



BIG EAST Baseball Replay Protocol – Final for 2021 season

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee allows the use of video replay rule for all regular season games and conference championship games where the technology is available. The use of video replay for BIG EAST conference baseball games is permitted either through institutionally-provided video or a TV/streaming broadcast (such as FOX, CBS Sports Network or BIG EAST Digital Network). The use of video replay for non-conference games is also permitted where the technology exists with terms subject to the game contract agreement between the institutions.

NCAA Allowable Replay and Challengeable Calls:

Please refer to the NCAA Baseball Video Review Regulations (Appendix E of the [NCAA Baseball Rules](#)) for the full list of reviewable plays and appropriate protocols. The BIG EAST Conference will abide by all NCAA protocols relative to the application of video replay.

Replay Specifications:

It is permissible, but not required, for a host institution to provide video review in the sport of baseball. Each BIG EAST institution opting to provide video replay services for baseball will provide a direct video feed (with audio communications capability) to a replay area on the field level (see below).

The umpire crew chief will make rulings based on the video provided from all available angles by production personnel. Once initiated, production personnel must be dedicated to the role related to replay before fulfilling any other responsibilities.

1. Each institution will submit to the Conference office an overview of the number of cameras, camera locations, replay equipment (and location thereof) and replay personnel (and their specific in-game roles), which will be utilized in this process. A backup plan should be provided.
 - a. Understanding a network telecast may incorporate additional camera locations and personnel, the overview should include how many cameras will be utilized for replay under various video scenarios (e.g. in-stadium only, digital streaming, network telecast).
2. The replay area cannot be in the dugout, although entry to the replay 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 replay 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.
3. Institutions may designate a field level location adjacent to the dugout (e.g. camera well) for replay review. This area must be inside a credential zone in which patrons do not have access. When replay 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.



4. Umpires must not be required to walk through spectator seating in order to reach the designated video review area.
5. Replay monitors must be situated so 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 replay production room (truck) or replay 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 replay area.
 - a. 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 replay monitor.
 - b. A host institution may choose to utilize a separate video feed specifically reserved for the purposes of video review, such as Vidswap, DVSPORT, etc.
2. No later than 60 minutes before the start of the first game of a BIG EAST Conference series, the following must take place:
 - a. The home-team game manager (or designee) will make the crew chief aware of the location of the replay area.
 - b. The home team game manager (or designee) will make the crew chief aware of the broadcast entity (FOX, CBS Sports Network, BIG EAST Digital Network/Rush Media, 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 replay video available.
 - c. It is recommended, but not required, for a map entailing available camera angles be provided to the umpire crew and both head coaches for each series.
 - d. It is anticipated that, at the minimum, each institution with the ability to provide video replay technology will have a high camera behind home plate and have the ability to record from that position. Other camera angles are helpful. The video replay setup should have the ability to record from every camera angle used.
 - e. If there are any changes to the video replay setup for any subsequent games of the Conference series, those must be communicated by the home team administrator to the crew chief no later than 60 minutes before the start of the next game, or as soon as possible before the next game of a doubleheader (if applicable).
3. 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 replays 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 replay process.



4. As part of the pre-game procedures, the home-team game manager will meet with videoboard personnel (if applicable) to review NCAA baseball rules pertaining to the use of replays on the in-stadium videoboard. These rules are to be posted in the videoboard control room.

Replay Review Process:

The BIG EAST, for all conference, non-conference and tournament games, will follow all NCAA protocols relative to the replay review process, beginning with the way in which a head coach must signal that his team is contemplating a challenge all the way through the execution of the replay itself and the decision by the umpires to uphold or overturn the call on the field.

Replay Technology Support:

1. The host institution shall provide all necessary production personnel, cabling and equipment for the replay area.
 - a. The one exception to equipment would be if a broadcast partner (Fox, CBS Sports Network or Rush Media/BEDN) are able to provide a monitor, cabling and headset in the video replay area.
 - b. On-site production personnel will work with each institution to identify any immediate connectivity concerns.
2. Production personnel shall provide direct and private communication link between event director/producer and the replay area.
3. Production personnel shall keep private all communications occurring during replay review.
4. Each institution equipped with video replay capabilities shall provide a minimum of a tablet with a 9.7" display.
5. If the producer assisting with video replay cannot be stationed at the video replay location, then headset communications for replay reviews must also be provided to facilitate direct communication between the producer and the crew chief.
6. Production personnel shall provide and replay all relevant camera shots of any play requested by the crew chief. Umpires may request additional camera shots as needed.
7. Production shall provide as many repetitions of the involved play, utilizing the full extent of the available technology (e.g., slow motion, reverse, stop action, etc.).
8. No replay camera shots shall be shown on a broadcast that have not been part of the replay review.
9. If the umpires are having a conference to discuss a play that is potentially reviewable, production personnel shall begin identifying and have ready all relevant video in the event of replay.



10. Production personnel shall test all replay related equipment prior to each game to confirm operational status. It is permissible for institutional technicians to monitor and test the equipment during games, especially if inclement weather has delayed the game.
11. 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 replay) televisions/monitors shall be turned off in the dugout and clubhouse during a game. Team personnel shall not have access to the replay monitor.

Stadium Public Address and Video Board:

1. When the umpires conference, and then determine that the play will be reviewed by replay 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 replay the play in question only one time and at regular speed. The BIG EAST is bound by existing NCAA rules governing replays on video boards in the sport of baseball. (This replay during the review is in addition to the one replay at regular speed allowed following any play according to Appendix B of the NCAA Baseball Rules. This makes a total of two replays of any 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. Once the umpires have left the replay area and are headed back to the field, no replay may be shown.)
3. After a review the crew chief 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:
 - "The previous play has been ruled a home run"
 - "The previous play has been ruled a foul ball"
 - "The previous play has been ruled in-play and runners will be placed appropriately"
 - "The previous play as been ruled a catch and runners will be placed appropriately"
 - "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 replay review location, all persons shall vacate the replay review location. (Exception: Security, key production personnel and BIG EAST staff.)



2. Umpires are not to be influenced by crowd or team personnel in making a replay ruling. What replays show in a definitive manner 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 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 replay protocols in making determinations.
6. The crew chief may utilize any available communication system to provide a detailed explanation to the official scorer when replay involves a complicated ruling. In the event there is no communications link available, a representative of game management or the host media relations staff may approach the crew chief between innings (or postgame for a game ending play) for an explanation. These conversations are not recorded. These situations should not inordinately delay the start of the inning or restart of the game.