

2022 Softball Rules Survey Report

QUANTITATIVE DATA

June 16, 2022

Title	n	N	%
DI Head Coach	192	299	64%
DII Head Coach	185	272	68%
DIII Head Coach	250	401	62%
TOTAL COACHES	627	972	65%
DI AD	57	348	16%
DII AD	89	309	29%
DIII AD	130	450	29%
DI SWA	101	345	29%
DII SWA	84	301	28%
DIII SWA	76	432	18%
DI Commissioner	17	32	53%
DII Commissioner	12	23	52%
DIII Commissioner	21	45	47%
Umpire	572	1697	34%

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS CHANGES AND CURRENT ISSUES

What impact have the new rules changes had on the game?

1. Recommending the fence distance be 200 feet in left and right fields for new construction.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	78%	149	70%	129	62%	154	69%	432
Negative Impact on the Game	3%	5	3%	5	3%	7	3%	17
No Impact on the Game	20%	38	28%	51	35%	87	28%	176
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	185	100%	248	100%	625

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	67%	38	67%	58	57%	72	62%	168
Negative Impact on the Game	9%	5	2%	2	3%	4	4%	11
No Impact on the Game	25%	14	31%	27	40%	51	34%	92
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	87	100%	127	100%	271

UMPIRE

61%	346
2%	11
37%	211
100%	568

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	88%	14	58%	7	52%	11	65%	32
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	0%	0	14%	3	6%	3
No Impact on the Game	13%	2	42%	5	33%	7	29%	14
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	12	100%	21	100%	49

Fence Distance CONTINUED

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	78%	79	76%	63	64%	49	73%	191
Negative Impact on the Game	5%	5	2%	2	4%	3	4%	10
No Impact on the Game	17%	17	22%	18	32%	24	23%	59
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	83	100%	76	100%	260

2. Creating standard ball specifications across the major softball associations, which led to a change in NCAA ball compression from 350 ± 50 to 275-375 pounds.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	72%	137	69%	125	56%	140	65%	402
Negative Impact on the Game	5%	9	4%	7	6%	16	5%	32
No Impact on the Game	23%	44	27%	48	37%	92	30%	184
TOTAL	100%	190	100%	180	100%	248	100%	618

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall		UMPIRE	
Positive Impact on the Game	84%	47	75%	63	61%	75	70%	185	68%	384
Negative Impact on the Game	4%	2	4%	3	5%	6	4%	11	3%	17
No Impact on the Game	13%	7	21%	18	34%	42	25%	67	29%	163
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	84	100%	123	100%	263	100%	564

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	88%	14	64%	7	71%	12	75%	33
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	9%	1	12%	2	7%	3
No Impact on the Game	13%	2	27%	3	18%	3	18%	8
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	11	100%	17	100%	44

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	83%	83	75%	62	64%	49	75%	194
Negative Impact on the Game	4%	4	1%	1	1%	1	2%	6
No Impact on the Game	13%	13	24%	20	34%	26	23%	59
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	83	100%	76	100%	259

3. Requiring barrel compression testing (BCT) to be conducted, at a minimum, prior to the start of each tournament, series, doubleheader or single game during the regular season.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	78%	150	44%	82	15%	38	43%	270
Negative Impact on the Game	7%	13	30%	55	65%	161	37%	229
No Impact on the Game	15%	29	26%	48	19%	48	20%	125
TOTAL	85%	192	74%	185	81%	247	80%	624

Barrell Compression CONTINUED

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall		UMPIRE	
Positive Impact on the Game	79%	45	57%	49	17%	22	43%	116	87%	492
Negative Impact on the Game	5%	3	21%	18	54%	69	33%	90	4%	20
No Impact on the Game	16%	9	22%	19	28%	36	24%	64	9%	53
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	86	100%	127	100%	270	100%	565

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	94%	15	75%	9	38%	8	65%	32
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	8%	1	24%	5	12%	6
No Impact on the Game	6%	1	17%	2	38%	8	22%	11
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	12	100%	21	100%	49

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	80%	81	61%	51	30%	23	60%	155
Negative Impact on the Game	1%	1	14%	12	45%	34	18%	47
No Impact on the Game	19%	19	24%	20	25%	19	22%	58
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	83	100%	76	100%	260

4. Allowing video review of designated plays.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	94%	177	72%	134	54%	134	72%	445
Negative Impact on the Game	3%	6	6%	12	6%	15	5%	33
No Impact on the Game	3%	6	21%	39	40%	98	23%	143
TOTAL	100%	189	100%	185	100%	247	100%	621

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall		UMPIRE	
Positive Impact on the Game	71%	40	49%	41	19%	24	40%	105	83%	466
Negative Impact on the Game	20%	11	31%	26	29%	36	28%	73	13%	75
No Impact on the Game	9%	5	20%	17	52%	65	33%	87	4%	23
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	84	100%	125	100%	265	100%	564

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	94%	15	50%	6	32%	6	57%	27
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	25%	3	21%	4	15%	7
No Impact on the Game	6%	1	25%	3	47%	9	28%	13
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	12	100%	19	100%	47

Video Review CONTINUED

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	84%	85	64%	52	49%	36	68%	173
Negative Impact on the Game	8%	8	10%	8	16%	12	11%	28
No Impact on the Game	8%	8	26%	21	35%	26	21%	55
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	81	100%	74	100%	256

5. Prohibiting teams from coming out of the dugout during stoppages of play.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	33%	63	22%	41	22%	53	25%	157
Negative Impact on the Game	35%	66	43%	80	46%	112	42%	258
No Impact on the Game	32%	60	35%	64	33%	81	33%	205
TOTAL	100%	189	100%	185	100%	246	100%	620

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall		UMPIRE	
Positive Impact on the Game	36%	20	52%	45	31%	39	39%	104	66%	375
Negative Impact on the Game	30%	17	19%	16	25%	32	24%	65	9%	51
No Impact on the Game	34%	19	29%	25	44%	55	37%	99	25%	141
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	86	100%	126	100%	268	100%	567

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	56%	9	73%	8	65%	13	64%	30
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	9%	1	5%	1	4%	2
No Impact on the Game	44%	7	18%	2	30%	6	32%	15
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	11	100%	20	100%	47

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	29%	29	47%	38	32%	24	36%	91
Negative Impact on the Game	29%	29	21%	17	24%	18	25%	64
No Impact on the Game	42%	42	32%	26	44%	33	39%	101
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	81	100%	75	100%	256

6. Allowing a maximum of 90 seconds between innings and at the start of a game for warmups and allowing the pitcher to throw any number of warmup pitches.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	73%	140	49%	90	45%	111	55%	341
Negative Impact on the Game	10%	20	27%	49	33%	83	24%	152
No Impact on the Game	17%	32	24%	45	22%	54	21%	131
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	184	100%	248	100%	624

90 Seconds CONTINUED

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	88%	50	79%	68	73%	93	78%	211
Negative Impact on the Game	9%	5	6%	5	9%	11	8%	21
No Impact on the Game	4%	2	15%	13	19%	24	14%	39
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	86	100%	128	100%	271

UMPIRE

90%	513
3%	19
6%	36
100%	568

COMMISSIONER

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	94%	15	92%	11	90%	18	92%	44
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
No Impact on the Game	6%	1	8%	1	10%	2	8%	4
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	12	100%	20	100%	48

SWA

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	82%	82	73%	61	78%	59	78%	202
Negative Impact on the Game	9%	9	14%	12	8%	6	10%	27
No Impact on the Game	9%	9	12%	10	14%	11	12%	30
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	83	100%	76	100%	259

7. Allowing each team seven charged team representative-to-player conferences and seven charged player-to-player conferences per regulation game.

HEAD COACH

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	52%	99	41%	75	39%	97	43%	271
Negative Impact on the Game	20%	39	27%	50	22%	55	23%	144
No Impact on the Game	28%	54	32%	58	39%	97	33%	209
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	183	100%	249	100%	624

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	59%	33	66%	56	48%	60	56%	149
Negative Impact on the Game	21%	12	6%	5	17%	21	14%	38
No Impact on the Game	20%	11	28%	24	35%	44	30%	79
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	85	100%	125	100%	266

UMPIRE

69%	392
15%	84
16%	93
100%	569

COMMISSIONER

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	81%	13	58%	7	65%	13	69%	33
Negative Impact on the Game	6%	1	8%	1	10%	2	8%	4
No Impact on the Game	13%	2	33%	4	25%	5	23%	11
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	12	100%	20	100%	48

Conferences CONTINUED

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	62%	61	71%	59	59%	45	64%	165
Negative Impact on the Game	13%	13	11%	9	11%	8	12%	30
No Impact on the Game	25%	25	18%	15	30%	23	24%	63
TOTAL	100%	99	100%	83	100%	76	100%	258

8. Allowing a relief pitcher to throw any number of warmup pitches if media goes to break during a pitching change.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	71%	137	49%	91	34%	84	50%	312
Negative Impact on the Game	3%	6	4%	8	4%	10	4%	24
No Impact on the Game	26%	49	46%	86	62%	152	46%	287
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	185	100%	246	100%	623

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	61%	34	54%	46	26%	33	42%	113
Negative Impact on the Game	11%	6	11%	9	10%	13	10%	28
No Impact on the Game	29%	16	35%	30	64%	81	47%	127
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	85	100%	127	100%	268

UMPIRE	
58%	329
4%	24
38%	215
100%	568

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	100%	16	33%	4	50%	9	63%	29
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
No Impact on the Game	0%	0	67%	8	50%	9	37%	17
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	12	100%	18	100%	46

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	71%	71	53%	44	49%	37	59%	152
Negative Impact on the Game	6%	6	7%	6	5%	4	6%	16
No Impact on the Game	23%	23	40%	33	46%	35	35%	91
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	83	100%	76	100%	259

9. Adding that a runner will be called out and ejected on a deliberate collision with a fielder regardless of if the fielder has possession of the ball.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	64%	122	60%	110	57%	140	60%	372
Negative Impact on the Game	19%	36	21%	39	15%	38	18%	113
No Impact on the Game	17%	32	19%	34	28%	68	22%	134
TOTAL	100%	190	100%	183	100%	246	100%	619

Deliberate Collision CONTINUED

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall		UMPIRE	
Positive Impact on the Game	71%	40	71%	60	70%	87	70%	187	93%	530
Negative Impact on the Game	21%	12	15%	13	14%	17	16%	42	2%	9
No Impact on the Game	7%	4	14%	12	17%	21	14%	37	5%	28
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	85	100%	125	100%	266	100%	567

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	94%	15	100%	12	74%	14	87%	41
Negative Impact on the Game	6%	1	0%	0	11%	2	6%	3
No Impact on the Game	0%	0	0%	0	16%	3	6%	3
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	12	100%	19	100%	47

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	69%	68	80%	66	84%	64	77%	198
Negative Impact on the Game	21%	21	10%	8	5%	4	13%	33
No Impact on the Game	9%	9	11%	9	11%	8	10%	26
TOTAL	100%	98	100%	83	100%	76	100%	257

10. Allowing the pitcher's stride foot to be in contact with the pitcher's lane line/pitcher's plate to be considered in the pitching position.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	59%	112	62%	115	64%	158	62%	385
Negative Impact on the Game	5%	9	5%	10	4%	10	5%	29
No Impact on the Game	36%	68	32%	60	32%	79	33%	207
TOTAL	100%	189	100%	185	100%	247	100%	621

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall		UMPIRE	
Positive Impact on the Game	55%	31	72%	59	62%	76	64%	166	80%	455
Negative Impact on the Game	11%	6	6%	5	7%	9	8%	20	2%	12
No Impact on the Game	34%	19	22%	18	31%	38	29%	75	18%	101
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	82	100%	123	100%	261	100%	568

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	63%	10	82%	9	83%	15	76%	34
Negative Impact on the Game	6%	1	9%	1	0%	0	4%	2
No Impact on the Game	31%	5	9%	1	17%	3	20%	9
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	11	100%	18	100%	45

Pitchers Stride Foot CONTINUED

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	66%	65	81%	65	78%	59	74%	189
Negative Impact on the Game	5%	5	4%	3	3%	2	4%	10
No Impact on the Game	29%	28	15%	12	20%	15	22%	55
TOTAL	100%	98	100%	80	100%	76	100%	254

11. Eliminating the requirement that the catcher be automatically ejected if the pitcher is ejected for intentionally pitching at a batter.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	62%	118	60%	110	60%	148	61%	376
Negative Impact on the Game	10%	20	15%	27	11%	26	12%	73
No Impact on the Game	28%	53	25%	45	30%	73	28%	171
TOTAL	100%	191	100%	182	100%	247	100%	620

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	74%	42	71%	59	57%	73	65%	174
Negative Impact on the Game	18%	10	18%	15	27%	34	22%	59
No Impact on the Game	9%	5	11%	9	16%	20	13%	34
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	83	100%	127	100%	267

UMPIRE	
54%	307
14%	81
32%	180
100%	568

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	81%	13	82%	9	79%	15	80%	37
Negative Impact on the Game	6%	1	9%	1	0%	0	4%	2
No Impact on the Game	13%	2	9%	1	21%	4	15%	7
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	11	100%	19	100%	46

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	72%	73	72%	60	78%	59	74%	192
Negative Impact on the Game	19%	19	17%	14	12%	9	16%	42
No Impact on the Game	9%	9	11%	9	11%	8	10%	26
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	83	100%	76	100%	260

12. Changing the effect for illegal contact of the pitch by the batter to a delayed dead ball and allowing the defensive team to choose the result of the play or a strike on the batter and returning base runners to the base legally occupied at the time of the pitch.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	85%	164	83%	154	86%	214	85%	532
Negative Impact on the Game	10%	19	14%	25	6%	14	9%	58
No Impact on the Game	5%	9	3%	6	8%	20	6%	35
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	185	100%	248	100%	625

Illegal Contact CONTINUED**DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS**

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	70%	39	68%	55	61%	74	65%	168
Negative Impact on the Game	18%	10	23%	19	17%	21	19%	50
No Impact on the Game	13%	7	9%	7	22%	27	16%	41
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	81	100%	122	100%	259

UMPIRE

71%	402
22%	124
7%	41
100%	567

COMMISSIONER

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	80%	12	82%	9	68%	13	76%	34
Negative Impact on the Game	7%	1	9%	1	11%	2	9%	4
No Impact on the Game	13%	2	9%	1	21%	4	16%	7
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	11	100%	19	100%	45

SWA

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	61%	60	78%	63	69%	51	69%	174
Negative Impact on the Game	21%	21	9%	7	14%	10	15%	38
No Impact on the Game	18%	18	14%	11	18%	13	17%	42
TOTAL	100%	99	100%	81	100%	74	100%	254

13. Eliminating the award of first base if the batter is hit by a pitch that does not reach the plate but would have been in the strike zone had it not hit the batter.

HEAD COACH

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	74%	142	71%	130	72%	180	72%	452
Negative Impact on the Game	8%	16	15%	27	11%	27	11%	70
No Impact on the Game	18%	34	15%	27	17%	42	16%	103
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	184	100%	249	100%	625

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	64%	36	70%	57	62%	74	65%	167
Negative Impact on the Game	21%	12	20%	16	14%	17	18%	45
No Impact on the Game	14%	8	11%	9	24%	28	18%	45
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	82	100%	119	100%	257

UMPIRE

72%	411
7%	38
21%	118
100%	567

COMMISSIONER

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	73%	11	58%	7	67%	12	67%	30
Negative Impact on the Game	7%	1	17%	2	6%	1	9%	4
No Impact on the Game	20%	3	25%	3	28%	5	24%	11
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	12	100%	18	100%	45

Awarded First Base CONTINUED

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	65%	65	73%	59	63%	47	67%	171
Negative Impact on the Game	18%	18	20%	16	15%	11	18%	45
No Impact on the Game	17%	17	7%	6	23%	17	16%	40
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	81	100%	75	100%	256

14. Adding accidentally hitting the catcher to interference by the batter and changing the effect to allow the defensive team to choose the result of the play or ruling it a dead-ball strike and returning base runners to the base legally occupied at the time of the pitch.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	75%	143	64%	118	68%	168	69%	429
Negative Impact on the Game	8%	15	16%	29	10%	26	11%	70
No Impact on the Game	17%	32	20%	36	22%	54	20%	122
TOTAL	100%	190	100%	183	100%	248	100%	621

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	71%	40	66%	55	60%	72	64%	167
Negative Impact on the Game	16%	9	22%	18	15%	18	17%	45
No Impact on the Game	13%	7	12%	10	26%	31	18%	48
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	83	100%	121	100%	260

UMPIRE	
74%	414
10%	56
16%	92
100%	562

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	80%	12	73%	8	74%	14	76%	34
Negative Impact on the Game	13%	2	27%	3	5%	1	13%	6
No Impact on the Game	7%	1	0%	0	21%	4	11%	5
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	11	100%	19	100%	45

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	67%	67	73%	60	73%	53	71%	180
Negative Impact on the Game	14%	14	13%	11	14%	10	14%	35
No Impact on the Game	19%	19	13%	11	14%	10	16%	40
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	82	100%	73	100%	255

15. Clarifying the definition of “out of the baseline” to mean “can’t reach the base,” treating this violation as interference and allowing the option for a team warning when the behavior is not egregious enough to warrant an immediate ejection.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	63%	119	62%	112	66%	162	64%	393
Negative Impact on the Game	9%	18	12%	21	7%	18	9%	57
No Impact on the Game	28%	53	27%	48	27%	67	27%	168
TOTAL	100%	190	100%	181	100%	247	100%	618

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	77%	43	77%	63	67%	82	72%	188
Negative Impact on the Game	9%	5	7%	6	9%	11	8%	22
No Impact on the Game	14%	8	16%	13	24%	29	19%	50
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	82	100%	122	100%	260

UMPIRE	
75%	424
8%	45
17%	94
100%	563

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	93%	14	45%	5	67%	12	70%	31
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
No Impact on the Game	7%	1	55%	6	33%	6	30%	13
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	11	100%	18	100%	44

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	74%	74	74%	60	69%	52	73%	186
Negative Impact on the Game	9%	9	7%	6	5%	4	7%	19
No Impact on the Game	17%	17	19%	15	25%	19	20%	51
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	81	100%	75	100%	256

16. Adding that a runner may not intentionally distract or run at any fielder in an effort to distract them while not making an attempt to run directly to the base.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	74%	140	76%	139	70%	173	73%	452
Negative Impact on the Game	7%	14	8%	14	6%	14	7%	42
No Impact on the Game	19%	36	16%	30	25%	61	20%	127
TOTAL	100%	190	100%	183	100%	248	100%	621

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	75%	43	77%	64	76%	92	76%	199
Negative Impact on the Game	11%	6	13%	11	2%	3	8%	20
No Impact on the Game	14%	8	10%	8	21%	26	16%	42
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	83	100%	121	100%	261

UMPIRE	
88%	497
1%	7
10%	59
100%	563

Distract Fielder CONTINUED

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	100%	15	92%	11	83%	15	91%	41
Negative Impact on the Game	0%	0	8%	1	0%	0	2%	1
No Impact on the Game	0%	0	0%	0	17%	3	7%	3
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	12	100%	18	100%	45

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	76%	75	80%	66	80%	61	79%	202
Negative Impact on the Game	5%	5	4%	3	5%	4	5%	12
No Impact on the Game	19%	19	16%	13	14%	11	17%	43
TOTAL	100%	99	100%	82	100%	76	100%	257

17. Providing umpires the authority to issue a pregame or postgame ejection for unsporting behavior that occurs from the time the umpires arrive at the competition site until the umpires leave the competition site.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	65%	122	59%	108	56%	139	60%	369
Negative Impact on the Game	10%	19	17%	31	13%	33	13%	83
No Impact on the Game	25%	48	24%	44	30%	75	27%	167
TOTAL	100%	189	100%	183	100%	247	100%	619

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	67%	38	74%	61	73%	91	72%	190
Negative Impact on the Game	12%	7	12%	10	5%	6	9%	23
No Impact on the Game	21%	12	13%	11	22%	27	19%	50
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	82	100%	124	100%	263

UMPIRE	
95%	533
0%	1
5%	30
100%	564

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	87%	13	100%	12	79%	15	87%	40
Negative Impact on the Game	13%	2	0%	0	11%	2	9%	4
No Impact on the Game	0%	0	0%	0	11%	2	4%	2
TOTAL	100%	15	100%	12	100%	19	100%	46

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Positive Impact on the Game	75%	75	79%	65	64%	48	73%	188
Negative Impact on the Game	13%	13	6%	5	19%	14	12%	32
No Impact on the Game	12%	12	15%	12	17%	13	14%	37
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	82	100%	75	100%	257

POSSIBLE RULES CHANGES

It is a non-rules changes year for softball. However, the Softball Rules Committee is interested in gathering data for future discussion and consideration on the following topics.

Would you be in favor of the following proposed rules changes?

1. Requiring a double base at first base.

Rationale: May prevent collisions at first base while better protecting the runner and fielder. The defense is restricted to only using the white portion and the batter-runner is restricted to the colored portion. Will ensure batter-runners utilize the runner's lane when running through first base. The double base at first base is required for USA Softball and is permitted for use in high school competition. This proposed change would require the installation of a second set of base anchors and the purchase of the double base. Overall equipment cost would be approximately \$250 per field, but installation may be higher for a turf field.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	64%	121	55%	102	55%	137	58%	360
No	29%	55	32%	58	37%	92	33%	205
No opinion	7%	14	13%	24	8%	20	9%	58
TOTAL	100%	190	100%	184	100%	249	100%	623

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	53%	30	40%	36	34%	44	40%	110
No	32%	18	51%	45	53%	68	48%	131
No opinion	16%	9	9%	8	13%	17	12%	34
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	89	100%	129	100%	275

UMPIRE	
66%	376
28%	162
6%	33
100%	571

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	53%	9	64%	7	62%	13	59%	29
No	18%	3	36%	4	19%	4	22%	11
No opinion	29%	5	0%	0	19%	4	18%	9
TOTAL	100%	17	100%	11	100%	21	100%	49

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	62%	63	54%	45	63%	48	60%	156
No	27%	27	33%	27	25%	19	28%	73
No opinion	11%	11	13%	11	12%	9	12%	31
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	83	100%	76	100%	260

2. Replacing the current 15-inch square bases at first, second and third bases with 18-inch bases.

Rationale: By enlarging the target area for both the offense and the defense, collisions and player injuries may be reduced at all bases. Defenders receiving a throw at a base will have more room to catch an errant throw and greater flexibility in setting up to receive a throw out of the runner's path thus avoiding obstruction calls. Runners will have more area to touch a base without contacting a defender or more space to slide around defenders. This proposed change would require the purchase of three, 18-inch square bases and may result in base anchors needing to be moved. Overall cost would be approximately \$975 (\$325/base).

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	29%	56	31%	58	20%	49	26%	163
No	58%	110	56%	104	66%	165	61%	379
No opinion	13%	25	12%	23	14%	35	13%	83
TOTAL	100%	191	100%	185	100%	249	100%	625

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	49%	28	31%	28	25%	32	32%	88
No	35%	20	60%	53	64%	81	56%	154
No opinion	16%	9	9%	8	11%	14	11%	31
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	89	100%	127	100%	273

UMPIRE	
42%	242
41%	232
17%	96
100%	570

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	24%	4	17%	2	30%	6	24%	12
No	47%	8	75%	9	30%	6	47%	23
No opinion	29%	5	8%	1	40%	8	29%	14
TOTAL	100%	17	100%	12	100%	20	100%	49

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	41%	41	30%	25	33%	25	35%	91
No	44%	44	51%	42	50%	38	48%	124
No opinion	16%	16	19%	16	17%	13	17%	45
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	83	100%	76	100%	260

3. Which of the proposed base options do you favor?

- A. Double bag at first base
- B. 18-inch bases
- C. Neither - Keep the rules as currently written
- D. No opinion

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
A.	61%	118	52%	97	54%	134	56%	349
B.	15%	28	15%	28	9%	22	12%	78
C.	21%	40	29%	54	35%	86	29%	180
D.	3%	6	3%	6	3%	7	3%	19
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	185	100%	249	100%	626

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
A.	36%	20	30%	27	31%	40	32%	87
B.	27%	15	17%	15	14%	18	18%	48
C.	27%	15	47%	42	50%	64	44%	121
D.	11%	6	6%	5	5%	7	7%	18
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	89	100%	129	100%	274

UMPIRE	
58%	329
19%	110
20%	116
3%	16
100%	571

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
A.	47%	8	58%	7	52%	11	52%	26
B.	12%	2	0%	0	10%	2	8%	4
C.	18%	3	42%	5	14%	3	22%	11
D.	24%	4	0%	0	24%	5	18%	9
TOTAL	100%	17	100%	12	100%	21	100%	50

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
A.	51%	52	45%	38	57%	43	51%	133
B.	22%	22	19%	16	13%	10	18%	48
C.	22%	22	33%	28	22%	17	26%	67
D.	5%	5	2%	2	8%	6	5%	13
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	84	100%	76	100%	261

4. Permitting the use of an exclusively one-way electronic communication device from the dugout to the field for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call.

Rationale: Improve the pace of the game and maintain the integrity of a team's signs.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	51%	97	48%	88	34%	84	43%	269
No	40%	76	43%	80	52%	129	46%	285
No opinion	10%	19	9%	17	14%	35	11%	71
TOTAL	100%	192	100%	185	100%	248	100%	625

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	60%	34	53%	47	38%	49	47%	130
No	32%	18	39%	35	44%	56	40%	109
No opinion	9%	5	8%	7	18%	23	13%	35
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	89	100%	128	100%	274

UMPIRE	
47%	270
38%	215
15%	86
100%	571

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	59%	10	50%	6	38%	8	48%	24
No	35%	6	33%	4	33%	7	34%	17
No opinion	6%	1	17%	2	29%	6	18%	9
TOTAL	100%	17	100%	12	100%	21	100%	50

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	57%	58	50%	42	47%	36	52%	136
No	32%	32	38%	32	41%	31	36%	95
No opinion	11%	11	12%	10	12%	9	11%	30
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	84	100%	76	100%	261

5. Requiring the batter to make an attempt to avoid being hit by a pitch regardless of if the ball is entirely in the batter's box.

Rationale: Requiring the batter to always avoid being hit by a pitch removes the umpire's judgment on if the pitch was or was not entirely in the batter's box at the time it contacted the batter.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	28%	53	30%	55	30%	74	29%	182
No	70%	133	65%	120	66%	164	67%	417
No opinion	3%	5	5%	10	4%	10	4%	25
TOTAL	100%	191	100%	185	100%	248	100%	624

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	52%	29	44%	39	44%	56	46%	124
No	34%	19	44%	39	43%	55	42%	113
No opinion	14%	8	11%	10	13%	17	13%	35
TOTAL	100%	56	100%	88	100%	128	100%	272

UMPIRE	
33%	189
61%	347
6%	35
100%	571

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	41%	7	42%	5	67%	14	52%	26
No	59%	10	50%	6	19%	4	40%	20
No opinion	0%	0	8%	1	14%	3	8%	4
TOTAL	100%	17	100%	12	100%	21	100%	50

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	47%	47	57%	48	56%	42	53%	137
No	45%	45	35%	29	33%	25	38%	99
No opinion	9%	9	8%	7	11%	8	9%	24
TOTAL	100%	101	100%	84	100%	75	100%	260

6. Requiring padding on sideline and home run fences constructed of wood, concrete or brick.

Rationale: Currently, padding is strongly recommended for these fences constructed of wood, concrete and brick. This proposed change would mirror padding requirements for backstops of the same materials and would be phased in over many years.

HEAD COACH	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	89%	170	82%	152	76%	188	82%	510
No	6%	11	8%	14	12%	29	9%	54
No opinion	5%	10	10%	19	13%	32	10%	61
TOTAL	100%	191	100%	185	100%	249	100%	625

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	75%	43	63%	56	56%	71	62%	170
No	7%	4	24%	21	24%	31	21%	56
No opinion	18%	10	13%	12	20%	25	17%	47
TOTAL	100%	57	100%	89	100%	127	100%	273

UMPIRE	
78%	443
5%	28
17%	98
100%	569

COMMISSIONER	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	76%	13	83%	10	76%	16	78%	39
No	6%	1	17%	2	0%	0	6%	3
No opinion	18%	3	0%	0	24%	5	16%	8
TOTAL	100%	17	100%	12	100%	21	100%	50

SWA	Division I		Division II		Division III		Overall	
Yes	83%	83	81%	68	84%	64	83%	215
No	8%	8	12%	10	7%	5	9%	23
No opinion	9%	9	7%	6	9%	7	8%	22
TOTAL	100%	100	100%	84	100%	76	100%	260