



MEMORANDUM

February 17, 2021

VIA EMAIL

TO: Divisions I, II and III Conference Commissioners, Head Softball Coaches and Senior Woman Administrators at Conferences and Institutions.

FROM: Vickie Van Kleeck, Secretary-Rules Editor
NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

Lexie Vernon, Chair
NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Additional Softball COVID-19 Waiver and Rules Guidance for the 2021 Season.

As a follow up from the memorandum sent to the softball membership on January 27, which may be viewed [here](#), the NCAA Softball Rules Committee is issuing an additional COVID-19 rules waiver and providing the following guidance and information for the 2021 season.

1. [NEW] COVID-19 Waiver to Rules 2.13, 5.9 and 6.5.3. To permit teams to utilize an area designated by the host team in the bleachers/stands to space uniformed team personnel. Rules related to electronic equipment use and positioning on a live ball must be adhered to in these designated areas. This waiver was issued to enhance physical distancing and reduce the spread of germs.
2. [UPDATED] COVID-19 Waiver to Rule 12.17.3.4.2. As previously communicated, this waiver has been updated. To prohibit offensive team personnel from congregating anywhere outside the dugout to congratulate a runner(s) on a home run. This waiver was issued to reduce the spread of germs. Umpires and coaches are encouraged to collaborate to ensure offensive team personnel do not congregate outside the dugout. Should teams violate this COVID-19 waiver, umpires are instructed to warn (see Rule 13.1.1) the offending team and advise them that they must remain in the dugout. For further violations by a team, umpires are instructed to solicit assistance from the on-site administrator and file an [NCAA Softball Incident Report](#). Note: Only violations of 12.17.3.4.1 will require a warning and out on subsequent violations per the EFFECT written in the rules book.
3. Use of a Damp Towel by Defensive Players. Per A.R. 3-1 in the 2020 and 2021 Softball Case Book, defensive players are permitted to hang a damp towel from their pants while on the field. This damp towel may be used to prevent or discourage a pitcher from going to the mouth or blowing on their hand before delivering a pitch. Per Rule 10.13.1, the pitcher must wipe the hand before touching the ball.

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

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4. 2020 and 2021 Softball Case Book. The Softball Rules Committee updated the concussion reentry approved rulings in the 2020 and 2021 Softball Case Book (A.R.s 8-26 through 8-32). The online only case book is available on the [NCAA Softball Home Plate](#) under the Rules Book tab or the NCAA softball playing rules [website](#).

If you have any questions now or during the season, please contact Vickie Van Kleeck at ncaasbsre@gmail.com or 540-819-4655.

Thank you for your attention to this information and good luck this season.

VVK/LV:af

cc: Division I Conference Softball Administrators
NCAA Registered Softball Umpires
NCAA Softball Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members