



2021 COVID On-Field Guidance

General

1. Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use.
2. Cover coughs and sneezes. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with hand sanitizer.
3. All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators should practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household.
4. All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each practice or game. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any sports activity until cleared by a medical professional.
5. **All players shall complete contact tracing forms prior to each practice and/or game in accordance with their specific program requirements.**

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

1. Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
2. Post-game: Line up outside the dugout and tip caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game (no hand slaps).
3. Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 20 minutes.

Drinks and Snacks

1. Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
2. Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.
3. There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
4. Teams should not share any snacks or food.

Personal Protective Equipment

1. All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., shall wear PPE whenever applicable and possible, such as cloth face coverings (e.g. in on-field coaching positions and in dugout).
2. Players shall wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, **such as in dugouts.**
3. Players should not wear protective medical gloves on the field during game play.
4. Players are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field during game play.



2021 COVID On-Field Guidance

5. Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian/caretaker.
6. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Player Equipment

1. Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
2. Measures should be enacted to avoid, or minimize, equipment sharing when feasible.
3. Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned and then disinfected before use by a new player. Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
4. Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable.
5. Individuals disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves while using disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's directions for use. All disinfectants should be stored properly, in a safe area, out of the reach of children.
6. Players should not share towels, clothing, or other items that they may use to wipe their face or hands.

Baseballs and Softballs

1. Each team shall play in the field with their own balls during play. Balls should be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.
2. Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
3. Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container.
4. Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.

1. Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., **is not permitted** in dugouts or on the playing field.
2. All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.