



**NCAA Baseball Interpretations/Clarifications
January 16, 2019
Defensive and Offensive Charged Conferences**

Defensive Conference Limit – 6-5-f

- Maximum of six (6) defensive conferences without a pitching change are allowed per regulation game [plus one (1) during extra innings]. Any unused charged conferences remaining may be used during extra innings.
- Maximum of three (3) of these conferences may include a coach during regulation (similar to existing rule).
- Coach may also be involved in the “extra” conference during extra innings.
- A player leaving his position to confer with the pitcher, including a pitcher leaving the mound to confer with a player, is a charged defensive conference.
- Brief incidental communications that do not delay the game are not considered charged conferences.
- Pitching change required if:
 - A coach makes a second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning;
 - A coach has already been involved with three (3) charged defensive conferences during regulation or the “extra” conference during extra innings; or
 - A team has already used all permitted charged conferences and a coach goes to the mound.
- If a fielder requests a conference after the team’s allotment has been used, the conference should be denied.
 - If the player refuses to cooperate with the umpire, he risks being ejected.

Defensive Charged Conferences

1. The catcher goes to the mound to speak to the pitcher.
2. The catcher jogs to the mound to hand the ball to the pitcher and proceeds to have a conversation with him while continuing towards the mound.
3. The catcher walks halfway to the mound to hand the ball to the pitcher and proceeds to have a conversation with him while continuing towards the mound.
4. The infielder comes to the mound to use the rosin bag and engages in a conversation with the pitcher.
5. During an at-bat, an infielder comes to the mound to clean his spikes while engaging the pitcher in a conversation.

6. In a possible bunt situation, the first baseman or other infielder walks to the mound and engages the pitcher in a conversation.
7. Following a play at first base with the pitcher covering, the first baseman accompanies the pitcher back to the mound and uses the rosin bag while engaging the pitcher in a conversation.
8. The catcher goes out to the mound to have a conversation with the pitcher, and they are joined by several infielders.
9. The catcher and pitcher engage in a conversation on the mound. A coach then joins the conversation. As long as the umpire had not indicated to the catcher that it was time to resume play, this would only count as a single conference.
10. The catcher and pitcher engage in a conversation. After the umpire indicates to the catcher that play should resume or if the catcher has left the mound area to return to his position, the coach leaves the dugout and signals for a pitching change. One conference is charged. The removal of the pitcher would not count against the team's allotment.
11. The catcher (or an infielder) goes to the mound, has a conversation with the pitcher, and returns to his position. A coach then goes out to the mound for a conversation and is joined by the catcher and infielders. These would be considered 2 separate charged conferences. If this was the first trip by a coach to this pitcher in that inning, the pitcher would not have to be removed from the game.
12. The catcher is crossed up by a pitch and requests to visit with the pitcher to clarify the signs. This counts as a charged conference if the team has not already used all of their allotted conferences. See the exceptions if all charged conferences have been used.

IMPORTANT:

When players are engaged in a conversation and the plate umpire determines that it is now time to resume play, he should check to see if a coach has already left the dugout to join the conference. If not, the umpire should step toward the players and verbally indicate that the charged conference is over, and play should resume. If a coach now leaves the dugout to go to the mound, he must either remove the pitcher or be charged with another conference.

Exceptions - No Charged Conference

1. The catcher and infielders engage in a conversation with the pitcher on the mound. Then a coach comes to the mound to remove the pitcher. As long as the umpire had not indicated to the players that the conference was over before the coach left the dugout, this would not be a charged conference.
2. After a new relief pitcher enters the game and completes his warm-up pitches, an infielder or the catcher engages the pitcher in a brief discussion. As this occurred during a pitching change, this would not count as a charged conference.
3. The plate umpire accompanies the coach, trainer, and players out to the mound during a potential injury situation to the pitcher. If this is a legitimate visit, it does not count as a conference. The coach or catcher should inform the umpire that they would like to check the pitcher before this visit takes place.

4. The catcher is injured by a pitch. As the trainer tends to him, one or more infielders visit with the pitcher on or near the mound. As long as the players return to their positions as the trainer leaves the field, this would not count as a charged conference.
5. The home plate umpire is hit by a pitch or foul ball. As he gathers himself, the catcher walks the ball out to the pitcher. As this occurred when “time” was called, it is not a charged conference.
6. Following a play at first base with the pitcher covering, neither the pitcher nor the first baseman lingered or engaged in a lengthy conversation. No charged conference as long as the first baseman doesn’t accompany the pitcher back to the mound or no delays in the game occur.
7. The pitcher and catcher have a conversation on the mound during a delay for a video review. No charged conference as long as the catcher immediately returns to his position as soon as the review is completed.
8. The catcher is crossed up by a pitch. The catcher requests to visit with the pitcher or the umpire asks the catcher whether he needs to talk with the pitcher to confirm the signs. If the team has already used its total allotment of charged conferences and the umpire feels it is a safety issue to confirm the signs, he should accompany the catcher for a brief visit with the pitcher without further penalty, similar to a visit to check on a potential injury. It is a charged conference if the team has any of its allotment remaining.

Offensive Charged Conferences - No “Free” One During Defensive Charged Conference– 6-5-f-4

- Maximum of three (3) offensive conferences are allowed per regulation game [plus one (1) during extra innings]. Any unused conferences may also be used during extra innings.
- An offensive conference is charged if a batter or any runner leaves their position during a defensive charged conference.
 - Runners at first or third base may talk with their respective coaches during a defensive conference.
 - A pitching change is not a charged conference. Therefore, during a pitching change, the next batter and any runners are allowed to leave their positions to meet with a coach but should return before the last warmup pitch so the game can be started promptly or risk being charged with an offensive conference.

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