



NCAA BASEBALL VISIBLE CLOCK GUIDANCE

Effective Date:

Effective Jan.1, 2024, for Division I and Jan.1, 2025, for Divisions II and III, the use of one or more visible clocks will be required during all times of the game to enforce all timing rules effectively.

Location of the Clock:

While only one (1) visible clock is required, two or more (2+) allow for greater visibility. Clocks shall ideally be located on the outfield scoreboard or atop the outfield fence in either left- or right-centerfield as well as behind home plate. The clock should be as readily visible to the pitcher, catcher, batter and home plate umpire as possible.

Below are placement options based on the number of clocks being used. The highlighted placement options emphasize visibility for the pitcher, catcher, batter and home plate umpire. (Note: This list is not comprehensive to all locations that the clock may be placed. The identified locations consider access to power and staffing personnel to operate the clock.)

One (1) Clock:	Two or More (2+) Clocks:	Three or More (3+) Clocks:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outfield fence in either left or right-centerfield.• Located on the outfield scoreboard.• Behind home plate offset to the left or right.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One (1) clock on the outfield fence in either left or right-centerfield and one (1) behind home plate offset to the left or right.• One (1) located on the outfield scoreboard and one (1) behind home plate offset to the left or right.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One (1) on the outfield fence in either left or right-centerfield and two (2) behind home plate offset to the left and right.• Two (2) on the outfield fence in left- and right-centerfield and one (1) behind home plate offset to the left or right.

Time Limits/Timing Devices:

The clock should have the ability to produce whole numbers for the 20-second action clock limit and the 120-second time limit (or clock) between innings. A three-digit clock is recommended, but a two-digit clock is permissible on the condition that the time between innings will reach “00” twice.

Use of Alternate Competition Sites:

Institutions that regularly schedule games at non-institutionally owned facilities shall plan to facilitate the use of a visible action/between innings clock. If the alternate site is identified with a reasonable amount of time, a portable clock is certainly an option. If the site is identified last minute and there is no other option, the umpires should/must be prepared to keep the clock on the field – similar to if the clock fails or stops functioning. Please reference the “Required Visible Action Clock – Appendix F” in the 2023-24 NCAA Baseball Rules Interpretations from February 1, 2024, below for more details.

***2023-24 NCAA Baseball Rules Interpretations
February 1, 2024
Required Visible Action Clock – Appendix F.***

Interpretations: The visible clock requirement, approved in 2022, is to be adhered to for all NCAA baseball competition. The visible clock requirement is effective for the 2024 season for Division I and for the 2025 season for Division II and Division III. Institutions that regularly schedule games at non-institutionally owned facilities shall plan to facilitate the use of a visible action/between innings clock.

If extenuating circumstances occur, i.e. clock malfunction, power outage, a last-minute change of venue due to unplayable field conditions, etc., and a visible clock is not available, umpires shall be prepared to administer the 20-second action clock and between innings timing rules on the field. This shall include appropriate mechanics to notify both teams of the start and reset of the clock, as well as countdown marks within the 120 seconds between innings time.

Rationale:

The playing rule requires that all times of the game (20 second action during play and 120 seconds between innings) be displayed on the visible timing device. In the event that the timing device malfunctions or is not available, the umpires on the field shall be prepared to manage the timing rules effectively.