



2018 and 2019 NCAA Softball Official Rules Interpretations, Clarifications and Situations

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Last Updated 9/14/18 2/5/19

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Interpretation/Clarification/Situation</u>
10.2	9/14/18 2/5/19	<p>TAKING THE SIGNAL (RULES 10.2.1 and 10.2.2) Before starting a pitch, all pitchers, whether taking a visual signal from a coach or player, referring to a signal arm band, or taking no signal at all, must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have both feet in contact with the pitcher’s plate (10.2.1.1), • Have her hands separated (10.2.1.2), and • Pause for a noticeable stop of two seconds (10.2.2). • A pitcher taking a visual signal from a coach/player or taking a signal from an arm band may do so from behind the pitcher’s plate. If she does so when she positions both feet in contact with the pitcher’s plate she must look at her signal arm band, catcher or coach before bringing her hands together to start the pitch. • If the pitcher is not taking a visual signal from a coach or player or referring to a signal arm band, she still must comply with Rules 10.2.1 and 10.2.2, which includes pausing for two seconds while in contact with the pitcher’s plate and hands separated before bringing her hands together to start the pitch. • Any time a pitcher takes a signal from somewhere other than the pitcher’s plate with hands separated, it is an illegal pitch, unless she also takes another signal while in the position required in Rule 10.2.1. • Following this procedure will ensure that pitchers will pause once they position both feet in contact with the pitcher’s plate prior to bringing their hands together. <p>TWO SECOND PAUSE WITH HANDS SEPARATED (RULE 10.2.2): The plate umpire has his/her hand up indicating “time” because the batter is not positioned and ready in the batter’s box. During this “time out” the pitcher’s hands must be separated. When the umpire’s hand drops to indicate that the batter is ready, the pitcher can take a signal from the catcher or her signal arm band or she can bring her hands together and pitch without having to pause for two seconds.</p>



UPDATED CASE BOOK PLAYS BASED ON THESE INTERPRETATIONS:

Taking the Signal

A.R. 10-1.

1) The pitcher puts her front foot on the pitcher's plate and looks to the catcher who, by her hand/arm movements, apparently gives the pitcher the signal or 2) the pitcher puts her front foot on the pitcher's plate and looks at her signal arm band. The pitcher then steps on the pitcher's plate with her rear foot assuming a legal position, brings her hands together and begins the pitch. Is this a legal pitch?

RULING: Illegal pitch in both 1) and 2). The pitcher is not restricted to taking only one signal. She can stand as described and receive a pitching signal. But she must then take another signal in the position described in Rule 10.2.1 (that is, both feet on the pitcher's plate, hands separated, and the ball in one hand) when she pauses. This required position alerts the batter and umpire that she is about to bring her hands together, separate them and deliver the pitch.

(Rule 10.2)

A.R. 10-2.

The pitcher steps on the pitcher's plate with both feet, her hands apart, and gets the sign from the dugout. She then brings her hands together, pauses, looks to the catcher or her signal arm band and receives additional signs. Is this additional apparent sign illegal?

RULING: No. The first part satisfies the requirements in Rule 10.2 for taking the signal. She must pause with her hands together for not more than five seconds, but the rule does not specify what else she can do during that time so, yes, she can receive additional signals during those five seconds.

(Rule 10.2)