



## Spring Sports Rule COVID Modifications (As of 1/19/21)

### 1. Baseball Bat Testing

This season the NCAA implemented the following bat testing protocols for all divisions.

1. Bat ring test 1. Placing stickers on approved bats.

***NAIA Modification: There are no required bat testing protocols in the NAIA until the 2022 season when all protocols (including bat compression) will be implemented at the same time. This does not modify in any way the use of illegal bats as shown in the NCAA BBCOR Certified Baseball Bat Listing.***

NOTE: When NAIA schools play at NCAA sites they will need to follow bat testing protocol set forth by the NCAA.

### 2. Required number of Baseball Umpires

Rule 3 - SECTION 6. Game officials are the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) and one, two, three, or five field umpires. a. Any umpire has the authority

#### ***Modification***

***A minimum of two umpires is to be scheduled for each game. Conferences may set protocol that a game may begin or continue with one umpire in the case of injury, illness, or unforeseen situation by one of the umpires.***

### 3. Baseball Dugouts – Clarification – Option to physical distance

Rule 4 - SECTION 16.b If a facility has limited dugout space and it is necessary for personnel to be outside of the dugout, a visible out-of-bounds line should be added at both bench areas to identify the dead-ball area. All personnel shall remain in this area until the ball has been declared dead. **No extensions to dugouts will be allowed on the home plate side of either dugout.** Any dead-ball area on the home plate side of any dugout that is used for ball persons is not to be occupied by any uniformed player, coach, or other team personnel during play.

NOTE: A marked off area outside of the fence in dead ball territory could also be used for additional space. If this is used it must be marked off for game day personnel only.

#### **4. Softball Dugouts**

Rule 4.2.2. During a game, no one except players, coaches, managers, medical personnel, scorekeepers, necessary institutional personnel, and bat handlers shall occupy a team's dugout.

##### ***Modification***

***Teams have the option of players to be located outside the dugout in dead ball territory to assist with "physical distancing." This area should be marked and designated for game personnel only. No personnel will be allowed from the nearest end of the dugout towards the home plate.***

#### **5. Softball Umpire – Note the required number for a legal contest.**

4.10.1.2 A minimum of two officials must be contracted for each game. However, a game may be played with one official because of unforeseen circumstances, if the opposing coaches agree

#### **Softball Bat Testing**

No required testing until the 2022 season. Bat compression tests will then be required.

***\*Please note that at this time the NCAA has not published COVID rule modifications. They may consider the items stated above and there may be others.***