

## 2024 Women's Softball Rules Results

### **Methods**

- This was a survey of athletic directors, conference administrators (e.g. commissioners and coordinators), head coaches, senior woman administrators and umpires aimed at obtaining their feedback on new rules changes and support for potential rules changes.
- The survey was designed to take no more than 10-minutes and was administered online through the Qualtrics survey software.
- The survey was open from October 28 to November 20.
- •The survey was distributed to almost 1,900 coaches and umpires. The link to the survey was posted to an online survey dashboard designed for athletics directors, conference commissioners and senior woman administrators to provide rules feedback during the 2024-25 academic year. A notice about the use of the survey dashboard was emailed to all athletics directors and conference commissioners in Fall 2023 and again in late January 2024. The survey availability was highlighted in the NCAA Weekly and follow-up emails were sent to coaches and officials. Of the 4,022 possible participants, there were 846 completed surveys (21 percent response rate).

#### 2025 Women's Softball Rules Survey Report

*QUANTITATIVE DATA* 12/12/2024

#### Response Title Recorded **Possible** Rate DI Head Coach 42% 126 299 87 32% DII Head Coach 274 DIII Head Coach 134 395 34% 347 36% TOTAL COACHES 968 2% DI AD 6 301 DII AD 17 6% 287 DIII AD 50 407 12% 73 7% TOTAL ADs 995 17 DI SWA 284 6% 13 5% DII SWA 261 19 5% DIII SWA 371 TOTAL SWAs 49 916 5% DI Commissioner 70 6% 4 DII Commissioner 9% 4 47 DIII Commissioner 72 22% 16 TOTAL COMMISSIONERS 189 13% 24 Coordinators 16 50 32% TOTAL COORDINATORS 16 32% 50 Umpire 337 904 37% TOTAL UMPIRES 37% 337 904 TOTAL 846 4,022 21%

#### **REVIEW PREVIOUS CHANGES**

What impact has the rules change below had on competition?

1. Changing the penalty for a time-between-pitches violation by the pitcher or catcher to an illegal pitch.

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC	
Positive	51%	177	62%	78	46%	40	44%	59
Negative	16%	54	16%	20	20%	17	13%	17
No Impact	33%	116	22%	28	34%	30	43%	58
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	o	verall*	Γ	OII AD	DIII	AD		
Positive	58%	42	59%	10	54%	27	*Includes all	divisions
Negative	4%	3	6%	1	4%	2		
No Impact	38%	28	35%	6	42%	21		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50		
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	C	verall	DI SWA		DII S	SWA	DIII SWA	
Positive	67%	33	65%	11	69%	9	68%	13
Negative	10%	5	12%	2	15%	2	5%	1
No Impact	22%	11	24%	4	15%	2	26%	5
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19
COMMISSIONER	O	verall*	DIII CON	MISSIONER				
Positive	75%	18	81%	10	*Includes al	1 1::.:		
		10	0170	13	"Includes at	l aivisions		
Negative	0%	0	0%	0	"Includes al	l aivisions		
Negative No Impact	0% 25%				*Includes al	i aivisions		
		0	0%	0	"Includes al	aivisions		
No Impact	25% 100%	0 6	0% 19% 100%	0 3	includes at	aivisions		
No Impact TOTAL	25% 100%	0 6 24	0% 19% 100%	0 3 16	includes at	aivisions		
No Impact TOTAL OTHER	25% 100% COOL	0 6 24 RDINATOR	0% 19% 100% UN	0 3 16 MPIRES	iniciades at	aivisions		
No Impact TOTAL  OTHER  Positive	25% 100% COOI	0 6 24 RDINATOR 12	0% 19% 100% UN	0 3 16 MPIRES 234	iniciades at	aivisions		

### 2. Amending the leaving early on a pitch video review challenge.

HEAD COACH	Overall DI HC DII HC DIII HC								
HEAD COACH				DI HC		HC			
Positive	67%	233	79%	100	69%	60	54%	73	
Negative	13%	44	13%	16	20%	17	8%	11	
No Impact	20%	70	8%	10	11%	10	37%	50	
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134	
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	O	verall*	I	OII AD	DIII	AD			
Positive	38%	28	47%	8	32%	16	*Includes all	divisions	
Negative	12%	9	6%	1	14%	7			
No Impact	49%	36	47%	8	54%	27			
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50			
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	(	Overall	D	OI SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII S	WA	
Positive	57%	28	59%	10	62%	8	53%	10	
Negative	18%	9	24%	4	15%	2	16%	3	
No Impact	24%	12	18%	3	23%	3	32%	6	
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19	

COMMISSIONER	0	verall*	DIII CO	MMISSIONER	_
Positive	58%	14	44%	7	*Includes all divisions
Negative	8%	2	13%	2	
No Impact	33%	8	44%	7	
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16	
OTHER	COO	RDINATOR	U	MPIRES	_
Positive	69%	11	76%	255	
				~-	1
Negative	6%	1	11%	37	
Negative No Impact	6% 25%	4	11%	37 45	<u></u>

3. Allowing umpires to initiate a video review without requiring a coach's challenge at any point in the game when a play is not properly covered by an umpire (i.e., uncovered or doubled covered with a different signal from each umpire).

HEAD COACH	Overall DI HC		DII	HC	DIII HC			
Positive	83%	287	98%	123	84%	73	68%	91
Negative	3%	9	0%	0	6%	5	3%	4
No Impact	15%	51	2%	3	10%	9	29%	39
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall*		]	DII AD	DIII	AD		
Positive	51%	37	53%	9	46%	23	*Includes all	divisions
Negative	12%	9	18%	3	10%	5		
No Impact	37%	27	29%	5	44%	22		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50	1	
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	(	Overall	Γ	OI SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII S	WA
Positive	80%	39	94%	16	85%	11	63%	12
Negative	4%	2	6%	1	0%	0	5%	1
No Impact	16%	8	0%	0	15%	2	32%	6
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19
COMMISSIONER	O	verall*	DIII CO	MMISSIONER				
Positive	63%	15	63%	10	*Includes al	l divisions		
Negative	13%	3	13%	2				
No Impact	25%	6	25%	4	1			
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16				
OTHER	COO	RDINATOR	<b>U</b> I	MPIRES				
Positive	63%	10	93%	312	]			
Negative	0%	0	3%	9				
No Impact	38%	6	5%	16				
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	337				

#### POSSIBLE RULES CHANGES

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

1. Allowing a team to retain a video review challenge if a challenge is ruled correct.

HEAD COACH	Overall DI HC		оі нс	DII	HC	DIII HC		
Yes	82%	283	95%	120	83%	72	68%	91
No	3%	10	2%	2	3%	3	4%	5
No Opinion	16%	54	3%	4	14%	12	28%	38
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall* DII AD			DIII	AD	_		
Yes	60%	44	71%	12	54%	27	*Includes all	divisions
No	10%	7	18%	3	6%	3		
No Opinion	30%	22	12%	2	40%	20		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50		
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	C	verall	D	I SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII SWA	
Yes	82%	40	94%	16	85%	11	68%	13
No	12%	6	6%	1	15%	2	16%	3
No Opinion	6%	3	0%	0	0%	0	16%	3
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19
COMMISSIONER	o	verall*	DIII CON	MMISSIONER				
Yes	79%	19	75%	12	*Includes all	divisions		
No	0%	0	0%	0				
No Opinion	21%	5	25%	4				
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16				
OTHER	COOF	RDINATOR	UN	MPIRES				
Yes	69%	11	77%	258				
No	6%	1	15%	50				
No Opinion	25%	4	9%	29				
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	337				

# 2. Allowing an intentional base on balls (walk) to be awarded without four balls being thrown to the batter (currently requiring four balls to be thrown).

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC	
Yes	57%	199	58%	73	62%	54	54%	72
No	41%	141	39%	49	36%	31	46%	61
No Opinion	2%	7	3%	4	2%	2	1%	1
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	o	verall*	1	OII AD	DIII AD			
Yes	82%	60	88%	15	80%	40	*Includes all	divisions
No	15%	11	12%	2	16%	8		
No Opinion	3%	2	0%	0	4%	2		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50		
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	C	Overall	Γ	OI SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII SWA	
Yes	59%	29	53%	9	54%	7	68%	13
No	39%	19	47%	8	38%	5	32%	6
No Opinion	2%	1	0%	0	8%	1	0%	0
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19
COMMISSIONER	O	verall*	DIII CO	MMISSIONER				
Yes	79%	19	75%	12	*Includes al	l divisions		
No	13%	3	13%	2				
No Opinion	8%	2	13%	2				
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16				
OTHER	COOI	RDINATOR	U	MPIRES				
Yes	81%	13	77%	260				
No	13%	2	21%	71				
No Opinion	6%	1	2%	6				
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	337				

3. To permit an exclusively one-way electronic communication device to be used by the offense (in addition to the defense) and to permit the device to be used while on offense from the coaches' box to relay the batter's signal.

HEAD COACH	Overall DI HC		DII	HC	DIII HC			
Yes	<i>57</i> %	199	60%	75	57%	50	55%	74
No	29%	101	31%	39	32%	28	25%	34
No Opinion	14%	47	10%	12	10%	9	19%	26
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall*		]	OII AD	DIII	AD		
Yes	51%	37	53%	9	50%	25	*Includes all	divisions
No	37%	27	29%	5	42%	21		
No Opinion	12%	9	18%	3	8%	4		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50		
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	C	Overall	Γ	OI SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII SWA	
Yes	53%	26	65%	11	54%	7	42%	8
No	35%	17	29%	5	31%	4	42%	8
No Opinion	12%	6	6%	1	15%	2	16%	3
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19
COMMISSIONER	o	verall*	DIII CO	MMISSIONER				
Yes	67%	16	50%	8	*Includes al	l divisions		
No	13%	3	19%	3				
No Opinion	21%	5	31%	5				
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16				
OTHER	COOI	RDINATOR	U	MPIRES				
Yes	63%	10	48%	163				
No	38%	6	38%	129				
No Opinion	0%	0	13%	45				
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	337				

### 4. To require the use of the double base at first base (currently both the single and double base may be used).

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC	
Yes	35%	123	33%	42	28%	24	43%	57
No	44%	154	47%	59	41%	36	44%	59
No Opinion	20%	70	20%	25	31%	27	13%	18
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	O	verall*	I	OII AD	DIII	AD		
Yes	48%	35	41%	7	48%	24	*Includes all	divisions
No	38%	28	47%	8	38%	19		
No Opinion	14%	10	12%	2	14%	7		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50		
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	C	verall	Г	OI SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII S	WA
Yes	45%	22	47%	8	15%	2	63%	12
No	39%	19	41%	7	54%	7	26%	5
No Opinion	16%	8	12%	2	31%	4	11%	2
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19
COMMISSIONER	O	verall*	DIII CO	MMISSIONER				
Yes	46%	11	44%	7	*Includes al	l divisions		
No	38%	9	38%	6				
No Opinion	17%	4	19%	3				
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16				
OTHER	COOI	RDINATOR	UI	MPIRES				
Yes	56%	9	58%	197				
No	38%	6	30%	100	]			
No Opinion	6%	1	12%	40				
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	337				

# 5. To require batters to be in the batter's box within 12 seconds (currently 10 seconds) after the pitcher receives the ball (i.e., 8 seconds

HEAD COACH	Overall			DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC	
Yes	56%	195	59%	74	54%	47	55%	74	
No	23%	79	24%	30	21%	18	23%	31	
No Opinion	21%	73	17%	22	25%	22	22%	29	
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134	
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	Overall*		]	OII AD	DIII AD				
Yes	38%	28	53%	9	36%	18	*Includes all	divisions	
No	40%	29	29%	5	42%	21	1		
No Opinion	22%	16	18%	3	22%	11	]		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50			
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	(	Overall	Γ	OI SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII SWA		
Yes	45%	22	53%	9	38%	5	42%	8	
No	31%	15	47%	8	31%	4	16%	3	
No Opinion	24%	12	0%	0	31%	4	42%	8	
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19	
COMMISSIONER	O	verall*	DIII CO	MMISSIONER					
Yes	21%	5	19%	3	*Includes al	l divisions			
No	46%	11	38%	6					
No Opinion	33%	8	44%	7					
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16					
OTHER	COOI	RDINATOR	U	MPIRES					
Yes	25%	4	14%	48					
No	56%	9	76%	255					
No Opinion	19%	3	10%	34					
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	337					

6. To require a batter's entire foot to be outside the lines of the batter's box and in contact with the ground at the moment of bat-ball contact for the batter to be considered out of the box.

HEAD COACH	Overall		DI HC		DII HC		DIII HC	
Yes	59%	203	55%	69	63%	55	59%	79
No	34%	119	37%	46	29%	25	36%	48
No Opinion	7%	25	9%	11	8%	7	5%	7
TOTAL	100%	347	100%	126	100%	87	100%	134
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR	O	Overall*		OII AD	DIII	AD		
Yes	59%	43	76%	13	56%	28	*Includes all	divisions
No	23%	17	12%	2	24%	12		
No Opinion	18%	13	12%	2	20%	10		
TOTAL	100%	73	100%	17	100%	50		
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR	C	Overall	Г	OI SWA	DII S	SWA	DIII S	WA
Yes	61%	30	65%	11	69%	9	53%	10
No	24%	12	18%	3	15%	2	37%	7
No Opinion	14%	7	18%	3	15%	2	11%	2
TOTAL	100%	49	100%	17	100%	13	100%	19
COMMISSIONER	O	verall*	DIII CO	MMISSIONER				
Yes	58%	14	56%	9	*Includes al	l divisions		
No	4%	1	0%	0				
No Opinion	38%	9	44%	7	1			
TOTAL	100%	24	100%	16				
OTHER	COOI	RDINATOR	U	MPIRES				
Yes	81%	13	75%	254	1			
No	13%	2	21%	72	]			
No Opinion	6%	1	3%	11	]			
TOTAL	100%	16	100%	337				