

# COVID-19 Guidelines

## Umpires:

- At this time umpires are NOT required to be tested nor have vaccination.
- If you are feeling sick or experiencing symptoms turn back the assignment.
- Host team may take umpire(s) temperature and record umpire(s) name and phone number for contact tracing.
- Host site should have a bathroom or port-a-potty available for everyone.
- Wear a solid color mask; preferably black, blue, or gray; upon arrival to site, during the game then after until departure.
  - Bases umpire will always be wearing mask.
  - Plate umpire not required, but highly recommended, to wear a mask while calling pitches. **Must have mask on between innings, pitching changes and discussing a call with coach.**

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## Umpires:

- Gloves are recommended, but not required.
- Carry you own hand sanitizer.
- Bring you own water to field and take water bottle(s) with you after the game.
- No Sunflower seeds, spitting or chewing gum.
- Umpires will not police parents / fans in attendance who are not wearing masks.
  - Home site administration will handle them.

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## **Pre-Game Conference:**

- Umpires are not to touch any equipment. You may look at but not touch.
- Pre Game Conference limited to Head Coach from each team and umpire(s).
- Social distancing must be maintained by all.
  - Recommend coaches stay on grass, if such, while umpires are at the plate 6+ feet apart.
- No handshakes.
- No line-up card exchange between coaches at the meeting.
- Line-up cards should be put on the backstop, secured somehow.
  - Three copies: one each for the opposing coach, the plate umpire and the scorekeeper.
  - Each person at a safe time, when no one is near them, will get their copy of the line-up card.
- Scorekeeper, preferably an adult, should be behind the backstop on the home field side or front section of the dugout accessible to the plate umpire.

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## Team Dugouts:

- Coaches, game personnel and players only permitted in the dugout.
- Social distance requirements must be observed by all in the dugout.
- If the dugout area is not large enough to provide for social distance requirements, players and game personnel may move outside of the immediate dugout area, in a safe area away from the plate behind a fence, to practice social distance requirements.
  - Could be in bleachers near dugout, but not behind home plate.
- Spectators shall not be permitted near the dugouts and/or the immediate area of the dugout.
- Umpires will not “police” the above except players in bleachers behind home plate. Host site administration police the players, coaches and fans.

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## During the Game:

- Properly wearing a mask is recommended at all times by all players in the activity, even with heavy exertion, as tolerated.
- Social distancing measures shall be in place at all times other than when engaged in competition.
- **Umpires will not handle any game balls.**
  - Umpires may look at the ball but can not touch it.
- Game Balls will come in from the defensive team.
  - Each team provides sanitized balls (bucket) while on defense.
  - If a Game ball the goes out of play that game ball must be sanitized before it can come back into play.
    - ***Replacement game ball will come from the defensive team.***
- If a pitcher or player goes to their mouth and then touches or wipes a game ball, ***there's no penalty.***
  - However the ball must be removed and sanitized before it is used in the game.

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## During the Game:

- A coach may go to the mound or the pitching circle to talk or remove his pitcher or talk to their team.
- A coach can go out and attend to any injured player.
- Umpires must maintain social distancing if the head coach comes out to talk about a call.
  - *Only the head coach, or acting head coach (if ejected) may discuss the call with the umpire.*
- **Discussions with base umpire:** The head coach may only go to the foul line, around the 45' spot between home and 1st or 3rd.
  - Base umpire will meet with the head coach near that area but maintain at least six feet distance.
- **Discussions with plate umpire:** The head coach must stay on grass area, if such, and plate umpire will remain at home plate or six feet away, which ever is further.
  - Catcher, batter, other players and/or asst coaches must move away and not become involved in the discussion.
- If Social Distancing is violated a warning will be issued.
  - *Failure to maintain Social Distancing after the warning will result in an ejection.*

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## Post Game Procedures:

- No handshakes.
- Bases are to be sanitized after the game.
- Umpires are to leave the field in a safe, social distance manner, and avoid going near people.
- Umpires are to leave the site as soon as possible after quickly changing / removing gear.