

MLB to Expand Instant Replay to Everything Short of Balls and Strikes

Written by Maury Brown
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On a day that Commissioner Selig called, "historic", Major League Baseball is expected to have expanded instant replay on virtually all aspects of the game, short of called balls and strikes. [According to Bob Nightengale of USA Today](#), "MLB vice president Joe Torre, Atlanta Braves GM John Schuerholz and advisor Tony La Russa presented the all-encompassing replay proposal to the 30 ownership groups" with ratification expected to occur by the league's owners during their quarterly meetings on 13-14 in Orlando, Fla.

Like the NFL, managers would be able to "challenge" calls made by the umpires.

The MLBPA and union for the umpires would need to approve the changes that would take place in 2014. The players appear to be ready to accept the changes.

"My sense is that players will be willing to expand replay, to every base, if we have the right technology," union executive director Michael Weiner [told USA TODAY Sports](#). "Nobody is interested in (replaying) balls or strikes, but I think the players are in favor of everything else, and I think the owners likely do as well."

Joe West, president of the World Umpires Association, did not want to talk publicly about negotiations, but said Tuesday, "This group of umpires today are more conscientious of getting things correct than ever before. Umpires want everything they can to help them."

According to USA Today:

The replay will include up to three challenges that managers will be provided during a game, one in the first six innings, and two beginning in the seventh inning through the game's duration. If a

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manager is successful with his replay challenge, he will not be charged with a review.

If a manager exhausts his three challenges, and umpire crew can make a review of its own only to determine home-run calls, a rule that will be grandfathered in with the new regulations.

Cost is expected to \$25-\$40 million, something the owners were willing to accept. Reviews will tap into MLB Advance Media's (MLBAM) system for capturing games and replay cameras will be monitored by those with umpiring experience.



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