally, one extra challenge is provided in extra innings. (Appendix E, Section 2).	69	31%	146	28%
None of the above.	43	19%	97	19%