



## NCAA BASEBALL OBSERVATIONS FEBRUARY 21, 2020

The following are some observations from the NCAA Baseball Umpire Program and Secretary-Rules Editor so far for the season.

### **4 Man Fly Ball Coverage w/ No Runners on Base**

On a routine fly ball to the outfield in U2's coverage area, U2 will remain responsible for the catch/no catch decision while he moves toward 2nd base on the outside of the diamond to be in position at 2nd base on a play should the outfielder drop the ball. When U2 is reading the fly ball on this play - U3 should start toward 2nd in case U2 decides to go out. U2 also has the option on this play to give up the fly ball completely and run into the diamond and take any potential play at second base from inside the diamond.

### **Going out on Fly Balls**

There is no conference option for umpires to go out on all fly balls. Umpires will read fly balls and are to only go out on a "trouble" ball.

### **20 Second Clock**

1. When the ball is dead, (and the start of an inning), it is critical that the home plate umpire visually put the ball back in play. Remember, this signal indicates the start of the 20 second clock.
2. The clock stops when the pitcher starts his motion to come set or to deliver a pitch from the windup position.
3. The clock starts between pitches when the pitcher is on the dirt and receives the ball back from the catcher. It does not start when the pitcher gets to the rubber. Consideration should be given between *hitters* to allow the new batter to get up to the batter's box before you start the 20 second clock.
4. The umpire should only stop and restart the 20 second clock for a legitimate reason. With runners on base, the pitcher simply stepping off and then back on for the sole purpose of resetting the clock is not a legitimate reason for a restart. The pitcher must be making some attempt to hold the runner on base. There is no "pausing" of the 20 second clock.
5. If a visible clock is being used, the appropriate base umpire should also have a clock in his pocket to use in case of a malfunction.
6. When a visible clock is being used, ask that the operator to stop or freeze the time when pitcher starts his windup or gets to his set position. Don't let clock continue to run as this can create problems.

### **General Reminders:**

1. Keep the batter in the box. Nothing has changed with this rule.
2. Do not unnecessarily grant time to the hitter for the purposes of disrupting the tempo of the pitcher.

Make sure to signal all lineup changes to the press box. Additionally, when a defensive change is made, also indicate to the press box their position on the field.