



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

July 7, 2014

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TO: Head Softball Coaches ]  
Directors of Athletics ] - at NCAA Member Institutions  
Senior Woman Administrators ] that Sponsor Softball.  
Conference Commissioners ]

FROM: Ruth Kmak, chair  
NCAA Softball Rules Committee

Dee Abrahamson, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Fences.

The following information is being provided to help clarify rules passed in 2014 by the NCAA Softball Rules Committee and subsequently approved by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel relative to the height and distance of the home-run fence, which could have a financial impact.

The current rule (Rule 2.10) regarding fences, summarized:

The following heights and distances are recommended (not required):

- For a 4-foot fence, it is highly recommended that the fence is a minimum distance of 210 feet down the foul lines and 230 feet to center field. The maximum distance to center field is 235 feet.
- For a 6-foot fence, it is highly recommended that the fence is a minimum distance of 190 feet down the foul lines and 220 feet to center field. The maximum distance to center field is 235 feet.

For new facilities and facilities that are being renovated when construction begins after the 2016 season, the following applies:

- The minimum height of the outfield fence shall be 6 feet high with a minimum distance of 190 feet down the foul lines and 220 feet to center field. The maximum distance to center field is 235 feet. If a field is not newly built or being renovated after the 2016 season, there is currently no requirement to change if it has a 6-foot or higher fence.

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

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For the 2017 season:

- For institutional fields with a 4-foot fence, it will be required that the fence is a minimum of 210 feet down the foul lines and 230 feet to center field OR the field can be renovated with a taller fence that meets the standards listed above under renovated facility. The maximum distance to center field is 235 feet.
- For municipal fields with a 4-foot fence, it is highly recommended that the fence is a minimum of 210 feet down the foul lines and 230 feet to center field (same as institutional fields). The maximum distance to center field is 235 feet.

For easy reference, the chart below contains the same information.

	Current rule for 4-foot homerun fence	Current rule for 6-foot homerun fence	New rule <u>ONLY</u> for new or renovated fields after 2016 season	By the beginning of the 2017 season	By the beginning of the 2017 season
Height	--	--	6' minimum	<u>Institutional</u> field with a 4' fence	<u>Municipal</u> field with a 4' fence
Distance down R/L foul lines	210' highly recommended	190' highly recommended	190' minimum	210' minimum	210' highly recommended
Distance to center field	230' highly recommended; 235' maximum	220' highly recommended; 235' maximum	220' minimum; 235' maximum	230' minimum; 235' maximum	230' highly recommended; 235' maximum
--	--	--	No change needed if field has 6' or higher fence	<u>OR</u> renovate field with taller fence that meets standards listed under column at left (new or renovated field after 2016 season)	--

Please direct questions to Dee Abrahamson at [abrahamson@niu.edu](mailto:abrahamson@niu.edu) or 815/751-2648.

RK/DA:af

cc: NCAA Softball Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members