



## 2024-25 Softball Rules - Survey Results

### Methods

- This was a survey of head coaches, directors of athletics, senior woman administrators, conference commissioners, conference coordinators of officials and umpires. The purpose was to gather feedback on behalf of the Softball Rules Committee on proposed rules changes for the next two years (2026 and 2027).
- 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 April 1 to April 30, 2025.
- The survey was distributed via email to coaches, umpires and conference coordinators of officials. The survey link was posted to an online survey dashboard webpage designed for athletics directors, senior woman administrators and conference commissioners to provide rules survey feedback during the 2024-25 academic year. A notice about the use of the survey dashboard was included in the NCAA Weekly to all athletics directors and conference commissioners prior to the survey launch. Of the 5,189 possible participants, there were 961 completed surveys (19 percent response rate).

## 2025 Softball Rules Survey Report

### QUANTITATIVE DATA

5/1/2025

Title	Response	
	Recorded	Possible Rate
DI Head Coach	114	307 37%
DII Head Coach	52	272 19%
DIII Head Coach	93	394 24%
<b>TOTAL COACHES</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>973 27%</b>
DI Athletics Director	7	304 2%
DII Athletics Director	24	289 8%
DIII Athletics Director	31	403 8%
<b>TOTAL ATHL. DIRECTORS</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>996 6%</b>
DI Conference Comm	6	30 20%
DII Conference Comm	6	23 26%
DIII Conference Comm	14	43 33%
<b>TOTAL COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>96 27%</b>
DI Senior Woman Admin.	15	280 5%
DII Senior Woman Admin.	16	263 6%
DIII Senior Woman Admin.	11	368 3%
<b>TOTAL SWAs</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>911 5%</b>
Conference Coordinator	9	52 17%
Umpire	563	2161 26%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>5189 19%</b>

Throughout the report, data are provided for groups in which the n = 10.

## POSSIBLE RULES CHANGES

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

1. Requiring a batter's entire foot to be outside the lines of the batter's box and in contact with the ground or any part of the foot touching home plate at the moment of bat-ball contact for the batter to be considered out of the box. Also, allowing video review to determine if a violation occurred.

<b>HEAD COACH</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	61%	207	60%	88	59%	58	66%	61
No	32%	110	37%	54	31%	31	27%	25
No Opinion	6%	22	3%	5	10%	10	8%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>93</b>

<b>ATHLETICS DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	51%	28	57%	4	50%	12	52%	16
No	31%	17	29%	2	33%	8	29%	9
No Opinion	18%	10	14%	1	17%	4	19%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	52%	13	67%	4	83%	5	31%	4
No	24%	6	33%	2	0%	0	31%	4
No Opinion	24%	6	0%	0	17%	1	38%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	60%	25	60%	9	56%	9	64%	7
No	29%	12	27%	4	31%	5	27%	3
No Opinion	12%	5	13%	2	13%	2	9%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>OTHER TITLES</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>		<b>Umpire</b>	
Yes	89%	8	82%	458
No	11%	1	16%	89
No Opinion	0%	0	2%	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>561</b>

## 2. Implementing a time limit on offensive and defensive conferences.

<i>HEAD COACH</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	47%	160	53%	78	59%	58	26%	24
No	41%	137	35%	51	33%	33	57%	53
No Opinion	12%	41	12%	17	8%	8	17%	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>93</b>

<i>ATHLETICS DIRECTOR</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	80%	44	57%	4	83%	20	77%	24
No	9%	5	29%	2	4%	1	13%	4
No Opinion	11%	6	14%	1	13%	3	10%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

<i>COMMISSIONER</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	96%	24	100%	6	83%	5	100%	13
No	4%	1	0%	0	17%	1	0%	0
No Opinion	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13</b>

<i>SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	79%	33	80%	12	81%	13	73%	8
No	17%	7	7%	1	19%	3	27%	3
No Opinion	5%	2	13%	2	0%	0	0%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>

<i>OTHER TITLES</i>	Coordinator		Umpire	
Yes	78%	7	59%	330
No	11%	1	32%	179
No Opinion	11%	1	9%	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>562</b>

3. Allowing video review to determine if a runner passed a previous runner during live ball play.

<i>HEAD COACH</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	71%	240	87%	127	67%	66	51%	47
No	13%	43	8%	11	22%	22	11%	10
No Opinion	16%	55	5%	8	11%	11	39%	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	338	100%	146	100%	99	100%	93

<i>ATHLETICS DIRECTOR</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	47%	26	71%	5	63%	15	35%	11
No	33%	18	29%	2	21%	5	42%	13
No Opinion	20%	11	0%	0	17%	4	23%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	55	100%	7	100%	24	100%	31

<i>COMMISSIONER</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	44%	11	50%	3	67%	4	31%	4
No	36%	9	50%	3	33%	2	31%	4
No Opinion	20%	5	0%	0	0%	0	38%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	25	100%	6	100%	6	100%	13

<i>SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	57%	24	67%	10	50%	8	55%	6
No	24%	10	13%	2	25%	4	36%	4
No Opinion	19%	8	20%	3	25%	4	9%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	42	100%	15	100%	16	100%	11

<i>OTHER TITLES</i>	Coordinator		Umpire	
Yes	89%	8	73%	412
No	0%	0	20%	111
No Opinion	11%	1	7%	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	9	100%	562

4. Allowing video review to determine if a base runner violated the look-back rule.

<i>HEAD COACH</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	49%	167	62%	91	41%	41	38%	35
No	27%	92	22%	32	35%	35	27%	25
No Opinion	23%	79	16%	23	23%	23	35%	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>93</b>

<i>ATHLETICS DIRECTOR</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	29%	16	57%	4	42%	10	19%	6
No	42%	23	29%	2	33%	8	48%	15
No Opinion	29%	16	14%	1	25%	6	32%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

<i>COMMISSIONER</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	28%	7	50%	3	33%	2	15%	2
No	44%	11	50%	3	67%	4	31%	4
No Opinion	28%	7	0%	0	0%	0	54%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13</b>

<i>SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	43%	18	60%	9	25%	4	45%	5
No	31%	13	7%	1	44%	7	45%	5
No Opinion	26%	11	33%	5	31%	5	9%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>

<i>OTHER TITLES</i>	Coordinator		Umpire	
Yes	67%	6	54%	302
No	22%	2	39%	216
No Opinion	11%	1	8%	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>561</b>

5. Allowing video review to determine if a base runner feints an attempt or makes an attempt to go to second base after making the turn at or overrunning first base.

<i>HEAD COACH</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	56%	189	69%	101	49%	49	42%	39
No	29%	99	23%	34	38%	38	29%	27
No Opinion	15%	49	8%	11	12%	12	28%	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92</b>

QUESTION 5 CONTINUED

**ATHLETICS DIRECTOR**

	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	31%	17	71%	5	42%	10	23%	7
No	47%	26	29%	2	50%	12	45%	14
No Opinion	22%	12	0%	0	8%	2	32%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

**COMMISSIONER**

	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	36%	9	67%	4	33%	2	23%	3
No	40%	10	33%	2	67%	4	31%	4
No Opinion	24%	6	0%	0	0%	0	46%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13</b>

**SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.**

	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	52%	22	73%	11	38%	6	45%	5
No	36%	15	20%	3	44%	7	45%	5
No Opinion	12%	5	7%	1	19%	3	9%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>

**OTHER TITLES**

	Coordinator		Umpire	
Yes	78%	7	51%	284
No	22%	2	43%	240
No Opinion	0%	0	7%	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>561</b>

6. Allowing the defensive team to huddle during a video review and/or meet with coaches along the foul line where their dugout is located. Offensive coaches may talk with the batter or on-deck batter. Neither team will be charged with a conference in these situations. Teams must be ready to resume play when the umpires return from the review. If the defensive team is not ready to resume play, a ball will be awarded to the batter. If the batter delays taking their position in the batter's box, a strike will be assessed to the batter.

<i>HEAD COACH</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	88%	299	88%	129	92%	91	85%	79
No	8%	27	10%	15	6%	6	6%	6
No Opinion	4%	12	1%	2	2%	2	9%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	338	100%	146	100%	99	100%	93

<i>ATHLETICS DIRECTOR</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	80%	44	100%	7	83%	20	77%	24
No	9%	5	0%	0	8%	2	10%	3
No Opinion	11%	6	0%	0	8%	2	13%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	55	100%	7	100%	24	100%	31

<i>COMMISSIONER</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	68%	17	67%	4	83%	5	62%	8
No	16%	4	33%	2	17%	1	8%	1
No Opinion	16%	4	0%	0	0%	0	31%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	25	100%	6	100%	6	100%	13

<i>SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	95%	40	93%	14	100%	16	91%	10
No	2%	1	7%	1	0%	0	0%	0
No Opinion	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	9%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	42	100%	15	100%	16	100%	11

<i>OTHER TITLES</i>	Coordinator		Umpire	
Yes	78%	7	82%	460
No	22%	2	14%	77
No Opinion	0%	0	4%	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	9	100%	561



7. Requiring that all protests be resolved during the game (games would no longer be played “under protest” for postgame decision by the secretary-rules editor).

<i>HEAD COACH</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	67%	226	73%	106	71%	70	54%	50
No	18%	62	16%	24	16%	16	24%	22
No Opinion	15%	49	11%	16	13%	13	22%	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	337	100%	146	100%	99	100%	92

<i>ATHLETICS DIRECTOR</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	62%	34	57%	4	67%	16	58%	18
No	18%	10	43%	3	21%	5	16%	5
No Opinion	20%	11	0%	0	13%	3	26%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	55	100%	7	100%	24	100%	31

<i>COMMISSIONER</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	80%	20	83%	5	100%	6	69%	9
No	12%	3	17%	1	0%	0	15%	2
No Opinion	8%	2	0%	0	0%	0	15%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	25	100%	6	100%	6	100%	13

<i>SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.</i>	Overall		Division I		Division II		Division III	
Yes	74%	31	80%	12	75%	12	64%	7
No	21%	9	13%	2	19%	3	36%	4
No Opinion	5%	2	7%	1	6%	1	0%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	42	100%	15	100%	16	100%	11

<i>OTHER TITLES</i>	Coordinator		Umpire	
Yes	78%	7	71%	401
No	22%	2	15%	83
No Opinion	0%	0	14%	78
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	9	100%	562

8. If the initial call on the field is reviewable (such as a fair ball), and after the play the crew changes the call to something unreviewable (such as a foul ball), allowing the call to remain reviewable.

<b>HEAD COACH</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	75%	252	82%	120	70%	69	68%	63
No	8%	26	8%	11	11%	11	4%	4
No Opinion	18%	59	10%	15	19%	19	27%	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92</b>

<b>ATHLETICS DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	67%	37	57%	4	71%	17	65%	20
No	9%	5	0%	0	8%	2	10%	3
No Opinion	24%	13	43%	3	21%	5	26%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	64%	16	100%	6	67%	4	46%	6
No	8%	2	0%	0	17%	1	8%	1
No Opinion	28%	7	0%	0	17%	1	46%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>SENIOR WOMAN ADMIN.</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Division I</b>		<b>Division II</b>		<b>Division III</b>	
Yes	69%	29	80%	12	81%	13	36%	4
No	14%	6	7%	1	6%	1	36%	4
No Opinion	17%	7	13%	2	13%	2	27%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>OTHER TITLES</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>		<b>Umpire</b>	
Yes	33%	3	59%	329
No	56%	5	28%	160
No Opinion	11%	1	13%	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>562</b>