



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA BASEBALL RULES COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 4, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee approved the following experimental rule requests for the 2025 season. The Baseball Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following items:

a. Use of bat sensor technology for in-game data collection.

- (1) Recommendation. To permit the use of metric sensors or data collection devices externally attached or embedded within the knob of the baseball bat in-game.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately for conference play only.
- (3) Rationale. Collegiate baseball programs are routinely using bat sensor technology during practice to track motion data and utilize that data for player development. However, in the absence of in-game data, the player development opportunities are incomplete. Player swings will change with the task and the environment; therefore, capturing the in-game data is critical to compare with practice data to provide the most value in player development efforts. The ability to compare in-game data to practice data in a variety of environments and game situations can help coaches and players better understand where/when/why a swing is breaking down, how comfortable a player is in practice versus a game, how a player learns and a player's ability to implement practice training into a game situation. The addition of in-game bat motion data can be used in conjunction with other available data metrics, such as ball tracking and player movement, to provide a complete picture of the situation and help players better understand the outcomes of each swing they take to maximize their potential.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Varies depending on type of sensor/equipment used.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. As indicated in the rationale above, the student-athlete impact related to player development would be another beneficial metric to measure and have available. The frequency of use, among other data points of the benefits, will be detailed in the conference report following the end of the 2025 season.

b. Use of in-game data/technology in the dugout during a game.

- (1) Recommendation. To permit the use of electronic equipment (tablets) to access scouting and analytic information (Note: Access to pitch location (e.g. balls/strikes) would not be accessible during the game.).
- (2) Effective date. Immediately for conference play only.
- (3) Rationale. The use of detailed stats and analytics to inform in-game decision-making has become prevalent in college baseball. At the same time, advancements in technology have made immediate and ready access to such real-time information much more accessible. As a result, several other sports, most notably basketball and football, have recently adjusted playing rules in their sport to permit coaching staff members to utilize approved electronic devices to acquire such real-time information for use in in-game decision-making.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Varies depending on type of sensor/equipment used.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed the committee and thanked them for their time.
2. **Approval of August 5, 2024, videoconference report.** The committee approved the report as written.
3. **Secretary-rules editor report.** The committee received a report from the secretary-rules editor. The report provided an update regarding items in progress in preparation for the 2025 season which included completing the 2025 and 2026 baseball rules book and rules video.
4. **National coordinator of umpires' report.** The committee received a report from the national coordinator of umpires. The report included updates regarding the work of the Baseball Umpire Program, registration progress on RefQuest+ and additional updates on national initiatives.
5. **Review of experimental rule requests.** The rules committee reviewed and considered experimental rule requests from the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Southeastern Conference as noted above in the Action Items section of this report.

6. **Other business.** No other business was discussed.
7. **2024-25 videoconference timeline.** The next videoconference is scheduled for December 2 at 11 a.m. Eastern time.
8. **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 12:08 p.m. Eastern time.

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

Baseball Rules Committee November 4, 2024, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Randy Bruns, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Tim Corbin, Vanderbilt University.	
Alex Gary, Western Carolina University.	
Patrick McGaha, Harding University.	
Billy O’Conner, Xavier University.	
Brian Thornton, Point Loma Nazarene University.	
Jesse Woods, Colby College.	
Pamm Zierfuss-Hubbard, California State University, Sacramento.	
Absentees:	
David Fontaine, Utica University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
John Brammer, Active Umpire	
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support of Committee) in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ashlee Follis.	