



MEMORANDUM

August 12, 2026

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Softball Conference Commissioners, Conference Administrators, Directors of Athletics and Head Coaches.

FROM: Besty Wilcox, chair
NCAA Division I Softball Rules Subcommittee

Vickie Van Kleeck, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Division I Softball Rules Subcommittee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Softball Playing Rules Experimental Rule for the 2027 Season.

In an effort to obtain data and feedback, the NCAA Division I Softball Rules Subcommittee is allowing Division I conferences to experiment with the use of electronic equipment (tablets) to access scouting and analytics information, excluding information relating to balls/strikes, in the dugout during the 2027 season. As a note, this experimental rule is only permitted during conference play including conference tournaments.

Experimental Rule: To permit the use of electronic equipment (tablets) to access scouting and analytics information, excluding information relating to balls/strikes, during the game in the dugout. The following information must be provided for consideration of this experimental rule: (1) An outline of the conference's plan for use of the electronic equipment, (2) The type of equipment that will be provided or used, (3) Details on the conference's policies/procedures to ensure appropriate use of the equipment, and (4) Details of implementing a device management feature to limit access of applications and metrics during a game.

Data Collection: (1) The number of uses throughout the conference season, (2) Effectiveness of the technology for the purposes of coaching and player development, (3) Any pitfalls or issues with the technology (e.g., system failure, connectivity issues), onboarding of facilities/institutions or management of the experimental rule, and (4) Overall benefits and/or effectiveness of the experimental rule.

Any conference interested in experimenting must submit the request with all information above included to Ashlee Follis (afollis@ncaa.org). Conferences granted permission to experiment are required to collect the data outlined above and submit it to the rules subcommittee by June 11, 2027.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ashlee Follis (afollis@ncaa.org).

BW/VVK:af

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cc: Division I Conference Softball Coordinators
NCAA Division I Softball Rules Subcommittee
Selected NCAA Staff Members