

Player-to-player defensive meetings – pace of play initiative

Rule 2-10-3 . . . A player-to-player defensive meeting includes two or more players (3-4-6).

Rule 3-4-6 . . . Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than one player-to-player meeting during an inning to permit players to confer with defensive personnel. The umpire shall deny any subsequent player-to-player defensive team requests for meetings.



Player-to-player meetings



- These are meetings, not conferences. Use correct terminology.
- Use good sense in enforcing – the following do not count as player-to-player defensive meetings:
 - Injury time-outs for either offense or defense. Players can meet.
 - Offensive conference – Defensive players can meet without penalty
 - After an out – Infielders can gather at the mound and talk briefly; they don't have to throw the ball to the pitcher.
 - After warm up pitches at the start of or during a ½-inning – the catcher can walk the ball out to the pitcher and talk briefly
 - Plate umpire takes a hard hit & the catcher goes out to the mound



Player-to-player meetings

- Pitcher & catcher get crossed up:
 - This is a safety issue – permit the meeting.
 - If the team has not used their player-to-player meeting – this counts as the meeting for that ½-inning (no option)
 - If a team has already used their meeting – allow the meeting; PU needs to go with the catcher to monitor (opposing head coach may need quick explanation)



Player-to-player meetings

- Can you still send the catcher out to tell the pitcher to give you a better stop?
(food for thought)
- Don't lose track of the meetings – make a note on your line-up card if needed



Player-to-player meetings

- Enforcement
 - Have patience – it's a new rule; we're all on the learning curve
 - Don't routinely grant fielder's time out requests
 - OK to grant time out if they've not used their meeting & want to meet (at the mound or elsewhere)



Player-to-player defensive meetings – enforcement

Rule 3-4-6 . . . Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than one player-to-player meeting during an inning to permit players to confer with defensive personnel. **The umpire shall deny any subsequent player-to-player defensive team requests for meetings.**



Player-to-player meetings

- Enforcement
 - Deny subsequent requests (unless pitcher & catcher are crossed up)
 - Communicate clearly – players & head coach
 - If the denial is not heeded, add a ball to the count for delay of game
 - For repeated violations, use the warning system