



2027 and 2028 Division II and Division III Baseball Rules Changes

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Division II and Division III Baseball Rules Committee, and Division II and Division III Playing Rules Oversight Panel. All rules changes are effective with the 2027 and 2028 seasons.

Rule	Rules Change and Rationale
	Rule 1
1-7 First, Second, and Third Base	Require the use of a double base at first base for regular season and postseason competition. <i>Exception: Competition held at noninstitutionally owned facilities may use 18-inch square bases.</i> Rationale: To provide equal opportunity for both the offensive and defensive players to function in the same approximate area, potentially limit contact at first base between offensive and defensive players and emphasize batter-runners are to use the runner's lane.
1-7 First, Second, and Third Base	Permit the use of the 18-inch square bases at institutionally owned facilities, provided that a double base at first base is used. <i>Note: The 15-inch square base remains the standard for use.</i> Rationale: This proposal will permit institutions the ability to use professional baseball base sizes at institutionally owned baseball facilities.
1-12 The Bat	Permit the use of bat sensor technology for in-game swing data collection. <i>Note: The device must be attached to the knob of the bat or embedded within the knob and data shall not be accessed during the game.</i> Rationale: Increased opportunities for swing data collection to take place during live-game situations.
	Rule 5
5-15-C-3 Team Personnel Leaving Position	Eliminate the ejection penalty for players or team personnel leaving 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. Players or other team personnel remain subject to a game suspension. Rationale: An updated penalty structure for players and other team personnel to not include an immediate ejection should they leave their position at the time of a potential altercation or fight; however, players and other team personnel are encouraged to not leave their position.

Rule	Rules Change and Rationale
	Rule 6
6-5-F Dead Ball-Play Suspended	Increase of offensive conferences to six (6) which would allow a batters' request to reset the action clock. Similar to defensive conferences, 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. Rationale: To allow a limited number of times for a batter to call a quick timeout to reset themselves and the action clock. This would make offensive and defensive charged conferences similar.
	Rule 8
8-3-E Entitled to the Base	Fielder may not block the pathway of the base for the runner prior to having possession of the ball. <i>Note: A fielder shall not be deemed to have obstructed unless they have both blocked the base or plate without possession of the ball, and also hindered or impeded the progress of the runner attempting to score. A fielder shall not be deemed to have hindered or impeded the progress of the runner if, in the judgment of the umpire, the runner would have been called out notwithstanding the fielder having blocked the base or plate.</i> Rationale: Reduce intentional acts of blocking the base prior to attempting to make a play at the base.
	Appendices
Appendix E	Permit any play that could result in a fair ball call being overturned to foul to be reviewed. Rationale: This recommendation is consistent with the premise of Appendix E to get the call correct.
Appendix E	Permit any tag play regardless of the location to be reviewed. Rationale: This recommendation is consistent with the premise of Appendix E to get the call correct.

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