



2026 Baseball Rules Survey Results

Methods

- This was a survey of head coaches, directors of athletics, conference commissioners, conference sport administrators and umpires. The purpose was to obtain feedback on suggested rules changes to inform the work of the NCAA Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee and Divisions II and III Baseball Rules Committees.
- The survey was designed to take no more than 10 minutes and was administered online through the Qualtrics survey software.
- The survey was open from May 12 to June 7, 2026.
- The survey was distributed via email to coaches, officials and conference coordinators of officials. The survey link was posted to an online survey dashboard webpage designed for athletics directors and conference commissioners to provide rules survey feedback during the 2025-26 academic year. A notice about the use of the survey dashboard was included in the NCAA Weekly and via email to all athletics directors and conference commissioners prior to the survey launch. Of the 5,410 possible participants, there were 1,062 completed surveys (20% percent response rate and a response rate increase of 26% from 2025).
- All response options endorsed by 60% or more respondents are shaded in blue throughout the report.

2026 Baseball Rules Survey Report

QUANTITATIVE DATA

June 16, 2026

Title	Recorded	Possible	Response Rate
DI Head Coach	85	308	28%
DII Head Coach	50	253	20%
DIII Head Coach	106	381	28%
TOTAL COACHES	241	942	26%
DI Athletics Director	15	308	5%
DII Athletics Director	12	253	5%
DIII Athletics Director	34	381	9%
TOTAL ADs	61	942	6%
DI Commissioner	1	30	3%
DII Commissioner	5	23	22%
DIII Commissioner	10	43	23%
TOTAL COMMISSIONERS	16	96	17%
Conf. Sport Administrator	14	89*	16%
Senior Woman Administrator**	15	--	--
Umpire	715	3,341	21%
TOTAL	1,062	5,410	20%

*Conference Sport Administrator includes conference coordinator of umpires (N=45) and conference baseball administrators (N=44).

**Senior Woman Administrator were not targeted recipients of this survey, but 15 accessed the survey because it was on the Rules Survey Dashboard listed in the NCAA Weekly.

Proposed Changes

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

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	72%	174	85%	72	68%	34	64%	68
Oppose	16%	39	9%	8	18%	9	21%	22
No Opinion	12%	28	6%	5	14%	7	15%	16
TOTAL	100%	241	100%	85	100%	50	100%	106

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	74%	45	87%	13	58%	7	74%	25
Oppose	21%	13	7%	1	42%	5	21%	7
No Opinion	5%	3	7%	1	0%	0	6%	2
TOTAL	100%	61	100%	15	100%	12	100%	34

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Support	38%	6	30%	3
Oppose	38%	6	40%	4
No Opinion	25%	4	30%	3
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses ($N \geq 10$) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire		Conference Sport Admin.		SWA	
Support	67%	476	43%	6	73%	11
Oppose	24%	173	43%	6	13%	2
No Opinion	9%	66	14%	2	13%	2
TOTAL	100%	715	100%	14	100%	15

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

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	38%	90	41%	35	38%	19	34%	36
Oppose	39%	94	34%	29	32%	16	47%	49
No Opinion	23%	56	25%	21	30%	15	19%	20
TOTAL	100%	240	100%	85	100%	50	100%	105

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	44%	27	67%	10	42%	5	35%	12
Oppose	43%	26	27%	4	42%	5	50%	17
No Opinion	13%	8	7%	1	17%	2	15%	5
TOTAL	100%	61	100%	15	100%	12	100%	34

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Support	13%	2	0%	0
Oppose	38%	6	40%	4
No Opinion	50%	8	60%	6
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses (N ≥ 10) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire		Conference Sport Admin.		SWA	
Support	28%	203	36%	5	40%	6
Oppose	35%	247	50%	7	53%	8
No Opinion	37%	264	14%	2	7%	1
TOTAL	100%	714	100%	14	100%	15

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

Note: Division I did not receive this question, nor did umpires.

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI	DII		DIII	
Support	24%	38		26%	13	24%	25
Oppose	62%	97		64%	32	61%	65
No Opinion	13%	21		10%	5	15%	16
TOTAL	100%	156		100%	50	100%	106

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall		DI	DII		DIII	
Support	41%	19		50%	6	38%	13
Oppose	54%	25		50%	6	56%	19
No Opinion	4%	2		0%	0	6%	2
TOTAL	100%	46		100%	12	100%	34

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Support	0%	0	0%	0
Oppose	87%	13	80%	8
No Opinion	13%	2	20%	2
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses (N ≥ 10) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire	Conference Sport Admin.	SWA	
Support			30%	3
Oppose			60%	6
No Opinion			10%	1
TOTAL			100%	10

4. Please select the option you most prefer regarding Rule 5.8.b.4 – the 10-run rule:

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Contests may be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs (current rule).	45%	82	42%	25	44%	17	48%	40
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs.	55%	99	58%	34	56%	22	52%	43
TOTAL	100%	181	100%	59	100%	39	100%	83

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall*		DI		DII		DIII	
Contests may be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs (current rule).	38%	20	50%	7			38%	11
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs.	62%	32	50%	7			62%	18
TOTAL	100%	52	100%	14			100%	29

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DI and DIII had a sufficient number of responses (N ≥ 10) to parse out.

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Contests may be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs (current rule).	13%	2	10%	1
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs.	88%	14	90%	9
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses (N ≥ 10) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire		Conference Sport Admin.		SWA	
Contests may be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs (current rule).	4%	21	8%	1	33%	5
All contests shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs.	96%	491	92%	11	67%	10
TOTAL	100%	512	100%	12	100%	15

5. Insert the following 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: *"No other plays or officiating decisions are reviewable. However, the reviewing umpire or collaborative replay umpire may review and correct obvious errors that may have a significant impact on the outcome of the game. This includes plays that are not normally reviewable under this rule. The same threshold of indisputable video evidence is required. This excludes balls/strikes and check swings that are never reviewable."*

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	76%	179	93%	76	81%	38	62%	65
Oppose	6%	13	4%	3	0%	0	10%	10
No Opinion	18%	42	4%	3	19%	9	29%	30
TOTAL	100%	234	100%	82	100%	47	100%	105

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	70%	43	87%	13	67%	8	65%	22
Oppose	13%	8	7%	1	17%	2	15%	5
No Opinion	16%	10	7%	1	17%	2	21%	7
TOTAL	100%	61	100%	15	100%	12	100%	34

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Support	56%	9	40%	4
Oppose	25%	4	30%	3
No Opinion	19%	3	30%	3
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses ($N \geq 10$) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire		Conference Sport Admin.		SWA	
Support	82%	576	79%	11	60%	9
Oppose	10%	72	21%	3	20%	3
No Opinion	8%	58	0%	0	20%	3
TOTAL	100%	706	100%	14	100%	15

6. Permit a hitter one reset from the action per at-bat.

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	81%	187	80%	64	85%	39	81%	84
Oppose	14%	32	16%	13	9%	4	14%	15
No Opinion	5%	11	4%	3	7%	3	5%	5
TOTAL	100%	230	100%	80	100%	46	100%	104

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	82%	50	100%	15	100%	12	68%	23
Oppose	10%	6	0%	0	0%	0	18%	6
No Opinion	8%	5	0%	0	0%	0	15%	5
TOTAL	100%	61	100%	15	100%	12	100%	34

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Support	50%	8	40%	4
Oppose	19%	3	20%	2
No Opinion	31%	5	40%	4
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses ($N \geq 10$) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire		Conference Sport Admin.		SWA	
Support	67%	470	57%	8	60%	9
Oppose	28%	196	43%	6	20%	3
No Opinion	5%	32	0%	0	20%	3
TOTAL	100%	698	100%	14	100%	15

7. Reduce the pitch clock from 20 seconds to 18 seconds.

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	28%	65	35%	28	30%	14	22%	23
Oppose	66%	153	63%	50	64%	30	70%	73
No Opinion	6%	13	3%	2	6%	3	8%	8
TOTAL	100%	231	100%	80	100%	47	100%	104

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	59%	36	60%	9	67%	8	56%	19
Oppose	36%	22	40%	6	25%	3	38%	13
No Opinion	5%	3	0%	0	8%	1	6%	2
TOTAL	100%	61	100%	15	100%	12	100%	34

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Support	63%	10	60%	6
Oppose	19%	3	10%	1
No Opinion	19%	3	30%	3
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses ($N \geq 10$) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire		Conference Sport Admin.		SWA	
Support	70%	489	57%	8	60%	9
Oppose	25%	174	29%	4	33%	5
No Opinion	5%	36	14%	2	7%	1
TOTAL	100%	699	100%	14	100%	15

8. Implement a shift rule specifying that the four infielders must be within the boundary of the infield and must be on the appropriate side of the infield when the pitcher is on the pitcher's plate.

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	32%	74	40%	32	26%	12	29%	30
Oppose	59%	136	57%	46	61%	28	60%	62
No Opinion	9%	21	4%	3	13%	6	12%	12
TOTAL	100%	231	100%	81	100%	46	100%	104

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall		DI		DII		DIII	
Support	54%	33	67%	10	50%	6	50%	17
Oppose	30%	18	33%	5	25%	3	29%	10
No Opinion	16%	10	0%	0	25%	3	21%	7
TOTAL	100%	61	100%	15	100%	12	100%	34

COMMISSIONER	Overall*		DIII	
Support	38%	6	20%	2
Oppose	19%	3	10%	1
No Opinion	44%	7	70%	7
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	10

*Note: Overall includes all divisions; only DIII had a sufficient number of responses ($N \geq 10$) to parse out.

OTHER TITLES	Umpire		Conference Sport Admin.		SWA	
Support	44%	308	50%	7	47%	7
Oppose	38%	263	43%	6	33%	5
No Opinion	18%	127	7%	1	20%	3
TOTAL	100%	698	100%	14	100%	15