



## **NCAA Baseball Video Review Regulations** *2021 Season*

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### **I. Overview**

Video Replay Review in the NCAA (hereafter, “Video Review”) is designed to provide timely review of certain disputed calls in all games in NCAA stadiums that are televised (either on linear television or digital platform). A “call” as described in these regulations means a judgment by one or more umpires or by the entire crew after conferring with one another (hereafter, the “umpires”) on a specific play, which may consist of an oral pronouncement or physical gesture (or may not, in the case of a “non-call”). Video Review may be used to overturn, confirm or let stand the umpires’ call on the field subject to and in accordance with the terms and conditions described below. Subject to its obligations the NCAA reserves the right to rule on any point with respect to Video Review that is not covered by these regulations.

The NCAA has approved one set of Video Review rules for all games. These rules can be used in both conference and non-conference games, including the NCAA tournament. The head coach challenge system and Crew Chief initiated review after the 7<sup>th</sup> Inning of a 9-inning and 5<sup>th</sup> inning of a 7-inning scheduled contest, remains in effect.

### **II. Challenging and Reviewing Calls Pursuant to Video Review**

- A. Responsibilities.** Each team’s head coach is responsible for invoking challenges under the circumstances described in these regulations. Crew Chiefs are responsible for determining whether a head coach challenge is properly and timely made and determining whether to review a play or call on their own initiative. Moreover, prior to the initiation of Video Review, the umpires may confer among themselves at any time and change any call (whether or not the call is reviewable) in accordance with NCAA Appendix E - “Getting the Call Right.” If a reviewable call is changed in this fashion, the new call shall be subject to Video Review as provided in these Regulations.

## **B. Head Coach Challenges.**

1. Each team will receive two (2) head coach challenges to start each game. A head coach may challenge as many reviewable calls within a single play as he desires using one challenge. Once a team has exhausted its available head coach challenge(s), it will no longer have the ability to challenge any additional play or call in the game. **If a head coach's challenge is successful in overturning a call, the coach will retain the challenge to use if needed later in the game.**
2. A team head coach is the only person authorized and permitted to request or initiate Video Review on behalf of the team during a game, unless the head coach cannot perform his Video Review responsibilities due to injury, illness, ejection, removal or other legitimate reasons, in which case the coach designated to assume the head coach's responsibilities shall have the sole right to request or initiate Video Review. As used in these regulations, the term "head coach" refers to a team field head coach or such other person who assumes his duties as described above.

## **C. Crew Chief Reviews.** At any time during a game, a Crew Chief may, in his sole discretion, initiate Video Review of Reviewable Calls A-F, i.e. a potential home run call (as defined in Section V. below). With respect to Reviewable Calls G-L, beginning in the eighth inning (or sixth inning for a prescribed seven-inning game), a Crew Chief may, in his sole discretion, conduct Video Review upon his own initiative or upon the request of a head coach. These Video Reviews are subject to the following:

1. A team that has exhausted its head coach's challenges may within the time limits listed in Section D below, for Reviewable Calls A-F and not before the eighth inning (sixth inning for a prescribed seven inning game) for Reviewable Calls G-L, request but cannot insist that the Crew Chief invoke his right to initiate Video Review.
2. Except in the case of the NCAA's Reviewable Calls A-F, the Crew Chief shall not initiate Video Review of any play or call if the requesting head coach has a head coach challenge remaining, except beginning in the eighth inning (sixth inning of a prescribed seven inning game).
3. Beginning with the eighth inning of all games and (the sixth inning for seven-inning games), anytime a Reviewable Call is reviewed on a Crew Chief's initiative, the Crew Chief or video review official will have the authority to review all reviewable aspects of the play within that review. This does not apply to reviews initiated by a head coach challenge.

## **D. Timing of Head Coach challenges and Crew Chief reviews.**

1. Except as otherwise set forth in Sections II.D.2, 3, and 4 and Section H. below, head coach challenges and Crew Chief reviews must comply with the following in order to initiate Video Review:
  - a) A head coach must notify an umpire that the team is contemplating (either through verbal and or holding his hand in the air) challenging the play in less than ten (10) seconds after the conclusion of the play. If a head coach wishes to invoke his challenge, he must do so within approximately thirty (30) seconds after the conclusion of the play or prior to the commencement of the next play, whichever occurs first. This time limit applies to all plays in the game, including plays that end an inning and plays that end the game. The crew chief will be the sole authority as to when "all play has ceased" and "when the next play has commenced." If a head coach enters the field of play to discuss a play with the calling

umpire and or Crew Chief, then he/she will have approximately 30 seconds once the head coach receives an explanation of the call or ruling. Once the head coach receives his/her explanation they would need to state his/her intention to challenge or leave the field.

#### **Signaling for a head coach challenge**

To notify an umpire that he wishes to invoke a head coach challenge, a head coach may approach an umpire on the field to do so, but is encouraged instead to indicate his desire to challenge the call verbally and/or by making a "headset" motion from the top step of the dugout. The head coach must communicate with an umpire on the field, preferably the plate umpire or Crew Chief. At this time, the Crew Chief will ask the head coach to specify what is being challenged. If the head coach wants to challenge more than one (1) aspect of a play, he will need to inform the Crew Chief at this time. After receiving information from the challenging head coach, the Crew Chief will inform the opposing head coach of the challenge and ask the opposing head coach if he wishes to challenge any aspect of the play. It is always the head coach's responsibility to ensure that an umpire (either verbally or with a reciprocal hand gesture) has acknowledged his request to initiate a head coach challenge within the time limit set forth above and to communicate the call being challenged with the required level of specificity (see Section II. below). The Crew Chief will keep record of any challenge by a head coach and inform them once their challenges have been exhausted.

b) The conclusion of the play shall be determined as set forth in Section II.E below. For purposes of these regulations, the next "play" shall commence when the pitcher is on the rubber preparing to start his delivery and the batter has entered the batter's box (unless the defensive team initiates an appeal play in which case any call made during the play prior to the appeal still may be subject to Video Review). No substitutions or pitching changes may take place while the umpires are in the process of invoking Video Review.

2. In the case of a mound visit, a head coach must exercise his challenge prior to the commencement of the next play, unless the mound visit results in a pitching change, in which case a head coach must exercise his challenge in accordance with Section II.D.3 below.
3. In the case of a pitching change after the conclusion of a play but before the conclusion of the inning: (a) the defensive head coach must exercise his challenge before signaling for a pitching change; and (b) the offensive head coach must exercise his challenge, before the relief pitcher steps onto the warning track or, in the case of on-field bullpen areas, crosses the foul line. The crew chief will have the option of initiating Video Review after a pitching change, but prior to the next pitch, should additional critical information become available from the crew. Since there is no time frame on when a crew chief may invoke Video Review (except before next pitch), there should be no restriction on when a Crew Chief initiates Video Review during a pitching change. During the pitching change, the Crew Chief may obtain critical information from the crew that could lead to a review. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the crew chief shall have the discretion to permit a challenge by the offensive head coach if the crew chief determines that the defensive head coach called for a relief pitcher in an accelerated fashion for the sole purpose of preventing the offensive head coach from having a reasonable opportunity to exercise his challenge.
4. In the case of a play that results in a Crew Chief review in the last two innings of a game, a head coach who seeks to exercise a challenge with respect to another call from that play which is not otherwise part of the Crew Chief review must invoke his challenge before the Crew Chief leaves the field of play.
5. If the Crew Chief determines that a team invocation of a head coach's challenge is untimely, the play shall not be reviewed, the umpire's call shall stand, and the team shall not be charged

with a challenge. The Crew Chief shall have the final authority to determine whether a head coach's challenge is timely. The judgment of the Crew Chief regarding the timeliness of a head coach's challenge shall be final and binding on both teams and shall not be reviewable by Video Review or otherwise.

**E. Mechanics of time limit for invoking video review for plays that do not result in a third out call.** Head coach's challenge or Crew Chief review is timely as set forth in Section II.D above. For purposes of these regulations, the conclusion of a play shall be indicated by an umpire's final "safe" or "out" call, an umpire calling "time", or returning to their position should the ball remain alive.

**F. Duration of video review.** *The Crew Chief and calling umpire (or closest umpire should the calling umpire be the Crew Chief) should be expeditious during review.* If replay does not show one view that clearly indicates the call should be overturned, then conclude the review, the play stands as called and return to the field.

**G. Challenge of a reviewable play by both head coaches.**

1. Both head coaches may challenge different reviewable calls within the same reviewable play. These challenges may be in the form of a head coach's challenge or a request for a Crew Chief review, to the extent available.
2. The Crew Chief shall review all challenges properly initiated and shall review the challenged calls in the order in which the calls occurred during the game. If the decision of the Crew Chief on an earlier reviewable call renders moot a later reviewable call, the Crew Chief shall not review the subsequent call. If a call challenged by a team is not reviewed by the Crew Chief by operation of the foregoing rule, that head coach's challenge shall be deemed rescinded and the team shall not be charged with the challenge.
3. If head coach challenges by both teams are not invoked simultaneously, the second team must invoke its challenge before the Crew Chief leaves the field of play; provided, however, if a call is overturned in Video Review, any team adversely affected by a Crew Chief decision to change a call has the right to use a head coach's challenge or request that a Crew Chief review another reviewable call in the same play, provided that (a) the head coach of the adversely affected team makes the head coach's challenge or requests the Crew Chief review immediately after being notified of the crew chief decision, (b) the change of the initial call affects the relevance of the subsequent call to the outcome of the play, and (c) the team adversely affected by the change in the initial call had no incentive to seek Video Review of the subsequent call until after the Crew Chief reversed the initial call. For the purposes of dealing with the Force Play Slide Rule, the defensive team will have to initiate a challenge prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> inning and Crew Chief discretion after the 7<sup>th</sup> inning for the enforcement of the Force Play Slide Rule. For purposes of this regulation, the advancement of a runner (other than the batter-runner) pursuant to a non-call of NCAA Baseball Rule 8.4(a) (Force Play Slide Rule) shall not be considered an incentive for the defensive team to seek Video Review.

**Example 1.** With two outs and no one on base, the umpires call a line drive hit to the outfield a trap but calls the batter-runner out when trying to advance to second base. The defensive team had no incentive to challenge the trap call because the batter-runner was called out at second base to end the inning. However, if the offensive team challenges the tag call at second base, and the Crew Chief overturns the call, the defensive team will be afforded the opportunity to request review of the trap call in the outfield by informing the crew chief of the replay rule or request immediately after learning of the Crew Chief's decision.

**Example 2.** With one out and a runner on second, the batter hits a long fly ball to center field that is caught. The runner on second, who had rounded third base at the time of the catch, fails to retouch third base on his way back to second base. He is tagged out at second base. The defensive team had no incentive to appeal or otherwise challenge the runner's failure to retouch third base because the runner was called out at second base to end the inning. However, if the offensive team challenges the tag call at second base, and the Crew Chief overturns the call, the defensive team will be afforded the opportunity to challenge the runner's failure to retouch third base. Because that play is an appeal play within the meaning of the NCAA Baseball Rules 8.1. (a), the defensive team must first appeal the play. If the umpire calls the runner safe at third on such appeal, the defensive team then will be afforded the opportunity to challenge the appeal play by informing the Crew Chief of the challenge immediately after the safe call. If the defensive team wants to appeal R2 not retouching 3<sup>rd</sup> base on his return to 2<sup>nd</sup>, they must do so before all fielders including the catcher have left the field. Official NCAA Rule 8.6 (b)(8)

**Example 3.** With no outs and runners on first and second, the umpire calls a double play and the runner on second advances to third. The offensive team challenges the double play. If the Crew Chief overturns the double play and one or both of the runners is ruled safe, the defensive team will be afforded an opportunity to challenge the Umpire's non-call of Official NCAA Baseball Rule 8.4. (a) Force Play Slide Rule.

4. If any of the conditions set forth in Section II.G.3 above is met and an additional call within a single play is subject to its own subsequent Video Review and the decision by the Crew Chief renders irrelevant a head coach's challenge previously used by the opposing head coach on that play, then the opposing head coach's previous challenge shall be deemed rescinded and the team shall not be charged with such challenge.

**Example.** With two outs and a runner on first, the batter hits a fly ball the outfield that is ruled "no catch," and the runner is called "out" trying to reach third base, which results in the third out of the inning. The offensive head coach challenges the call at third base, and the Crew Chief determines that the runner was safe. The defensive head coach then request review of the "no catch" call on the batted ball to the outfield, and the Crew Chief overturns the call to a "catch," which results in the third out of the inning. The offensive head coach's challenge of the call on the runner at third base is irrelevant because the batter is out by virtue of the fly ball being caught in the outfield, and therefore such previous challenge on the play would be deemed rescinded.

- H. Effect of Video Review result on post-play decision by head coach.** If a call is overturned on Video Review, any decision made by a head coach after the play and influenced by the incorrect call shall be nullified. Such head coach shall be permitted to reaffirm or change his strategic decision based on the result of the play as determined by the Crew Chief.

**Example 1.** The defensive head coach signals for a pitching change after a play and, subsequently, the offensive head coach timely initiates a challenge or the Crew Chief initiates Video Review. The Video Review results in an overturned call. Any pitching change, or attempted pitching change, made by the defensive head coach shall be nullified unless reaffirmed by him after the Crew Chief's decision is announced.

**Example 2.** With no outs and a runner on third base, the batter's bat hits the catcher's glove as he swings at a pitch and catcher's interference is called. On the swing, a fly ball is hit to left field and caught. The runner on third base tags up and scores on a close play at the plate. Pursuant to Official NCAA Baseball Rule 8-2-e because of the catcher's interference, the offensive head coach may elect either the interference penalty (*i.e.*, batter awarded first base and runner returns to third base) or the result of the play (*i.e.*, batter is out and runner scores).

The offensive head coach elects to accept the result of the play. The defensive head coach then request review of the call at home plate, and the crew chief overturns the call and rules the runner out at home plate. Knowing the final result of the play as determined by the crew chief, the offensive head coach's decision to accept the result of the play shall be nullified unless reaffirmed by him after the crew chief's decision is announced.

- I. Specificity of the challenge.** When invoking a head coach's challenge or otherwise requesting a Crew Chief review, it is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that the umpire knows the specific calls for which he is seeking Video Review, but the head coach need not state the reason for his belief that the call was incorrect. (For example, in order to challenge an "out" call on a force play at first base, the head coach need not state that the throw pulled the fielder off the bag, the runner reached first base before the ball was caught, etc.) Moreover, the Crew Chief shall have no authority to review any calls other than those included in a head coach's challenge.

*Example 1.* A runner is called safe in a rundown because the umpire rules that the fielder missed a tag (*in the immediate vicinity of a base*). The defensive team challenges the tag call with a head coach's challenge. During Video Review, the Crew Chief confirms that the tag was missed, but observes that the runner who was called safe was passed by a preceding runner in violation of Official NCAA Baseball Rule 8-5-m. The Crew Chief cannot correct the umpires' non-call regarding the passed runner because the head coach only challenged the tag call.

*Example 2.* With nobody on base, a batter-runner is called out on a close, but routine, force play at first base. It is sufficient for the head coach to communicate that he is challenging the call without any further specificity.

**J. Communicating with the teams and the public.**

1. The Crew Chief shall signal that a play is under Video Review pursuant to a head coach's challenge or Crew Chief discretion by pointing in the direction of the review equipment. The Crew Chief (even if he is the calling umpire) and another umpire (but not the calling umpire, when using centralized video review) shall move immediately towards the designated replay communication location. If in-stadium field level monitor process is being used, then the Crew Chief should select the next closest umpire to the play being reviewed, other than the calling umpire.
2. If centralized video review is not being utilized, the Crew Chief may review the calls on a replay monitor located near the field subject to the Video Review procedures in Appendix E of the NCAA Baseball Rules Book and signal the decision either to change, confirm or let stand the call on the field. If a call is changed by Video Review, the Crew Chief also shall inform the crew of any placement of runners or such other actions as may be necessary in the Crew Chief's judgment to place both teams in the same position that they would have been in had the changed call been correct in the first instance.
3. If centralized video review is being utilized, the Video Review Official may review the calls in the Video Review Center in accordance with these regulations, and inform the Crew Chief of the Video Review decision either to change the call on the field, confirm the call on the field or let stand the call on the field due to the lack of clear and convincing evidence to change it. If a call is changed by Video Review, the Video Review Official also shall inform the Crew Chief of any placement of runners or such other actions as may be necessary in the Video Review Official's judgment to place both teams in the same position that they would have been in had the changed call been correct in the first instance.

4. Upon receipt of the Video Review decision, the Crew Chief will, by signal or otherwise, announce the decision to the teams and the public, including the placement of runners or such other actions. Prior to this time, it shall be permissible for the pitcher to throw warm-up pitches and for position players to engage in other warm-up activities. If the Crew Chief believes that the decision warrants it, the Crew Chief or another umpire involved in the Video Review may personally inform one or both head coaches of the decision before play on the field is resumed.

#### **K. Irrevocable and final.**

1. Once a head coach informs an umpire that he wishes to exercise a head coach's challenge, it may not be rescinded. A head coach should not make the "headset" motion unless he is sure that he wants to initiate a challenge.
2. The Video Review decision to either uphold or change one or more calls subject to Video Review, and any decisions as to the placement of runners or other necessary actions to be taken, shall be final and binding on both teams and is not subject to further review or revision.
3. Once Video Review is initiated, no uniformed personnel or other team personnel from either team shall be permitted to further argue the contested calls or the review decision. Team personnel who violate this provision shall be ejected.
4. Official NCAA Baseball Rule 5.13 shall have no applicability to these Video Review regulations. No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions by the Crew Chief or Video Review Official. Moreover, a violation of any rule or procedure set forth herein shall not constitute a basis for protesting a game.
5. In circumstances in which Video Review is not available (*e.g.*, the call is not reviewable, no head coach challenge or Crew Chief review is available or, in the last two innings, the Crew Chief has communicated that he has declined to initiate Video Review), if a head coach, coach, or player makes reference to having observed a video replay that purportedly contradicts the call under dispute, such person is subject to immediate ejection from the game.

### **III. Standard for Changing a Call**

To change a reviewable call, there must be clear and convincing evidence to change the original call that was made on the field of play. In other words, the original decision of the umpire shall stand unchanged unless the video evidence leads the Crew Chief/Video Review Official to definitively conclude that the call on the field was incorrect.

### **IV. Correcting an Incorrect Call**

Consistent with Official NCAA Baseball Rule Appendix E if Video Review results in a change to a call that had been made on the field, the Crew Chief/Video Review Official, to the extent feasible, shall exercise his/her discretion to place both teams in the same position they would have been in had the call on the field been correct. This shall include placing runners where the Crew Chief/Video Review Official thinks those runners would have been at the conclusion of the reviewed play if the reviewed call had been correctly made in the first instance, disregarding, failures of runners to tag up based upon the initial call on the field, runners passing other runners, missing bases, *etc.* Except when applying Appendix E 1.9-10, Catch to No Catch and No Catch to Catch. Placement of runners is clearly defined.

## **Placement of Runners.**

1. ***Crew Chief/Video Review Official's Responsibility.*** All decisions regarding the placement of base runners resulting from a call that is overturned pursuant to these regulations shall be made by the Crew Chief or Video Review Official in accordance with the standard set forth in the Official NCAA Baseball Rules.
2. ***Book Awards & Discretion.*** Unless directed otherwise by the Official NCAA Baseball Rules, the Crew Chief or Video Review Official shall place the base runners on the bases he/she believes they would have reached had the reviewed call been made correctly. Any doubt regarding the placement of runners should be resolved in favor of the last base legally touched at the time of the challenged call. More than one base should not be awarded unless it is obvious to the Crew Chief/Video Review Official that a runner would have safely advanced beyond one base had the call been made correctly, or the Official NCAA Baseball Rules otherwise require such advancement.
3. ***Factors to Consider.*** The Crew Chief/Video Review Official should consider several factors when placing the runners, including: (a) the depth of fly balls; (b) the speed of runners; (c) the location of runners on the field when the play occurred; (d) the number of outs at the time of the play; and (e) whether the incorrect call affected the subsequent behavior or conduct of the offensive or defensive players.
4. ***Subsequent Calls and Outs.*** If the Crew Chief/Video Review Official determines that an incorrect call on the field had no effect on the subsequent behavior or conduct of the offensive or defensive players, the Crew Chief/Video Review Official shall change the incorrect call, but let stand any on-field calls or plays unaffected by the incorrect call. The Crew Chief/Video Review Official may not declare a runner out based on a play the umpire believes would have occurred subsequent to the play subject to Video Review.

***Example.*** A runner attempts to advance to second base on a force play. The runner fails to touch second base, and the second baseman fails to tag the runner or the base, but the umpire calls the runner "out." The runner, believing he is out, makes no attempt to touch second base and leaves the field. The offensive head coach challenges the call, and the Crew Chief determines that the second baseman did not tag the runner or the base. The Crew Chief shall reverse the call on the field, declare the runner "safe" and place him at second base.

5. ***Scoring.*** The Crew Chief/Video Review Official shall determine whether base runners would have scored had the call been made correctly, and award or nullify runs scored by a team where appropriate (inning ending call, force out at any base. If a call ends an inning- more specifically with a runner on second base and 2 outs. All runners will only advance one base, should the call be overturned from out to safe). This prevents a team being allowed to score a run based upon an incorrect call by an umpire at first base affecting the play of the defensive team.
6. ***Final and Binding.*** The decision of the Crew Chief/Video Review Official regarding the placement of runners, or runners being declared out, shall be final and binding on both Teams. On-field personnel shall be ejected if they argue or otherwise challenge the placement of runners.
7. ***Crew Chief Communication. The Crew Chief may communicate with the Video Review Official at any time during a game for purposes of confirming that an umpire's decision on the field was consistent with the Official NCAA Baseball Rules. The action could eliminate the need for an official protest; however, the***



**coach maintains the right to keep the protest in place should the NCAA Secretary Rules Editor, deem a misapplication of a rule.**

## **V. Reviewable Calls**

The only calls eligible for Video Review are set forth in this Section V. Calls not identified below may not be reviewed at any time, but nothing contained herein shall limit the umpires in their ability to convene the crew on the field to further discuss any play consistent with Official NCAA Baseball Rule Appendix E.

If a head coach challenges a call that is not eligible for review, the Crew Chief will inform him that the call is not reviewable, and the team shall not be charged with a challenge. To the extent the Crew Chief is unsure of whether a call challenged by a head coach is eligible for review, he may consult with the entire/video review official prior to making the determination. If either the team or crew invokes Video Review of a call that the Crew Chief determines is not subject to Video Review, he will inform the team that the play is not reviewable, and the team will not be charged with a challenge. To the extent that the NCAA Baseball Rules require the defensive team to appeal a play eligible for Video Review (*e.g.*, a runner missing a base), Video Review may not be initiated until the umpires rule on the appeal.

**REVIEWABLE CALLS A-F:** Crew Chief may initiate review at his discretion anytime during the game or team may use head coach challenge any time during the game:

- A. Specified Fair/Foul Ball Calls.** Calls involving a decision regarding whether a batted ball was “A FOUL BALL,” within the meaning of the NCAA Baseball Rule’s Definition of Terms Rule 2.27 but only with respect to balls that first land at or beyond the set positions of the first or third base fielder (in the case of a three-man crew, the home plate umpire has the discretion to determine where the first or third base fielder would have been set for the purpose of determining whether a fair/foul ball call is reviewable). Line drives fielded by a defensive player in the infield and balls that first land in front of the set positions of the first or third base fielder shall not be subject to review. The umpire shall determine whether a purported foul ball landed in front of the fielders’ position and thus is not subject to review. Such a determination by the umpire is not reviewable.
- B. Potential Home Run Calls.** The umpires’ decision to call or not call a home run may be reviewed if there is a question as to whether the ball left the playing field or struck an object; whether the ball struck the top of a fence, hit a railing or otherwise stayed within the field of play; whether the ball was interfered with by a fan reaching over the fence; or whether the ball was fair or foul.
- C. Catch Plays in The Outfield or Foul Territory.** An umpire’s decision whether a fielder caught a fly ball or line drive in flight in the outfield before it hit the ground (or an object other than the fielder.) *See* NCAA Baseball Rule Definition of Terms of “A Catch” Rule 2.16 and “In flight” Rule 2.45.) Fly balls or line drives fielded by a defensive player in the infield shall not be eligible for review. Any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play shall be considered an infielder for the purpose of this regulation.
- D. Catch Plays in the Infield.** A call of “no catch” can be changed to “catch” within the infield only if it results in a third out with any runners on base, or any time with a batter runner only.
- E. Spectator Interference.** An umpire’s decision whether spectator interference occurred.
- F. Scoring Plays at Home Plate inclusive of collisions (illegal and/or malicious slides) time plays, obstruction, and missed base (all aspects).** An umpire’s decision to call or not call a violation of NCAA Baseball Rule 8.7.

**Example.** A runner collides with a catcher and touches home plate on a close play at home plate, but the home plate umpire calls the runner out for having violated NCAA Baseball Rule 8.7. The Crew Chief exercises his discretion to initiate a Video Review. If the Crew Chief overturns the call that Rule 8.7 was violated, then he also shall determine whether the runner was tagged out before touching home plate.

**NOTE:** Whenever Video Review of a call involving the application of NCAA Baseball Rule 8.7 is initiated, the Crew Chief also shall review any other reviewable call on the runner at home plate on that play (e.g., whether the runner was tagged out at home plate even if Rule 8.7 was not violated).

**REVIEWABLE CALLS G-L:** Crew Chief may initiate review at his discretion beginning with the eighth inning (sixth inning for prescribed seven-inning games), or team may use head coach challenge any time during the game:

- G. Force/Tag Play Calls.** Calls involving a defensive player's attempt to put out a runner or batter-runner by touching a base or tagging the runner or batter-runner in the immediate vicinity of the base, and/or whether or not the runner acquired the base before such touching or tag. When reviewing such calls, the Crew Chief shall determine that a fielder has caught the ball, consistent with the NCAA Baseball Rule's Definition of Terms Rule 2.16, at the point in time that the ball touches the fielder's hand or glove, so long as the fielder maintains possession of the ball from the point of contact and thereafter. These plays may include Obstruction by a fielder in the immediate vicinity of the base, in the event a fielder is not in clear possession of the ball (blocking the base), preventing a runner from achieving that base. (i.e. tag or force play, attempted steal, or pickoff at any base.) Also, this will include Running Lane Interference, 7-11-p, should a runner interfere with the fielder attempting to field the baseball.

For the purpose of deciding on tag or no tag, any equipment worn by a runner; helmet, batting glove, or base running mitt etc., that is tagged by the fielder, will be considered part of the players uniform and ruled to be a tag, even if this equipment is protruding from their pocket. Laces of the glove are not to be considered part of the glove when determining a tag.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following calls will not be subject to review:

- a. The umpire's judgment on whether a base runner rounded first base in an attempt to advance to second base.
- b. The umpire's judgment on whether a base runner abandoned his effort to advance in accordance with NCAA Baseball Rule 2.1
- c. The umpire's judgment on whether a base runner was pushed off a base.

**H. Base Running.** The following base running calls are reviewable:

- a. Calls involving whether a base runner passes a preceding runner before such runner is out in violation of Rule 8.5 (m).
- b. Upon an appropriate appeal by the defensive team, whether a base runner touched a base Rule 8.6. [NOTE: In circumstances in which the Crew Chief is reviewing whether a runner re-touched a base, the Crew Chief also shall review whether the runner's re-touching of the base was necessary.]

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section F or elsewhere in these regulations, in accordance with NCAA Baseball Rule 8.7, when reviewing a play at home plate, if the Crew Chief determines both that the runner did not touch home plate and that the fielder did not tag the runner (or, in the case of a force play, did not touch home plate), the Crew Chief shall rule the runner “safe” at home plate unless the defensive head coach appeals the failure of the runner to touch home plate prior to the Crew Chief leaving the field of play for review.

*Example.* A runner attempts to score on a play at the plate. The catcher misses the tag on the runner, and the runner fails to touch home plate, but the umpire calls a tag and the runner “out.” The offensive head coach challenges the call, and the Crew Chief determines that the catcher missed the tag. The Crew Chief shall disregard the failure of the runner to touch home plate, declare the runner “safe” and score the run. If, however, the catcher tags the runner after his initial attempt, after the initial call of the umpire, and before the runner touches home plate, the Crew Chief shall declare the runner “out” and not score the run.

- I. Hit by Pitch (HBP).** Those plays for which there is a possibility that a pitched ball touches a batter, or his clothing. *See* NCAA Baseball Rule 8.2 (d). Any doubt as to whether a pitched ball hit the bat (as opposed to the batter or his clothing) should be resolved by the home plate umpire at that moment as hitting the bat and not the batter, and the umpire should declare a fair or foul ball under the circumstances.

*Example 1.* A pitch strikes the batter, but the umpire erroneously rules that the pitch struck the bat instead and rules “foul ball.” The head coach on offense appropriately challenges and the Crew Chief/Video Review Official reverses the call. The Crew Chief shall declare the ball dead at the moment it struck the batter and award bases accordingly.

*Example 2.* A pitch strikes the bat, but the umpire erroneously rules “hit batter – dead ball.” The head coach on defense appropriately challenges and the Crew Chief/Video Review Official reverses the call. If the ball lands foul, the Crew Chief shall call the ball “foul.” If the ball landed fair, the Crew Chief, will acknowledge the erroneous call, return all runners to the base occupied and batter to the box, prior to the pitch and nullify the pitch. (The pitch does not count).

*Example 3.* An umpire calls intentional hit by pitch, and rules that the batter should stay in the box and awards a strike. The offensive coach initiates a challenge (or Crew Chief review if late inning criteria are met). Upon Video Review, it is indisputable that the ball did not hit the batter, however, the ball did go all the way to the backstop. The Crew Chief will put the batter back in the box, awarding the pitch as ruled (ball or strike) and advance the runners as if the correct call would have been made originally. Should the Crew Chief rule that the runners would not have advanced (ball was in the immediate area of the catcher), then place the runner/s at their original starting position.

*Example 4.* The offensive coach initiates a review (or crew chief, if late inning criteria are met). Following a call of a foul ball on an up and in pitch that the plate umpire rules to have hit the bat. Upon Video Review the crew chief or Video Review Official determines with indisputable video evidence that the ball did hit the batter, but he intentionally tried to get hit. Even though the defense did not initiate a challenge, the entirety of HBP can be reviewed. The Crew Chief will determine the appropriate ruling on HBP, all aspects.

For the purpose of deciding on HBP, any equipment worn by the batter or protruding from their pocket (such as helmet, batting glove, or base running mitt, etc.) that is struck by the pitch will be considered part of the players uniform and therefore awarded first base, if they did not violate the intentional HBP portion of the rule.

- J. Tag-Ups.** An umpire's decision whether a runner failed to retouch his base after a fair or foul ball is legally caught before he, or his base, is tagged by a fielder. *See* NCAA Baseball Rule 8.1.
- K. Non-Home Run Boundary Calls.** Calls involving a decision regarding whether a live ball (1) bounces out of the field of play; (2) strikes the top of a fence or hits a railing or other obstacle in the ballpark; (3) is interfered with by a fan reaching over the fence; (4) is successfully caught by a fielder proximate to a stadium boundary (*e.g.*, while falling into the stands); or (5) leaves the field of play and becomes a dead ball; or (6) is lodged or temporarily lodged in a field fence, scoreboard, shrubbery or vines on a field fence, or other similar object

**Placement of Runners.** An umpire's placement of a batter and/or runners following any boundary call. The Crew Chief/Video Review Official's placement of runners following a change to a call on a field pursuant to Section IV is not eligible for subsequent challenge.

**NOTE:** Whenever Video Review is initiated based on an umpire's placement of runners, the Crew Chief also shall review the predicate call prompting the placement of runners (*e.g.*, whether fan interference occurred prior to the placement of runners).

**Batted ball in flight that strikes the roof of an indoor stadium:**

**Runner on first base, no outs. Batter hits a high pop up over the foul line that is caught by 3B. The offensive team challenges that the ball struck the roof in foul territory prior to being caught, and therefore is a dead ball. The Video Review Official is permitted to rule on whether the ball struck an area that, according to the local Ground Rules, is out of play. The Video Review Official may only review the fair or foul status of the ball if the on-field crew has determined that the batted ball landed at or beyond the set position of the first or third baseman.**

- L. Interference for the Purpose of Breaking up a Double Play.** An umpire's determination under NCAA Baseball Rule 8.4. (Force Play Slide Rule)

**NOTE:** Other than for purposes of determining whether the runner interfered with a fielder within the meaning of Rule 8.4 Force Play Slide (only the criteria of a slide or non-slide at a particular base is reviewable, interference prior to or following a base touch or slide shall not be reviewable). *Example:* While running to second base, a runner intentionally collides with the second baseman, who is attempting to field a ground ball between the bases. Because whether the runner engaged in a bona fide slide is not at issue, whether the umpire determines there was interference is not reviewable.

## **VI. Technology and Personnel**

- A. Available Video.** For each game televised via linear or digital platform, the following camera feeds may be available for the Video Review process: NCAA Network-ESPN, ESPN, ESPN 2, ESPN U or School Broadcast Production.
- B. Technology.**
1. *Technical Issues.* In the event that the Video Review system is not operational for all or part of a game, or in the event that Video Review is not available in a game, the Crew Chief shall

inform both head coach's and the press box, and a public address announcement shall be made to that effect.

2. *Scoreboard.* Video replays will be available for use on the ballpark scoreboard and may be displayed in accordance with the applicable, NCAA Rule Appendix B - Umpires are prohibited from using video replay on the in-park scoreboard as a basis to change a call on the field (whether by crew consultation or otherwise).
  3. *Communications.* Communications between or among umpires on the field and Crew Chiefs and other replay personnel shall not be recorded or used for any purpose other than conducting Video Reviews.
- C. Official Scorer.** Nothing contained herein shall abrogate the sole authority of the Official Scorer to make all decisions concerning the application of NCAA Baseball Rule 10 based on the rulings of the Crew Chief and/or the umpires on the field and/or Video Review Official. NCAA Baseball Rule 10.01 (a).

## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO REVIEWABLE CALLS

### REVIEWABLE CALLS A-F:

- Crew Chief may initiate review at his discretion anytime during the game *or*
  - Team may use head coach challenge any time during the game
- A. **Specified fair/foul ball calls:** Deciding if a batted ball is fair or foul. The ball must first touch the ground or a fielder beyond the initial position of the first or third baseman.
  - B. **Potential home run calls:** Deciding if a batted ball is either a ground rule double or a home run.
  - C. **Catch plays in the outfield or foul territory (including, batted ball in flight that strikes the roof of an indoor stadium):** Any catch or no catch in the outfield or foul territory.
  - D. **Catch plays in the infield:** A call of “no catch” can be changed to “catch” within the infield only if it results in a third out with any runners on base, or any time with a batter runner only.
  - E. **Spectator interference:** An umpire’s decision on whether spectator interference occurred.
  - F. **Scoring plays at home plate (including collisions):** Deciding scoring plays at home plate inclusive of collisions (illegal and/or malicious slides) or time plays.

### REVIEWABLE CALLS G-L:

- Crew Chief may initiate review at his discretion beginning with the eighth inning (sixth inning for prescribed seven-inning games) *or*
  - Team may use head coach challenge any time during the game
- G. **Force/tag play calls (including running lane):** Force and tag play calls in the immediate vicinity of the base involving the batter runner or runner acquiring the base prior to the defensive player’s attempt to put out the batter runner or runner at any base. This includes Obstruction in the immediate vicinity of the base.
  - H. **Specified base running calls:** Calls involving whether a base runner passes a preceding runner before such runner is out; determining whether a base runner scored ahead of a third out; and upon an appropriate appeal by the defensive team, whether a base runner touched a base.
  - I. **Hit-by-pitch calls:** Play involving a batter and whether a pitched ball touches a batter or his clothing (hit by pitch, including intent of the batter).
  - J. **Tag-up plays:** Deciding if a runner failed to retouch his base after a ball is legally caught before he or his base is tagged by a fielder at all bases.
  - K. **Non-home run boundary calls & placement of runners:** Calls involving decisions related a live ball on or near boundaries and the umpire’s placement of a batter runner or runners following a boundary call.
  - L. **Interference for the purpose of breaking up a double play.** (Rule 8.4 Force Play Slide)