

Potomac Wiffleball League Replay Review Regulations

Overview

Video replay review in The Potomac Wiffleball League (hereafter, "Replay Review") is designed to provide timely review of certain disputed calls. 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 (hereafter, the "Umpires") 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 reverse or confirm the Umpires' call on the field subject to and in accordance with the terms and conditions described below. The Office of the Commissioner reserves the right to rule on any point with respect to Replay Review that is not covered by these Regulations.

Challenging and Reviewing Calls Pursuant to Replay Review

Responsibilities. Each Club's Manager is responsible for invoking challenges under the circumstances described in these Regulations. The umpire is responsible for determining whether a Manager Challenge is properly and timely made and, in accordance with these rules. Moreover, prior to the initiation of a 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 Official Baseball Rule 9.02. If a reviewable call is changed in this fashion, the new call shall be subject to Replay Review as provided in these Regulations.

Manager Challenges

Each Club will receive one (1) Manager Challenge to start each game. A Manager may challenge as many reviewable calls within a single play as he desires using one challenge. If the Replay Official does not overturn any of the calls challenged by a Club, the Club will lose the ability to challenge any additional play or call in the game. If the Replay Official overturns any call challenged by a Club (even if he upholds other challenged calls), the Club may challenge one (1) additional play or call in the game. A Club will not retain the right to challenge any play or call after it uses a second Manager Challenge regardless of whether any of the calls within the second play are overturned.

A Club's Manager is the only person authorized and permitted to request or initiate Replay Review on behalf of the Club during a game, unless the Manager cannot perform his Replay Review responsibilities due to injury, illness, ejection, removal or other legitimate reasons, in which case the player designated to assume the Manager's responsibilities shall have the sole right to request or initiate Replay Review. As used in these Regulations, the term "Manager" refers to a Club's Field Manager or such other person who assumes his duties as described above.

If a Manager wishes to invoke a Manager Challenge with respect to a play or call, the Manager shall approach the Umpire who made the call if only one call is being challenged, or one of the Umpires who made the calls if more than one call is being challenged. The Manager shall approach the appropriate umpire on the field and verbally communicate to him that he wishes to challenge the call.

Upon being prompted by the Umpire, a Manager must immediately inform the Umpire whether he wishes to use his Manager Challenge to invoke Replay Review. If, upon such prompting, the Manager does not immediately respond that he is using his Manager Challenge, then the Umpire shall revoke the Manager's right to challenge any call relating to that play, and the Club shall retain its Manager Challenge.

Timing of Manager Challenges.

Except as otherwise set forth in these rules, to be timely, a Manager must exercise his challenge (by verbal communication to the appropriate Umpire), before the commencement of the next play or pitch. Such challenge or request will be considered timely only if the Umpire acknowledges that communication within the time period specified above. For purposes of these Regulations, the next "play" shall commence when the pitcher is on the rubber preparing to start his 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). A challenge to a play that ends the game must be invoked immediately upon the conclusion of the play, and both Clubs shall remain in their dugouts until the Replay Official issues his decision. No substitutions or pitching changes may take place while the Umpires are in the process of invoking Replay Review.

In the case of a pitching change after the conclusion of a play but before the conclusion of the inning: (a) the defensive manager must exercise his challenge before signaling for a pitching change; and (b) the offensive Manager must exercise his challenge, before the relief pitcher steps onto the turf circle surrounding the pitchers plate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Umpire shall have the discretion to permit a challenge by the offensive Manager if the Umpire determines that the defensive Manager called for a relief pitcher in an accelerated fashion for the sole purpose of preventing the offensive Manager from having a reasonable opportunity to exercise his challenge.

In the case of a play that results in a second-out call, a Manager must immediately run onto the field to notify the Umpire that the Club is contemplating challenging the play (and in all circumstances must be on the field in less than ten (10) seconds from the Umpire's second-out call), and in such cases the Umpire shall hold the defensive players on the field. The Manager will have no more than thirty (30) seconds after entering the field to notify an Umpire that he is invoking a challenge. In the case of a play that results in a second-out call and is subject to review at the discretion of the Umpire, the Umpire must either immediately initiate a Replay Review while holding the defensive players on the field. If a Manager who is out of challenges desires to request that the Umpire review the play at his discretion, the Manager must immediately run on the field to make such a request.

If the Umpire determines that a Club's invocation of a Manager's Challenge is untimely, the play shall not be reviewed, the Umpire's call shall stand, and the Club shall not be charged with a challenge. The Umpire shall have the final authority to determine whether a Manager's Challenge is timely. The judgment of the Umpire regarding the timeliness of a Manager's Challenge shall be final and binding on both Clubs, and shall not be reviewable by Replay Review or otherwise.

Irrevocable and Final.

Once a Manager informs an Umpire that he wishes to exercise a Manager's Challenge, it may not be rescinded.

The decision of the Replay Official 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 Clubs and is not subject to further review or revision.

Once Replay Review is initiated, no uniformed personnel from either Club shall be permitted to further argue the contested calls or the decision of the Replay Official. Onfield personnel who violate this provision shall be ejected.

Official Baseball Rule 4.19 shall have no applicability to these Replay Regulations. No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions by the Replay Official. Moreover, a violation of any rule or procedure set forth herein shall not constitute a basis for protesting a game.

In circumstances in which Replay Review is not available (e.g., the call is not reviewable, no Manager Challenge is available), if a manager, coach, or player 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

To change a reviewable call, the Replay 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 Replay Official leads him to definitively conclude that the call on the field was incorrect.

Correcting an Incorrect Call

Consistent with Official Baseball Rule 9.02(c), if Replay Review results in a change to a call that had been made on the field, the Replay Official, to the extent feasible, shall exercise his discretion to place both Clubs in the same position they would have been in had the call on the field been correct. This shall include placing runners where he 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.

Placement of Runners.

Replay Official's Responsibility. All decisions regarding the placement of base runners resulting from a call that is overturned pursuant to these Regulations shall be made by the Replay Official in accordance with the standard set forth in the Official Baseball Rules.

Book Awards & Discretion. Unless directed otherwise by the Official Baseball Rules (for example, Official Baseball Rules 6.09(d)-(h), 7.04(c) Comment, and 7.05(f)), the Replay Official shall place the base runners on the bases he believes they would have reached had the reviewed call been made correctly. (For example, Official Baseball Rule 3.16 Comment states: "Batter and runners shall be placed where in the umpire's judgment they would have been had the interference not occurred." Rule 7.06(a) states: "[A]ll runners shall advance, without liability to be put out, to the bases they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, if there had 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 Replay 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.

Factors to Consider. The Replay 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 players.

Subsequent Calls and Outs. If the Replay Official determines that an incorrect call on the field had no effect on the subsequent behavior or conduct of the offensive or defensive players, the Replay Official shall change the incorrect call but let stand the on-field calls made on the runner(s) unaffected by the incorrect call. No runner may be declared out by the Replay Official if no play was attempted on, or call made regarding, that runner (e.g., umpire cannot assume that a fielder would have thrown a runner out).

Scoring. The Replay Official shall determine whether base runners would have scored had the call been made correctly, and award or nullify runs scored by a Club where appropriate.

Final and Binding. The decision of the Replay Official regarding the placement of runners, or runners being declared out, shall be final and binding on both Clubs. On-field personnel shall be ejected if they argue or otherwise challenge the placement of runners.

Reviewable Calls

The only calls eligible for Replay Review are set forth in this section. Calls not identified below may not be reviewed at any time, but nothing contained herein shall limit the Umpires in their ability to convene the crew on the field to further discuss any play consistent with Official Baseball Rule 9.02. (Attached to these Regulations is a non-exhaustive list of calls that are not subject to video replay review).

If a Manager challenges a call that is not eligible for review, the Umpire will inform him that the call is not reviewable, and the Club shall not be charged with a challenge. To the extent the Umpire is unsure of whether a call challenged by a Manager is eligible for review, he may consult with the Replay Official prior to making the determination. If either the Club or Umpire invokes Replay Review of a call that the Replay Official determines is not subject to Replay Review, he will inform the Umpire that the play is not reviewable and the Club will not be charged with a challenge. To the extent that the Official Baseball

Rules require the defensive Club to appeal a play eligible for replay review (e.g., a runner missing a base), Replay Review may not be initiated until the Umpires rule on the appeal.

Potential Home Run Calls. The Umpires' decision to call or not call a home run may be reviewed if there is a question as to whether the ball left the playing field or struck an object; whether the ball struck the top of a fence, hit a railing or otherwise stayed within the field of play; whether the ball was interfered with by a fan reaching over the fence; or whether the ball was fair or foul.

Non-Home Run Boundary Calls. Calls involving a decision regarding whether a live ball (1) bounces out of the field of play; (2) strikes the top of a fence or hits a railing or other obstacle in the ballpark; (3) is interfered with by a fan reaching over the fence; (4) is successfully caught by a fielder proximate to a stadium boundary (e.g., while falling into the stands); or (5) leaves the field of play and becomes a dead ball.

Specified Fair/Foul Ball Calls. Calls involving a decision regarding whether a batted ball was "A FOUL BALL," within the meaning of Official Baseball Rule 2.00 but only with respect to balls that first land at or beyond the set positions of the Umpire. Line drives fielded by a defensive player in the infield and balls that first land in front of the set positions of the first or third base Umpire shall not be subject to review. The Umpire shall determine whether a purported foul ball landed in front of his position and thus is not subject to review. Such a determination by the Umpire is not reviewable.

Force/Tag/Peg Play Calls. Calls involving a defensive player's attempt to put out a runner or batter-runner by tagging or pegging the runner or batter-runner or touching a base, and/or whether or not the runner acquired the base. When reviewing such calls, the Replay Official shall determine that a fielder has caught the ball, consistent with Official Baseball Rule 2.00, at the point in time that the ball touches the fielder's hand or glove (so long as the fielder maintains possession of the ball from the point of contact and thereafter).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following calls will not be subject to review:

The Umpire's judgment that a runner is clearly out on a force play at second base under circumstances in which the defensive player may or may not have touched second base in his attempt to complete a double play and avoid a collision with the runner. All other elements of the call shall be subject to review, including whether the fielder caught the ball, had control of the ball, was drawn off the bag, or tagged the runner. In this regard, a determination as to whether the fielder made a catch before dropping the ball while in the act of making a throw following the catch shall be reviewable.

The Umpire's judgment on whether a base runner left early when tagging up.

The Umpire's judgment on whether a base runner rounded first base in an attempt to advance to second base.

The Umpire's judgment on whether a base runner abandoned his effort to advance in accordance with Official Baseball Rule 7.08(a)(2).

Catch Plays In The Outfield. An Umpire's decision whether a fielder caught a fly ball or line drive in flight in the outfield before it hit the ground (or an object other than the fielder.) See Official Baseball Rule 2.00 ("Definition of Terms"; "A CATCH"; and "IN FLIGHT".) Fly balls or line drives fielded by a defensive player in the infield shall not be eligible for review. Any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play shall be considered an infielder for the purpose of this Regulation. A fly ball (but not a line drive) touched by an infielder (other than the pitcher or catcher) in an area behind the original positioning of the nearest infielder (other than the pitcher or catcher) shall be considered a fly ball or line drive in the outfield subject to review. The Umpire shall determine whether a call is reviewable under this provision. Such a determination by the Umpire is not reviewable.

Base Running. The following base running calls are reviewable:

Calls involving whether a base runner passes a preceding runner before such runner is out in violation of Rule 7.08(h);

Determinations of whether a base runner scored ahead of a third out (see Rule 4.09(a)); and
Upon an appropriate appeal by the defensive Club, whether a base runner touched a base (see Rule 7.10(b) and Comment).

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F or elsewhere in these Regulations, in accordance with Official Baseball Rule 9.02(c), when reviewing a play at home plate, if the Replay 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 Replay 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 Umpire making contact with the Replay 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 Replay Official determines that the catcher missed the tag. The Replay Official shall disregard the failure of the runner to touch home plate, declare the runner "safe" and score the run.

Collisions At Home Plate. An Umpire's decision to call or not call a violation of Official Baseball Rule 7.13.

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 7.13. The Umpire exercises his discretion to initiate a Replay Review. If the Replay Official overturns the call that Rule 7.13 was violated, then he also shall determine whether the runner was tagged or forced out before touching home plate.

Example 2. A runner collides with a catcher and is called safe at home plate. The Manager on defense requests that the Umpire initiate Replay Review in order to determine whether the runner should have

been ruled out for violating Official Baseball Rule 7.13, and the Umpire declines to do so. The Manager on defense shall be permitted to exercise an available challenge regarding the call as to whether the runner was tagged or forced out before touching home plate.

Technology and Personnel

Available Video. For each game, the home plate camera will be available to the Replay Official.

Replay Officials.

The Commissioner of the Potomac Wiffleball League or his designee shall be the Replay Official.

Official Scorer. 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 Replay Official and/or the Umpires on the field. See Official Baseball Rule 10.01(a).