



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL RULES SUBCOMMITTEE
MAY 4, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee approved the following experimental rule request for the 2026 season during conference tournaments only. The subcommittee requests approval from the Division I Baseball Oversight Committee for the following item:

- **Permit the use of challenges for balls and strikes using electronic strike zone assist.**

(1) Recommendation. Each team will be permitted to challenge an individual ball or strike call (on either offense or defense) by appealing to the appropriate call of the pitch as determined by an electronic strike zone. A challenge may occur at any point in a plate appearance including the end of an appearance.

(2) Effective date. Immediately for conference tournament play only.

(3) Rationale. The use of the electronic strike zone assist allows for improved fairness and allows for egregious errors to be corrected on a limited basis.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Varies depending on type of equipment used.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Other Business – Approval of experimental rule for 2026 season during conference tournaments. The subcommittee reviewed and considered an additional experimental rule as noted above in the Action Items section of this report for conference tournaments during the 2026 season.

2. 2025-26 videoconference timeline. The next videoconference is scheduled for June 1 at 11 a.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Billy O’Conner, Xavier University, Big East Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Stanley Broaden, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee May 4, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
John Brammer, active umpire.
Jamie Breslin, Stanford University.
Randy Bruns, secretary-rules editor.
Jim Cole, Mercer University.
Tim Corbin, Vanderbilt University.
Jeff Gosney, national coordinator of umpires.
J.D. Loudabarger, Arizona State University.
Jeremy McClain, University of Southern Mississippi
Billy O’Conner, Xavier University.
Pamm Zierfuss-Hubbard, California State University, Sacramento.
Absentees:
Johnny Luetzow, Santa Clara University.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support of Committee) in Attendance:
Stanley Broaden.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Randy Buhr and Ashlee Follis.