

BIG 12 CONFERENCE BASEBALL 2020 Video Review Protocol

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee approved the use of the video review rule for all regular season games and Conference championship games. The Big 12 utilizes review for all televised (linear or digital) regular season games (conference and non-conference) and the Big 12 Baseball Championship.

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee sanctioned an expansion of the initial list of calls that may be reviewed and a challenge system for head coaches.

The following plays will be reviewable by the crew chief at his discretion or with the use of a coach's challenge (two challenges per game per team):

- a. Specified Fair/Foul Ball Calls.
- b. Potential Home Run Calls.
- c. Catch Plays in the Outfield.
- d. Catch Plays in the Infield.
- e. Spectator interference.
- f. Scoring Plays at Home Plate inclusive of collisions (illegal and/or malicious slides) time plays, obstruction, and missed base (all aspects).

The following plays are reviewable only by a coach's challenge at any time during the game **or** at the crew chief's discretion in the last two innings of regulation and any extra innings:

- g. Force/All Tag Play Calls (including run downs).
- h. Base Running.
- i. Hit By Pitch.
- j. Tag Ups.
- k. Non-Home Run Boundary Calls.
- l. Interference for Purpose of Breaking Up a Double Play.

(Please refer to NCAA Baseball Video Review Regulations 2020 Season for additional information on reviewable plays.)

Review Specifications:

Unlike the sports of football and basketball, the Big 12 will not employ the use of booth, centralized or collaborative review in 2019. Instead, each institution will provide a direct video feed (with audio communications capability) to a review area on the field level (see below). The umpire crew will make rulings based on the video provided from all available angles by production personnel. Once the review process is initiated, production personnel must be dedicated to the role related to review before any other responsibilities.

1. Each institution will submit to the Conference office for review an overview of the number of cameras, camera locations, review equipment and review personnel (and their specific in-game roles), which will be utilized in this process.
 - a. Understanding a network telecast may incorporate additional camera locations and personnel, the overview should include how many cameras will be utilized for review under various video scenarios (e.g. in-stadium only, digital streaming, network telecast).

2. Each institution will submit to the Conference office for approval diagrams and photos of the proposed review area and security plans by December 1 annually. Most often, this area will be in the home team clubhouse; or in a photo well adjacent to the dugout.
3. The review area cannot be situated in the dugout, although access to the review area through the dugout is permissible. Direct, easy and quick access is the priority for this location.
 - a. Ideally, institutions will provide a dedicated room adjacent to the dugout for use during review situations.
 - b. If a dedicated room is not available, all team personnel must vacate the immediate vicinity once a review is initiated. Umpires must be afforded as much privacy as is possible during the review process.
4. Institutions may designate a field level location adjacent to the dugout (e.g. camera well) for review. This area must be inside a credential zone in which patrons do not have access. When review is initiated, all media (except live game video camera operators) must be cleared from this area. Additional security and outdoor compliant monitors may be required.
5. Review monitors must be placed in a position whereby they are not viewable by team personnel. NCAA rules prohibit monitors and electronic communications in team areas.
6. Media, fans, team members and administrators shall not have access to the review production room (truck) or review area.

Pre-game Procedure:

1. The home team game manager will meet with in-stadium and broadcast production personnel to determine the process for providing all available feeds and communications link to the review area. In order to get all-available video, it is preferred that the in-stadium videoboard feed and live television camera feed (if applicable) be routed through the in-stadium production facility and then to the review monitor.
2. The home team game manager (or his/her designee) will make the crew chief aware of the location of the review area.
3. The home team game manager (or his/her designee) will make the crew chief aware of the broadcast entity (FOX, ESPN, Institutional/Linear, Institutional/Digital, Institutional/In-stadium only) and the nature of the video to be provided for the review (i.e., four-camera broadcast, three-camera, two-camera, one-camera) or if there will be no review video available.
 - a. It is recommended for each game a map entailing available camera angles be provided to the umpire crew and both head coaches.
4. At the home plate meeting before the game, the crew chief will make the coaches aware of the broadcast entity and the nature of the video for the review. This is critical so the coaches know prior to the game whether or not there will be official reviews of reviews and the nature of the video that will be available. Upon request, the home team game manager will provide a representative of the visiting team printed information as to the location of cameras to be used in the review process.
5. As part of the pre-game procedures, the home team game manager will meet with videoboard personnel to review NCAA baseball rules pertaining to the use of reviews on the in-stadium videoboard. These rules are to be posted in the videoboard control room.

Video Review Process:

1. Video review is a video process used to either let stand, change or reverse a ruling on the field by game officials. There are three options related to review rulings: confirmed, stands or overturned.
2. The Video review process operates under the fundamental assumption that the ruling on the field is correct. A call is changed only if there is indisputable video evidence to remove all doubt that a ruling was incorrect. Absent that evidence, the original call will stand.
3. Any Video review must occur before the next pitch or play. If it occurs after a game ending play, it must be called for before all umpires leave the field of play.
4. As discretion dictates, the Crew Chief may initiate review of calls based on the established guidelines (noted above).
5. Each coach may use up to two (2) Head Coach's Challenges (per NCAA rules) any time during a game. The head coach must initiate the challenge within 30 seconds after the conclusion of the play.
 - a. In order to avoid any ambiguity, the head coach must specifically use the word "challenge" related to a request a review.
6. *If video review is used, the two non-calling umpires will go to the designated video review area to review all relevant video coverage. At least one umpire must remain on the field. If the crew chief is the calling umpire, an umpire next closest to the play will go to the review area. If the crew chief is not a calling umpire, he will be one of the two designated to conduct the review. (Note: Big 12 policy differs from NCAA policy in this process.)*
7. Security must be available to the umpires during movement to and from the video review area and to be certain the video review area is a secure environment completely clear of all other persons.
8. During a video review the defensive team shall maintain their positions on the field and may practice throw if desired. Offensive base runners and the on-deck hitter shall maintain their positions. Other personnel shall remain in the dugout. Defensive or offensive conferences during reviews are charged as during any other part of the game.
9. While there is no time limit for the video review, lengthy reviews (more than 2-3 minutes) are discouraged and are possible evidence indisputable video evidence to change a call does not exist.
10. The crew chief will communicate with appropriate technical personnel in order to review and have shown on a video monitor all relevant television camera angles of the plays with highlighting, reversing, slow motion, freeze frame or other capabilities as available to assist in making a determination.
11. The crew chief may confer and discuss the reviews during the review with other members of the umpiring crew but the ultimate final decision is with the crew chief. Neither coach may argue this final decision.
12. If the reversing of a call results in the need for decisions on the placement of base runners, the crew chief will use his best judgment to determine their locations as if the call had been correctly made. (Exception: Baserunner placement prescribed by rule on catch/no catch reversals.) Coaches may not question these decisions.
13. If a call is changed, the calling umpire, upon returning to the field, will notify both head coaches and the calling umpire will signal the official scorer in the press box of the ruling.

Video Review Technology Support:

1. Production personnel (remote, truck or institutional control room) shall provide the necessary cabling (Coax, Triax, Fiber, etc.) and a direct game feed to the review area.
 - a. On-site production personnel will work with each institution to identify any immediate connectivity concerns.
 - b. Fixed cabling for video and communications from the mobile unit truck pad or production facility to the area is desired.
2. Production personnel (remote, truck or institutional control room) shall provide direct and private communication link between event director/producer and the review area.
3. Production personnel shall keep private all communication/discussions that occur during a review.
4. Each institution shall provide a large screen HD TV (minimum 27") and telephone (ring-down or direct link) or headset communications for review reviews.
5. Production personnel shall provide and review all relevant camera shots of any play requested by the crew chief. Umpires may request additional camera shots as needed.
6. Production shall provide during review reviews multiple repetitions of the involved play, slo mo, highlighter, reversing and stop action.
7. No review camera shots shall be shown on a broadcast that have not been part of the review.
8. If the umpires are having a conference to discuss a play that is reviewable under the Video review process, production personnel shall begin to attempt to identify and have ready all relevant camera shots in the event that Video review will be used.
9. Production personnel shall test all Video review related equipment prior to each game to confirm operational status.
10. NCAA rules prohibit the viewing of live or taped video during a game from the dugout or bench areas and all adjacent team areas (athletic training room, locker rooms, bullpen, etc.). Video and communication equipment used to transmit information between coaches, coaches and players, scouts or other team personnel is not permitted; except telephones, cellular phones, walkie-talkies, etc., are permitted for two-way communications between a team's dugout (bench) and bullpen. (With the possible exception of a monitor used for Video review) televisions/monitors shall be turned off in the dugout and clubhouse during a game. Team personnel shall not have access to the Video review monitor.

Stadium Public Address and Video Board:

1. When the umpires conference and then determine that the play will be reviewed by Video review and leave the field, the PA will announce: "The play is under further review."
2. During the review, the stadium video board is permitted to review the play in question only one time and at regular speed. While this may be contrary to the Big 12's video board rules, the Conference and membership is bound by existing NCAA rules governing reviews on video boards in the sport of baseball. (This review during the review is in addition to the one review at regular speed allowed following any play according to Appendix B of the NCAA Baseball Rules. This makes a total of two reviews of a play that is reviewed by the umpires – one immediately after the play but before it is

determined there will be a review of the play, and one during the review of the play. Please note that once the umpires have left the review area and are headed back to the field, no review may be shown.)

3. After a review the calling umpire will either:
 - Give the home run or fair ball signal;
 - Point to the bases to be occupied by runners;
 - Give the foul ball signal; or
 - Give the out or safe signal.

4. The PA announcer shall make a basic announcement as appropriate to the call. Examples:
 - a. "The previous play has been ruled a home run"
 - b. "The previous play has been ruled a foul ball"
 - c. "The previous play has been ruled in-play and runners will be placed appropriately"
 - d. "The previous play as been ruled a catch and runners will be placed appropriately"
 - e. "The previous play has been ruled a no-catch and runners will be place appropriately"

Additional Umpire Protocols:

1. When the umpires leave the field to go to the review location, all persons shall vacate the review location. (Exception: Security, key production personnel and Big 12 staff.)

2. Umpires are not to be influenced by crowd, teams, coaches or players in making a review ruling (although this may have a bearing in calling an umpire conference or decision to go to Video review review). What shows in a definitive manner on one or more reviews is the sole method providing evidence (or lack thereof) for a final decision.

3. Umpires may need to look beyond their own thinking in making a decision, as what is indisputable to one person may not be to the next person.

4. If a ruling is made that keeps the ball in play, additional review of the play may be necessary to properly place runners.

5. Umpires must be sure a play fits the protocol of a play that is reviewable and must follow the review protocols in making determinations.