

# Big 12 Baseball Replay In-Game Guidelines and Process

## Overview

Video replay review in the Big 12 Conference is designed to provide timely review of certain disputed calls in games at Big 12 venues that are televised (either on linear television or digital platform) or technology is available. 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 on a specific play, which may consist of an oral pronouncement or physical gesture (or may not, in the case of a “non-call”). Replay 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. The Big 12 Commissioner reserves the right to rule on any point with respect to replay review that is not covered by these regulations.

In 2019, there are two types of reviewable calls: those challengeable by a coach and those subject to the discretion of the umpire crew chief. Here is an overview of the in-game regulations and process:

## Challenging and Reviewing Calls Pursuant to Replay 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 challenge is proper and timely; and, determining whether to review a play or call on their own initiative. Moreover, prior to the initiation of replay 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 replay 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 desired using one challenge. Once a team has exhausted its available head coach challenges, it will no longer have the ability to challenge any additional play or call in the game.
  2. The head coach is the only person authorized and permitted to request or initiate replay review on behalf of the team during a game; unless the head coach cannot perform replay 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 has the sole right to request or initiate replay review.
- C. Crew Chief Reviews.**
  1. A crew chief may initiate replay for reviewable calls, in sole discretion, upon own initiative or upon the request of a head coach. These replay reviews are subject to the following:
    - a. A team that has exhausted its head coach’s challenges may within the established time limits request but cannot insist that the crew chief invoke the right to initiate replay review.
    - b. The crew chief shall not initiate replay review of plays g-l until the eighth inning if the requesting head coach has a challenge remaining.

- c. Beginning with the eighth inning the crew chief 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, head coach challenges and crew chief reviews must comply with the following in order to initiate replay review:
  - a. If a head coach wishes to invoke a challenge, it must be done via visual (headset motion) or verbal notification within 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 immediately enters the field of play to discuss a play with the calling umpire and that umpire is working home plate, first- or second-base, then the third-base umpire will time the 30 seconds. If the coach comes out to discuss a play with the calling umpire who is working third base, then the second-base umpire will time the 30 seconds. Prior to the expiration of the 30 seconds, the head coach must state the intention to challenge or leave the field.
  - b. To invoke a challenge: a head coach may approach an umpire on the field, but is encouraged instead to indicate a challenge either 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, the crew chief must be informed 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 if the opposing head coach 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 the request to initiate a challenge within the time limit set forth above; and to communicate the call being challenged with the required level of specificity. The crew chief will keep record of any challenge and inform the head coach once both challenges have been exhausted.
  - c. The conclusion of the play shall be determined as set forth below. For purposes of these regulations, the next “play” shall commence when the pitcher is on the rubber preparing to start the 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 replay review). No substitutions or pitching changes may take place while the umpires are in the process of invoking replay review.
  - d. In the case of a mound visit, a head coach must exercise a 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 the challenge in accordance with below.
  - e. 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 the challenge before signaling for a pitching change; and (b) the offensive head coach must exercise the 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 replay 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 replay review (except before next pitch), there should be no restriction on when a crew chief initiates replay 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 a challenge.

- f. In the case of a play that results in a crew chief review in the last two innings (or extra 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 the challenge before the crew chief leaves the field of play.
- g. If the crew chief determines a head coach 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 challenge is timely. The judgment of the crew chief regarding the timeliness of a challenge shall be final and binding on both teams, and shall not be reviewable by replay.

#### **E. Time Limit Mechanics for Invoking Replay for Plays that Do Not Result in a Third Out Call.**

1. The on-field mechanics of timing will be executed by the third base umpire, however should the third base umpire be the calling umpire, the timing will be executed by the second base umpire. Head coach's challenge or crew chief review is as set forth as 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 Replay Review.**

1. The crew chief and closest non-calling umpire 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 because 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 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 replay 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 FPS.) 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 replay review.

4. If any of the conditions set forth above is met and an additional call within a single play is subject to its own subsequent replay 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 to the outfield that is ruled a "no catch" and the runner from first 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, after replay review, determines the runner was safe. The defensive head coach then requests a video review of the "no catch" call on the batted ball to the outfield. The crew chief overturns the call to a "catch" resulting in the third out of the inning. The offensive head coach's challenge of the call on the runner at third base now becomes irrelevant because the batter has made the third out by virtue of the batted ball being caught in the outfield; therefore, the previous offensive head coach's challenge on the play at third base would be rescinded.*

#### **H. Effect of Replay Review Result on Post-Play Decision by Head Coach.**

1. If a call is overturned on replay review, any decision made by a head coach after the play and influenced by the incorrect call is nullified. Such head coach shall be permitted to reaffirm or change a strategic decision based on the result of the play as determined by the Crew chief. *(For example: 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 Replay Review. The Replay Review results in an overturned call. Any pitching change, or attempted pitching change, made by the defensive head coach shall be nullified unless reaffirmed after the crew chief's decision is announced.)*
2. **Specificity of the Challenge.** When invoking a challenge or otherwise requesting a review, it is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that the umpire knows the specific calls for which he is seeking replay review, but the head coach need not state the reason for the 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 or those accepted for review by the crew chief.

## **I. Communicating with the Teams and the Public.**

1. The crew chief shall signal that a play is under replay review by pointing in the direction of the review equipment. The crew chief and another non-calling umpire shall move immediately towards the designated communication location where they will have access to a video monitor and headsets or other appropriate equipment to communicate with the replay personnel.
2. The crew chief will review the calls subject to the replay review in accordance with these regulations, and inform the crew of the 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 replay 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. Upon receipt of the decision, by signal or otherwise, the crew chief will indicate 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 replay review may personally inform one or both head coaches of the decision before play on the field is resumed.

## **J. Irrevocable and Final.**

1. Once a head coach informs an umpire of the desire to exercise a challenge, it may not be rescinded. A head coach should not make the "headset" motion unless certain there is a desire to initiate a challenge.
2. The decision of the crew chief to either uphold or change one or more calls subject to replay 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 replay review is initiated, no uniformed personnel or other team personnel from either team shall be permitted to further argue the contested calls or the decision of the crew chief. Team personnel who violate this provision shall be ejected.
4. NCAA Baseball Rule 5.13 shall have no applicability to these replay regulations. No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions by the crew chief. 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 replay 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 declines to initiate replay review), if a head coach, uniformed personnel or other team personnel from either team 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.

## **Standard for Changing a Call**

1. To change a reviewable call, the crew chief must determine that there is 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 evidence obtained by the crew chief leads to a definitive conclusion that the call on the field was incorrect.

### **Correcting an Incorrect Call**

1. Consistent with Official NCAA Baseball Rule Appendix E if replay review results in a change to a call that had been made on the field, the crew chief, to the extent feasible, shall exercise 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 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 interference or obstruction that may have occurred on the play, 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, where the placement of runners is clearly defined.

### **Placement of Runners**

1. 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 in accordance with the standard set forth in the Official NCAA Baseball Rules.
2. Unless directed otherwise by the Official NCAA Baseball Rules, the crew chief shall place the base runners on the bases it is believed 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 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. The crew chief 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. If the crew chief 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 shall change the incorrect call, but let stand any on-field calls or plays unaffected by the incorrect call. The crew chief may not declare a runner out based on a play the umpire believes would have occurred subsequent to the play subject to Replay Review.
5. The crew chief 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.
6. The decision of the crew chief 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.

### **Technology and Video**

1. Each home institution will coordinate access to all available video feeds. If video is not available, there will be no replay review.
2. In the event that the replay review system is not operational for all or part of a game, or in the event that video replay review is not available in a game, the crew chief shall inform both head coaches and the press box, and a public address announcement shall be made to that effect.
3. Video replays will be available for use on the ballpark scoreboard and may be displayed in accordance with the applicable, Official NCAA Rule Appendix B. Umpires are prohibited from using video replay on the in-venue scoreboard as a basis to change a call on the field (whether by crew consultation or otherwise).
4. 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 replay reviews.
5. Nothing contained herein shall abrogate the sole authority of the official scorer to make all decisions concerning the application of Official Baseball Rule 10 based on the rulings of the crew chief and/or the umpires on the field.