



WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

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SOFTBALL
VIDEO REVIEW
REGULATIONS

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Last update June 2025

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CHAPTER 1 HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This document details the WBSC video review system, the list of reviewable calls and the protocol to challenge a call for WBSC Softball World Cups. These will continue to be evaluated and may be subject to modifications.

The implementation of WBSC's play call video review system intends to support our Umpiring crews with the latest technology tools to ensure the highest degree of fairness possible in a competition. In this document, the general guidelines, the list of reviewable calls and the protocol to challenge a call are listed.

All video equipment must be tested before each game. In the case of a malfunction of the video equipment, teams will be notified immediately, video review will be temporarily suspended and work to address the issue commenced.

CHAPTER 2 GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 2.1. Each team by its head coach or manager ("head coach") will have one (1) challenge per seven (7) innings of play.
- 2.2. A team may only challenge a call included in the list of "Reviewable Calls for Team Challenges". In the case of plays included within the ambit of Rule 1.2.6 of the WBSC Official Softball Rules ("Rules"), prior to the team's request for a challenge the corresponding appeal must first be made".
- 2.3. If the challenged call is overturned, that team will maintain the challenge. If the call is upheld, that team will lose the challenge.
- 2.4. If the game goes into extra innings, each team will have one (1) extra challenge that will not be added to any one not used within the seven (7) regulation innings.
- 2.5. Beginning in the top of the 5th inning, the Plate Umpire can choose to review any reviewable call if a team is out of challenges.

Exception: a potential home run call is reviewable at all times as detailed in the section, "Reviewable Calls by Plate Umpire Initiative".

- 2.6. Except in the case of a potential home run call, the Plate Umpire shall not initiate a video review of any play or call if the requesting head coach has a challenge remaining.

CHAPTER 3 REVIEWABLE

CALLS FOR TEAM CHALLENGE

3.1 Base Running

- A runner passing the runner in front of them.
- Time plays.
- A runner missing a base while advancing. Defense must appeal prior to review.
- A runner(s) leaving early during a tag-up play. *Defense must appeal prior to review.*
- A runner(s) failing to retouch a base when required. *Defense must appeal prior to review.*
- A runner using the double base in the right way.

3.2 Catch / No Catch Play

- Any play attempted by one of the outfielders.
- Any play attempted by an infielder if they are forced to go back into outfield to make the play.
- Any fly ball in foul territory is reviewable.
- A play in the infield is NOT reviewable.

Note: Infield limit at the Umpire's discretion.

3.3 Fair / Foul

- The ball must land at or beyond the set position of the first or third Base Umpire.
- A foul ball landing in front of an Umpire IS not reviewable. Exception: a ball swung at or bunted, called fair landing in front of an Umpire is reviewable to see if the ball hit the batter. The call could be overturned to an out or foul ball. A runner(s) would not be in jeopardy.

3.4 Force Plays

Any force play at any base is reviewable.

3.5 Hit by Pitch

- Any hit by pitch is reviewable.
- If the hit by pitch occurs on a check swing, the check swing must be appealed prior to asking for review.

3.6 Potential Home Run

Any potential or home run call may be challenged.

Note: a head coach may ask the Plate Umpire for review without counting this as a challenge. The Umpire crew should check on a potential home run if any doubt. If the Plate Umpire does not concede a review, the team may challenge the call.

3.7 Obstruction and Interference *(Including collisions)*

- Any situation of obstruction and/or interference may be challenged.
- A safe/out call will be reviewed while judging a potential violation.

Note: If there are multiple plays, the challenging head coach must first state which one(s) are being challenged.

3.8 Non-Home Run Boundary

- Any ball/fielder entering dead ball territory.
- Spectator interference with a play (all types).
- Specific tournament ground rules (i.e., the ball striking the catwalk at a dome).

Note: If a ball hits the catwalk and falls in the infield, it is not reviewable (only reviewable if the ball falls in the outfield).

- A ball lodged during a play (i.e., a ball stuck in temporary fence).

Note: a ball stuck challenge is reviewable even if a player goes after it and tries to retrieve it.

- The placement of runners after a non-home run boundary call. The call prompting the challenge will also be reviewed.

3.9 Slide Rule

When a runner hindered/impeded the fielder and engaged in a bona fide slide on a double play attempt:

- if both calls favor the offense (safe/safe), the defense may challenge;
- if both calls favor the defense (out/out), the offense may challenge;
- if one call favors the offense and one call favors the defense (out/safe, safe/out), both teams may challenge.

Exception: the play is not reviewable if the out call is the third out.

Note: an infielder must make attempt to throw to be reviewable.

The Umpire crew will determine a double play attempt on a no throw. If challenging both calls, the head coach must first state this or pick which call they are challenging.

The original Umpire call will dictate whether a play requires one or two reviews. A team adversely affected by a review can still challenge provided that the change of the initial call made a previous call relevant and the team had no incentive to seek the review originally. This request for a team challenge or Plate Umpire Review must be made immediately after the announcement of the Video Review Official's decision.

3.10 Tag Plays

A runner potentially being pushed off a base is not reviewable.

CHAPTER 4 REVIEWABLE CALLS BYPLATE UMPIRE INITIATIVE

- Any reviewable call upon the start of the 5th inning.
- A potential home run (*at any time*).
- A rules review if a potential protest by a team.
- To ask/clarify if a call is reviewable.
- A ground rules review.

4.1 Challenge Protocol

- Upon an Umpire's call and the completion of a play, a head coach wishing to challenge a call has 10 seconds to signal the Plate Umpire by holding up their hand (HOLD").
- The head coach will then have 20 seconds to decide whether to initiate the challenge or drop the Hold.
- To challenge a call, the head coach must ask for TIME, walk to home plate and indicate to the Plate Umpire the call that is being challenged.
- If reviewable, the Plate Umpire will signal that the call will be reviewed. The Plate Umpire and the call Umpire will then move to the video review area to communicate via headphones with the review booth. *If the call was made by the Plate Umpire, the closest Umpire to the booth area will go with the Plate Umpire.*
- When a review is initiated by the Plate Umpire, both team head coaches will be informed of the call that is being reviewed.
- *In case of a call made by a Base Umpire, they must signal to the Umpire that they want to review the play.*
- The Video Review Official, with the Director or Assistant Director of Umpires, will both evaluate the call and make the final decision, which will be relayed to the Home Plate Umpire.
- Upon completion of the review, the Plate Umpire will signal whether the call stands or is overturned.
- The call by the Video Review Official will be final and may not be further pursued by either team, whether by a request for reconsideration, further challenge, appeal or protest.. Any team member (player, coach, manager or team personnel) arguing, appealing or protesting a call that has been reviewed and is final will be automatically ejected from the game.
- The defensive team must stay on the field after the third out of an inning if a HOLD is requested by the opposing team's head coach. If the challenge is requested, that team will remain on the field until the call has been reviewed.

EXCEPTION: In the event that the review of the play takes more time than is considered normal and the weather conditions are hot, the defensive team may wait for the resolution in their dugout.

- For the defensive team, the head coach must challenge a call before signaling a possible pitching change and/or an intentional walk.
- For the offensive team, the head coach must challenge a call before the pitcher steps into the warning track or crosses the foul line.

Exception: The Plate Umpire may allow a challenge if the defensive team head coach signaled a pitching change/intentional walk in an accelerated manner to prevent an offensive team challenge.

4.2 General Guidelines

- Only a team head coach is authorized to signal a HOLD or request a challenge for a Video review. If the head coach cannot perform their responsibilities due to injury, illness, ejection, removal or other legitimate reason, the coach or manager designated to assume the head coach's responsibilities shall have the sole right to make a HOLD or request a challenge.
- Plate Umpire - At any time during a game, the Plate Umpire may, in their sole discretion, initiate a Video Review of a potential home run call. With respect to other reviewable calls, beginning in the 5th inning the Plate Umpire may initiate and conduct a Video Review upon their own initiative or the request of a team that has no remaining challenges.
- Duration of a Video Review. The Video Review Official shall make a decision on a call under Video Review in the quickest possible time after the Plate Umpire and the Video Review Official confirm which call is subject to review.
- If the Plate Umpire determines that a team's request for a challenge is untimely or there was no HOLD, the play shall not be reviewed and the Umpire's call shall stand. The team will not be charged with a challenge. The decision of the Plate Umpire to determine whether a challenge is untimely or there was no HOLD is final and cannot be appealed.
- If a team challenges a call that is not eligible for review, the Plate Umpire will inform the head coach that the call is not reviewable and the team will not be charged a challenge. If the Home Plate Umpire is unsure whether a call challenged by a team is eligible for review, he may consult with the Video Review Official prior to making the determination. The Video Review Official may be supported by the Director of Umpires or the Assistant Director of Umpires in deciding whether or not a play is reviewable. If either the team or the Plate Umpire invokes a Video Review of a call that the Video Review Official determines is not subject to review, they will inform the Plate Umpire that the play is not reviewable and the team will not be charged with a challenge.
- To the extent that the Rules require the defensive team to appeal a play eligible for Video Review (e.g., a runner missing a base), a Video Review may not be initiated until the Umpires rule on the appeal.

4.3 Challenge of a Reviewable Play by Both Teams

- Both teams 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 Home Plate Umpire review, to the extent available.
- The Video Review Official shall review all challenges properly initiated and review two or more challenged calls in the order in which the calls occurred during the game. If the decision of the Video Review Official on an earlier reviewable call renders moot a later reviewable call, the Video Review Official shall not review the subsequent call. If a call challenged by a team is not reviewed by the Video Review Official by operation of the foregoing rule, that team's challenge shall be deemed rescinded and the team shall not be charged with the challenge.
- If both teams wish to challenge a call or calls in a play but the challenges are not invoked simultaneously, the second team must invoke its challenge before the

Home Plate Umpire first makes communication contact with the Video Review Official. A team adversely affected by a Video Review Official's decision to change a call has the right to use a challenge or request that the Plate Umpire review another reviewable call in the same play, provided that:

- the head coach of the adversely affected team makes the challenge or requests the Plate Umpire review immediately after the announcement of the Video Review Official's decision;
- the change of the initial call affects the relevance of the subsequent call to the outcome of the play;
- 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 Video Review Official reversed the initial call. For purposes of these Regulations, the advancement of a runner (other than the batter-runner) pursuant to a non-call of Rule 5.10.3.c) iii) ("A runner is out") shall not be considered an incentive for the defensive team to seek Video Review.

Examples: With two outs and no one on base, an Umpire calls 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 Video Review Official overturns the call, the defensive team will be afforded the opportunity to challenge or request Video Review of the trap call in the outfield by informing the Plate Umpire of the challenge or request immediately after learning of the Video Review Official's decision.

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 Video Review Official 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 Rule 1.2.6., the defensive team must first appeal the play. If the Umpire calls the runner safe at third on such appeal, the defensive team will then be afforded the opportunity to challenge the appeal play by informing the Plate Umpire of the challenge immediately after the safe call.

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 Video Review Official 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 Rule 5.10.3.c) iii).

With no outs and runners on first and second bases the batter hits a ground ball to the second baseman. As the defensive player attempts to field the ball, there is a potential interference of the runner going to second with the fielder in the act of fielding the batted ball. The Umpires close to the play judge there is no interference and makes no call. The defense is able to throw the ball to second, with the Umpire

calling a force out, and try to complete the double play with the throw at first, after which an Umpire calls safe at first base. The offense team challenges the call at second base and the Video Review Official overturns the call, resulting in the runner at second being safe. The defense team now has the right to challenge the Umpire's no call about the possible interference.

- If any of the conditions set forth in the preceding item above is met and an additional call within a single play is subject to its own subsequent Video Review and the decision by the Video Review Official renders irrelevant a team's challenge previously used by the opposing team on that play, the opposing team'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 "no catch" and the runner is called "out" trying to reach third base, resulting in the third out of the inning. The offensive team challenges the call at third base, and the Video Review Official determines that the runner was safe. The defensive team then challenges the "no catch" call on the batted ball to the outfield, and the Video Review Official overturns the call to a "catch," which results in the third out of the inning.

The offensive team'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, rescinding such previous challenge on the play.

4.4 Effect of Video Review Result on Post-Play Decision by Head Coach

If a call is overturned on Video Review, any decisions made by a team's 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 Video Review Official.

Example: The defensive team head coach signals for a pitching change after a play and, subsequently, the offensive team head coach timely initiates a challenge or the Plate Umpire initiates a Video Review. The Video Review results in an overturned call. Any pitching change, or attempted pitching change, made by the defensive team head coach shall be nullified unless reaffirmed by them after the Video Review Official's decision is announced.

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 obstruction 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 Rule 5.5.1.d (Effect), because of the catcher's obstruction, the offensive head coach may elect either the obstruction 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 team head coach elects to accept the result of the play. The defensive team head coach then challenges the call at home plate, and the Video Review Official overturns the call and rules the runner out at home plate. Knowing the final result of the play as determined by the Video Review Official, the offensive team head coach's decision to accept the result of the play shall be nullified unless reaffirmed by them after the Video Review Official's decision is announced.

4.5 Specificity of the Challenge

When invoking a team challenge or otherwise requesting a Plate Umpire review, it is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that the Umpire knows the specific call(s) for which they seek Video Review, but the head coach need not state the reason for their 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 Video Review Official shall have no authority to review any calls other than those included in a team challenge or those accepted by the Plate Umpire.

Example: A runner is called safe on a rundown because an Umpire ruled that the fielder missed the tag. The defensive team challenges the tag call seeking a Video Review. During Video Review, the Video Review Official confirms that the tag was missed but observes that the runner who was called safe was passed by a preceding runner in violation of Rule 5.10.3.vi). The Video Review Official cannot correct the Umpires non-call regarding the passed runner because the head coach only challenged the tag call.

With no runner on any base, a batter-runner is called out on a close, but routine, force play at first base. It is sufficient for the offensive team head coach to communicate that he is challenging the call without any further specificity.

4.6 Irrevocable and Final

- Once a team head coach informs an Umpire that they wish to exercise challenge, it may not be rescinded. A head coach should not initiate a HOLD and/or request a challenge unless they are sure that they want to initiate a challenge.
- Rule 1.2.9 shall have no applicability to these Video Review Regulations. No decision by a Video Review Official may be appealed or protested. A violation of any provision of these Regulations shall constitute a basis for an appeal or protest.
- In circumstances in which Video Review is not available (e.g., the call is not reviewable, no team head coach challenge or Plate Umpire review is available or after the start of the fifth inning the Plate Umpire has communicated that they have declined to initiate Video Review), if a head coach, coach, manager player or team member makes reference to having observed a video review that purportedly contradicts the call under dispute, such person is subject to immediate ejection from the game.

4.7 Standard for Changing a Call

To change a reviewable call, the Video Review Official must determine that there is clear and convincing evidence to change the original call that was made on the field. In other words, the original decision of the Umpire shall stand unchanged unless the evidence obtained by the Video Review Official leads them to conclude clearly and convincingly that the call on the field was incorrect.

4.8 Correcting an Incorrect Call

Consistent with Rule Appendix 5.A.i-j, if a Video Review results in a change to a call that had been made on the field, the Video Review Official, with the Plate Umpire and 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 they believe 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.

4.9 Placement of Runners

- Video Review Official's Responsibility

All decisions regarding the placement of base runners resulting from a call that is overturned pursuant to the Regulations shall be made by the Video Review Official in accordance with the standard set forth in the Rules.

Although the final decision regarding the positioning of the runners rests with the Video Review Official, the Director of Umpires or the Assistant Director of Umpires of the competition may support the final decision of the Video Review Official.

- Book Awards & Discretion

Unless directed otherwise by the Rules (for example, Rule 5.11. Effects: the Video Review Official shall place the base runners on the bases they believe they would have reached had the reviewed call been made correctly. For example, Rule 5.11 Effect e) provides that: "The batter-runner and runners are awarded the base or bases they would have made in the Umpire's judgment had interference not occurred, and the ball is dead" Rule 5.10.2 states that: "the obstructed runner and each other runner affected by the obstruction will be awarded the base or bases they would have reached if, in the Umpire's judgment, had there been no obstruction") 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 Video Review Official that a runner would have safely advanced beyond one base had the call been made correctly or the Rules otherwise require such advancement.

- Factors to Consider

The 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 team players.

- Subsequent Calls and Outs

If the 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 team players, the Video Review Official shall change the incorrect call, but let stand any on-field calls or plays unaffected by the incorrect call. The Video Review Official may not declare a runner out based on a play an Umpire believes would have occurred subsequent to the play subject to the play subject to the Video Review.

Example: A runner attempts to advance from first base 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 they are out,

makes no attempt to touch second base and leaves the field. The offensive team head coach challenges the call, and the Video Review Official determines that the second baseman did not tag the runner or the base. The Video Review Official shall reverse the call on the field, declare the runner “safe” and place the at second base.

- Scoring

The 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.

- Final and Binding

The decision of the 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.

4.10 Base Running

When reviewing a play at home plate, if the Video Review Official 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 Video Review Official shall rule the runner “safe” at home plate unless the defensive team head coach appeals the failure of the runner to touch home plate prior to the Plate Umpire making contact with the Video Review Official.

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 atag and the runner “out.” The offensive team head coach challenges the call, and the Video Review Official determines that the catcher missed the tag. The Video Review Official 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 Video Review Official shall declare the runner “out” and not score the run.

4.11 Hit by Pitch

This includes plays for which there is a possibility that a pitched ball touches a batter or his clothing. *See, e.g.,* Rules 5.1.22 and 5.5.1.f. Any doubt whether a pitched ball hit the bat as opposed to the batter or his clothing should be resolved by the Plate Umpire at that moment as the ball hitting the bat and not the batter, and declare a fair or foul ball under the circumstances. Notwithstanding the foregoing, whether the ball was in the strike zone when it touched the batter, and whether the batter made any attempt to avoid being touched by the ball, shall not be reviewable.

Example: A pitch strikes the batter, but the Plate Umpire erroneously rules that the pitch struck the bat instead and rules “foul ball”. The offensive team head coach challenges the call and appropriately invokes Video Review, and the Video Review Official reverses the call. The Plate Umpire shall declare the ball dead at the moment it struck the batter and rule accordingly.

A pitch strikes the bat but the Umpire erroneously rules “hit batter dead ball”. The defensive team head coach challenges the call and appropriately invokes Video Review, and the Video Review Official reverses the call. If the ball lands foul, the Video Review Official shall call the ball “foul.” If the ball lands fair, the Video Review Official may take into consideration whether the defensive team attempted to retire the batter-runner, whether the batter-runner attempted to take a base, whether the batter-runner attempted to deceive the defensive team and the Umpires, and other relevant factors, in placing the batter-runner on base, calling them out or calling the ball “foul” (if a “foul ball” ruling would result in a third strike, the pitch would be reviewed).

4.12 Obstruction and Interference

It is an Umpire’s decision to call or not call an act that would be a violation of Rules 5.1.30 and 5.1.32.

4.13 Plays Not Reviewable

The following plays WILL NOT be subject to review.

- The Umpire’s judgement whether a base runner rounded first base in an attempt to advance to second base.
- The Umpire’s judgement whether a base runner was pushed off a base.
- The Umpire’s judgement o whether a base runner abandoned his effort to advance in accordance with Rule 5.10.3 a) xi.