



**WBSC**

WORLD  
**BASEBALL SOFTBALL**  
CONFEDERATION

*Game Time!*

**WBSC Baseball Tournaments**  
**Umpire Video Review**  
**Guidelines & Protocol**

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# 1. How to use this document



**[Umpires during video review challenge]**

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 competition. In this document the general guidelines, the list of reviewable calls and the protocol to challenge a call are listed.

## 2. General Guidelines

1. Each Team Manager will have one (1) challenge per seven (7) innings of play.
2. Managers may only challenge calls included in the list of "Reviewable Calls for Managers Challenge".
3. If the challenged call is overturned, the Manager will maintain the challenge. If the call is upheld, the Manager will lose the challenge.
4. If the game goes into extra innings, each Team will have one (1) challenge.
5. Beginning in the top of the 5th inning, the Crew Chief can choose to review any reviewable calls if Manager is out of challenges. **Exception:** Potential Home Run calls are reviewable at all times as detailed in section "Reviewable Calls by Crew Chief Initiative".
6. Except in the case of potential home run calls, the crew chief shall not initiate video review of any play or call if the requesting manager has a challenge remaining.

## 3. Reviewable Calls for Managers Challenge

### Base Running

- a) Runner passing the runner in front of him/her.
- b) Time plays.
- c) Runner missing a base while advancing. Defence must appeal prior to review.
- d) Runner(s) leaving early during a tag-up play.
- e) Runner(s) failing to retouch a base when required.

### Catch/No Catch Play

- a) Any play attempted by one of the outfielders.
- b) Any play attempted by an infielder if he/she is forced to go back into outfield to make the play.
- c) Any flyball in foul territory is reviewable.
- d) Play in the infield is NOT reviewable.

**Note:** Infield limit at Umpire's discretion.

### Fair/Foul

- a) Ball must land at or beyond the set position of the 1st/3rd base Umpire.
- b) Foul ball landing in front of Umpire IS NOT reviewable. **Exception:** Ball swung at or bunted, called fair landing in front of Umpire is reviewable to see if the ball hit the batter. The call could be overturned to an out or foul ball. Runners would not be in jeopardy.

### Force Plays

- a) Any force play at any base is reviewable.

### Hit by Pitch

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

### Potential Home Run

- a) Any potential or Home Run call may be challenged.  
**Note:** Manager may ask Crew Chief for review without counting as a challenge. Umpire crew should check on potential Home Run if any doubt. If Crew Chief does not concede review, Manager may challenge.

### Collision Rule

- a) Any collision at any base is reviewable.
- b) Safe/out call will be reviewed while judging potential violation.  
**Note:** If multiple plays, Manager must state at once which ones are being challenged.

### Non-Home Run Boundary

- a) Any ball/fielder entering dead ball territory.
- b) Spectator interference with a play (all types).
- c) Specific tournament ground rules (i.e. ball striking catwalk at a dome).  
**Note:** If a ball hits the catwalk and falls in the infield, not reviewable. Only reviewable if it falls in the outfield.
- d) Balls lodged during a play (i.e. ball stuck in temporary fence).  
**Note:** balls stuck reviewable even if a player goes after it and tries to retrieve it.
- e) Placement of runners after a non-Home Run boundary call. The call prompting the challenge will also be reviewed.

### Slide Rule

- a) When a runner hindered/impeded the fielder and engaged in a bona fide slide on a double play attempt:
  - i. If both calls favour the offence (safe/safe), the defence may challenge.
  - ii. If both calls favour the defence (out/out), the offence may challenge.
  - iii. If one calls favours the offence and one call favours the defence (out/safe, safe/out), both Teams may challenge. **Exception:** if out call is 3rd out.

#### Notes:

- Infielder must make attempt to throw to be reviewable.
- On-field crew will determine a double play attempt on a non-throw.
- If challenging both calls, Manager must state it at once or pick which one he is challenging.
- The original calls on the field will dictate whether a play requires one or two trips to review. A Team adversely affected by a review can still challenge provided the change of the initial call made a



previous call relevant and the Manager had no incentive to seek review originally. This request for a manager's challenge or Crew Chief Review must be made immediately after the announcement of the Video Review Official's decision.

### Tag Plays

- a) A runner potentially being pushed off is NOT reviewable.

## 4. Reviewable Calls by Crew Chief Initiative

1. Any reviewable calls upon start of the 5th inning.
2. Potential Home Runs.
3. Record Keeping situations such:
  - a) Counts.
  - b) Outs.
  - c) Score.
4. Proper/Improper line-up.
5. Substitutions.
6. Rules review if potential protest by Manager.
7. To ask/clarify if a call is reviewable.
8. Ground rules review.

### 4.1 Challenge Protocol

1. Upon an Umpire's call and the completion of a play, a Manager wishing to challenge a call has ten (10) seconds to signal the Home Plate Umpire to hold with his hand.
2. The Manager will then have twenty (20) seconds to decide whether to initiate the challenge or drop the hold.
3. If challenging a call, the Manager must head to home plate and indicate to the Home Plate Umpire the call that is being challenged.
4. If reviewable, the Home Plate Umpire will signal that the call will be reviewed. The Crew Chief and the call Umpire will then head to the video review area to communicate via headphones with the review booth.
5. When a review is initiated by the Crew Chief, both Managers will be informed of the call that is being reviewed.
6. The Official assigned to the video review booth will evaluate the call and make the final call, which will be relayed to the Crew Chief.
7. Upon completion of the review, the Crew Chief will signal whether the call stands or is overturned.

8. The call by the video review Official will be final and may not be argued by neither member of a Team. Any Team member (player, coach, or team personnel) arguing a call that has been reviewed will be automatically ejected from the game.
9. Team on defence must stay on the field after the third out of an inning if a HOLD is requested by the opposing Manager. If the challenge is requested, the Team will remain on the field until the call has been reviewed.
10. For Teams on defence, the Manager must challenge a call before signalling a possible pitching change and/or a no pitch intentional walk.
11. For Teams on offence, the Manager must challenge before the pitcher steps onto the warning track or crosses the foul line.

**Exception:** Crew Chief may allow if defensive Manager signalled pitching change/intentional walk in an accelerated manner to prevent offensive challenge).

### General Guidelines

1. Only the Team Manager is authorized and permitted to request or initiate Video Review. If the Manager cannot perform his/her responsibilities due to injury, illness, ejection, removal, or other legitimate reasons, in which case the coach designated to assume the Manager's responsibilities shall have the sole right to request or initiate Video Review.
2. Crew Chief Review – At any time during a game, a Crew Chief may, in his sole discretion, initiate a Video Review of a potential Home Run call. With respect to other reviewable calls, beginning in the 5th inning, a Crew Chief may, in his/her sole discretion, conduct Video Review upon his/her own initiative or upon the request of a Manager who has no remaining Manager challenges.
3. Duration of Video Review. The Video Review Official shall make a decision on a call under Video Review within two minutes after the Crew Chief and Video Review Official confirm which call is subject to Video review. In the event the call is overturned, the Video Review Official's placements of runners (or such other actions necessary to place both Teams in the same position that they would have been had the changed call been correct in the first instance) may occur after the expiration of the two-minute clock.
4. If the Crew Chief determines that a team's request for a manager's challenge is untimely, the play shall not be reviewed, the umpire's call shall stand. The team will NOT be charged with a challenge. The decision of the crew chief will be final to determine whether a manager's challenge is timely.
5. If a manager challenges a call that is not eligible for review, the Crew Chief will inform him that the call is not reviewable, and the team will not be charged a challenge. If the Crew Chief is unsure of whether a call challenged by the manager is eligible for review, he may consult with the Video Official prior to making the determination. If either the team or Crew Chief invokes Video Review of a call that the Video Official determines is not subject to review, he will inform the Crew Chief that the play is not reviewable, and the team will not be charged with a challenge. To the extent that the Official Baseball Rules require the defensive team to appeal a play eligible for Video Review (e.g., a runner missing a base), Video Review may not be initiated until the umpires rule on the appeal.

### Challenge of a Reviewable Play by Both Managers

1. Both Managers may challenge different reviewable calls within the same reviewable play. These challenges may be in the form of a manager's challenge or a request for a Crew Chief review, to the extent available.
2. The Video Review Official 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 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 Manager's challenge shall be deemed rescinded, and the Team shall not be charged with the challenge.
3. If Manager challenges by both Teams are not invoked simultaneously, the second Team must invoke its challenge before the Crew Chief makes communication contact with the Video Review Official; provided, however, that any Team adversely affected by a Video Review Official's decision to change a call has the right to use a manager's challenge or request that a Crew Chief review another reviewable call in the same play, provided that:
  - (a) the Manager of the adversely affected Team makes the Manager's challenge or requests the Crew Chief review immediately after the announcement of the Video Review Official's decision.
  - (b) the change of the initial call affects the relevance of the subsequent call to the outcome of the play.
  - (c) 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 this Regulation, the advancement of a runner (other than the batter-runner) pursuant to a non-call of Official Baseball Rule 6.01(j) (Sliding to Bases on Double Play Attempts) shall not be considered an incentive for the defensive Team to seek Video Review.

**Example 1:** *With two outs and no one on base, the Umpires call a line drive hit to the outfield a trap but call 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 review of the trap call in the outfield by informing the Crew Chief of the challenge or request immediately after learning of the Video Review Official's decision.*

**Example 2:** *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 the Official Baseball Rules, the defensive Team must first appeal the play. If the Umpire calls the runner safe at third on such appeal, the defensive Team then will be afforded the opportunity to challenge the appeal play by informing the Crew Chief of the challenge immediately after the safe call.

**Example 3:** *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 Official Baseball Rule 6.01(j).*

4. If any of the conditions set forth in Section 3 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 Manager's challenge previously used by the opposing Manager on that play, then the opposing Manager'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, which results in the third out of the inning. The offensive Manager challenges the call at third base, and the Video Review Official determines that the runner was safe. The defensive Manager 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 Manager'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, and therefore such previous challenge on the play would be deemed rescinded.*

### **Effect of Video Review Result on Post-Play Decision by Manager**

If a call is overturned on Video Review, any decisions made by a Manager after the play and influenced by the incorrect call shall be nullified. Such Manager 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 1.** *The defensive Manager signals for a pitching change after a play and, subsequently, the offensive Manager timely initiates a challenge or the Crew Chief initiates Video Review. The Video Review results in an overturned call. Any pitching change, or attempted pitching change, made by the defensive Manager shall be nullified unless reaffirmed by him after the Video Review Official's decision is announced.*

**Example 2.** *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's interference 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 Official Baseball Rule 5.05(b)(3), because of the catcher's interference, the offensive Manager may elect either the interference 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 Manager elects to accept the result of the play. The defensive Manager 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 Manager's decision to accept the result of the play shall be nullified unless reaffirmed by him after the Video Review Official's decision is announced.*

### **Specificity of the Challenge**

When invoking a manager's challenge or otherwise requesting a Crew Chief review, it is the manager's responsibility to ensure that the Umpire knows the specific calls for which he/she is seeking Video Review, but the Manager need not state the reason for his/her belief that the call was incorrect. (For example, in order to challenge an "out" call on a force play at first base, the Manager 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 Manager's challenge or those accepted by the Crew Chief.

**Example 1.** *A runner is called safe on a rundown because the Umpire rules that the fielder missed the tag. The defensive Team challenges the tag call with a manager's challenge. 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 Official Baseball Rule 5.09(b)(9). The Video Review Official cannot correct the Umpires non-call regarding the passed runner because the Manager only challenged the tag call.*

**Example 2.** *With nobody on base, a batter-runner is called out on a close, but routine, force play at first base. It is sufficient for the Manager to communicate that he is challenging the call without any further specificity.*

### **Irrevocable and Final**

1. Once a manager informs an Umpire that he wishes to exercise a manager's challenge, it may not be rescinded. A manager should not point to the headset unless he/she is sure that he/she wants to initiate a challenge.
2. Official Baseball Rule 7.04 shall have no applicability to these Video Review Regulations. No protest shall ever be permitted on judgement decisions by the Video Review Official. Moreover, a violation of any rule or procedure set forth herein shall not constitute a basis for protesting a game.
3. In circumstances in which Video review is not available (e.g., the call is not reviewable, no manager challenge or Crew Chief review is available or after the start of the fifth inning, the Crew Chief has communicated that he/she has declined to initiate Video Review), if a manager, coach, player or team personnel 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.

### **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 of play. In other words, the original decision

of the Umpire shall stand unchanged unless the evidence obtained by the Video Review Official leads him/her to definitively conclude that the call on the field was incorrect.

### **Correcting an Incorrect Call**

Consistent with Official Baseball Rule 8.02 (c), if Video Review results in a change to a call that had been made on the field, the Video Review Official, to the extent feasible, shall exercise his/her 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 he/she 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.

#### **1. Placement of Runners:**

##### a) 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 Official Baseball Rules.

##### b) Book Awards & Discretion:

Unless directed otherwise by the Official Baseball Rules (for example, Official Baseball Rules 5.05(a)(5)-(9), 5.06(b)(3)(C) Comment, and 5.06(b)(4)(F), the Video Review Official shall place the base runners on the bases he/she believes they would have reached had the reviewed call been made correctly. (For example, Official Baseball Rule 6.01(e) Comment states: "Batter and runners shall be placed where in the Umpire's judgement they would have been had the interference not occurred." Rule 6.01(h)(1) states: "All runners shall advance, without liability to be put out, to the bases they would have reached, in the Umpire's judgement, if there had been no obstruction.") any doubt regarding the placement of runners should be resolved in favour 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 Official Baseball Rules otherwise require such advancement.

##### c) 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 behaviour or conduct of the offensive or defensive players.

##### d) Subsequent Calls and Outs:

If the Video Review Official determines that an incorrect call on the field had no effect on the subsequent behaviour or conduct of the offensive or defensive 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 the Umpire believes would have occurred subsequent to the play subject to the play subject to Video Review.

**Example.** *A runner attempts to advance 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 he is out, makes no attempt to touch second base and leaves the field. The offensive Manager 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 him/her at second base.*

e) 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.

f) 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.

## 2. 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 Manager appeals the failure of the runner to touch home plate prior to the Crew Chief 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 a tag and the runner "out." The offensive Manager 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.*

### Hit by Pitch

Those plays for which there is a possibility that a pitched ball touches a batter, or his clothing. See, e.g., Rules 5.06(c) and 5.05(b)(2). Any doubt as to whether a pitched ball hit the bat (as opposed to the batter or his clothing) should be resolved by the Home Plate Umpire at that moment as hitting the bat and not the batter, and the Umpire should 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. See Rule 5.05(b)(2).

**Example 1.** *A pitch strikes the batter, but the Umpire erroneously rules that the pitch struck the bat instead and rules “foul ball.” The Manager on offence appropriately invokes Video Review and the Video Review Official reverses the call. The Crew Chief shall declare the ball dead at the moment it struck the batter and rule accordingly.*

**Example 2.** *A pitch strikes the bat, but the Umpire erroneously rules “hit batter-dead ball.” The Manager on defence 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 attempts to retire the batter-runner, whether the batter-runner attempts to take a base, the batter-runner’s attempt to deceive the defensive Team and the Umpires on the field, and other relevant factors, in placing the batter-runner, calling him out, or calling the ball “foul” (if a “foul ball” ruling would result in a third strike, the pitch would be reviewed).*

### **Collisions at Home Plate**

An Umpire’s decision to call or not call a violation of Official Baseball Rule 6.01(i) and WBSC Collision Rule.

**Example 1.** *A runner collides with a catcher and touches home plate on a close play at home plate, but the home plate Umpire calls the runner out for having violated Official Baseball Rule 6.01(i) and WBSC Addendum. The Manager on offence invokes Video Review to challenge the application of Rule 6.01(i). If the Video Review Official overturns the call that Rule 6.01(i) was violated, then he also shall determine whether the runner was tagged out before touching home plate.*

**Note:** Whenever Video Review of a call involving the application of Official Baseball Rule 6.01(i) is initiated, the Video Review Official also shall review any other reviewable call on the runner on at home plate on that play (e.g., whether the runner was tagged out at home plate even if Rule 6.01(i) was not violated).

### **Plays NOT Reviewable**

The following plays WILL NOT be subject to review:

1. The Umpire’s judgement on whether a base runner rounded first base in an attempt to advance to second base.
2. The Umpire’s judgement on whether a base runner was pushed off a base.
3. The Umpire’s judgement on whether a base runner abandoned his effort to advance in accordance with Official Baseball Rule 5.09(b)(2).