



# COVID-19 Baseball Safety Guidelines

## Officials (baseball umpires)

Last updated: 29 July 2020

**Do you have symptoms?**

**Have you had Exposure?**

**If you answered yes, then follow government guidelines and avoid attending event.**

### Before attending a game

- Do you have COVID-19 symptoms? Have you been exposed to someone with COVID-19? Then check government Covid-19 safety guidelines before attending a game. That is if you have been exposed or have symptoms follow guidelines, isolate and you may not participate in the game or practise.
- Persons from different households should not use carpool unless necessary, as per current government guidelines. If carpooling is essential, the vehicle should be well ventilated, and all occupants are encouraged to wear masks.
- You are strongly encouraged to also wear a face covering in other enclosed spaces where it is difficult to maintain social distancing, or where there are people you do not normally meet. For example, in taxis and private hire vehicles.
- Umpires should carry protective face covering (mask), protective rubber gloves and hand sanitiser with them to each game.
- Arrive at the field with as much of your uniform on as possible to avoid changing rooms.
- No use of changing room, clubhouse, other facilities allowed.
- Minimise communicating, or being in direct contact with others.
- Practise government social distancing guidelines.
- Bring your water and do not share.
- All your equipment needs to be sanitised before, after the game and during if it is in contact with others.

### Pre-game

- For each game, two sets of balls (three new) will be provided by each team, i.e., three by the home team and three by the visiting team. Change a set of sanitised balls between half innings.
- Managers the day before should consult what type of baseballs will be used for the game(s) for the day of the event. All baseballs should be of the same make, e.g., for BBF fixtures Wilson or Baden, only, so do not mix-n-match.

### Plate conference

- Follow government social distancing guidelines.
- No exchange of lineups.
- The batter's box should act as a reference point for social distancing (see diagram A). That is, managers should stay at the top and outside respective corners of the batter's box. The umpire stays in the catcher's box, at the point of home plate.
- Maximum of one person (manager) per team at the plate conference. Only one umpire should be present at the plate conference, even if it is a two-man umpire system.

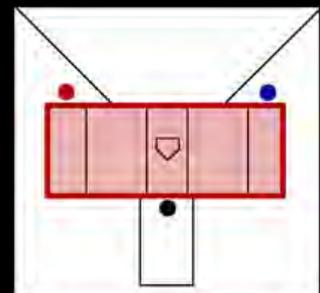


Diagram A



# COVID-19 Baseball Safety Guidelines

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## Officials (umpires) continued

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Face covering (mask) and protective rubber gloves are suggested for officials. Follow government guidelines [link](#).

### Plate conference

- Umpire(s) to be informed of Designate Hitter (DH) and their place in the batting order.
  - Only ground rules and special game rules to be discussed.
  - Managers to agree with umpire where umpire shall call balls and strikes from what area. For example, from behind the pitcher (please see details below) or from behind the catcher (as usual).
  - Plate umpire will be in charge of the game from the end of the plate conference.
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## Umpire mechanics

### One man umpiring system

Either normal one-man system or modified whereby the umpire calls the game behind the pitcher.

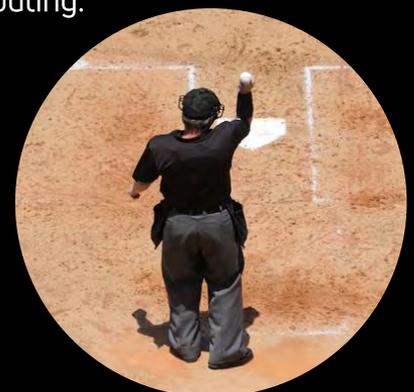
Modified one person umpire system.

- For umpires, face covering (mask) and protective rubber gloves are suggested (but not mandatory).
  - Keep spare baseballs in your bag.
  - Umpires will not be able to call fair and foul balls because of their positioning behind the mound. Thus, the catcher will call fair or foul balls hit. The umpire can echo the call from the catcher, e.g., fair or foul. See examples of how to position yourself if you are umpiring behind the mound [link](#).
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### Two-man umpiring system (umpire behind the plate and other on the bases as normal).

- Face covering (mask) and protective rubber gloves are suggested for both umpires (but not mandatory).
- You are encouraged to wear protective rubber gloves if you touch the baseball.
- Use hand jesters pointing strike, foul ball when possible, instead of shouting.

**"We understand the inconvenience of guidelines, however they are a small price to pay for the safety of others and you."  
British Baseball Federation**





# COVID-19 Baseball Safety Guidelines

## Officials (umpires) continued

### Discussions during the game

#### 1. Umpires and manager(s)

- Umpire(s) will only talk to the person who represented the team at the plate conference.
- Face covering (masks) are encouraged (but not mandatory) during the discussions.
- Suppose the discussion concerns one of the teams, the umpire the discussion must take place in the vicinity of the 45-foot mark on the foul line, for example, between home plate and first and third base.

#### Process

- Not maintaining social distancing will be penalised with ejection without warning.
- Should the discussion concern both teams (e.g., field conditions), it will be held in the vicinity of the home-plate similar to the pre-game plate conference.

#### 2. Umpires and manager(s)

- Multiple umpires on the field should have their discussion in the vicinity of the 45-foot mark on the foul line between home plate and first base.
- Wearing face coverings is suggested (but not mandatory) during any umpire discussions.
- Government social distancing guidelines must be followed.

#### Post game

- Once game called, umpire(s) to leave the field immediately.
- No use of changing room, clubhouse, other facilities allowed.

#### Other guidelines

- Adults 70 years and older and people of any age who have severe underlying medical conditions are strongly encouraged not to attend or officiate events at this time.
- Officials are recommending to bring personal hand sanitiser, masks, own water (do not share) and antibacterial wipes to events for personal use.
- Avoid shaking hands or touching.
- Avoid conversations between coach, players, spectators, third parties, and umpire must maintain social government distancing guidelines.
- Face covering (mask) and protective rubber gloves are suggested for umpire(s).
- Keep spare baseballs in your ball bag.
- Major Baseball Rule 3.01 No player shall intentionally discolour or damage the ball by rubbing it with soil, rosin, paraffin, liquorice, sand-paper, emery-paper or other foreign substance, has been modified to allow for the exception of a sanitizing agent.
- Before each inning, balls should be disinfected by their respective team. Each team provides three new baseballs for each game.
- Each team can only warm up with their team baseballs.
- Each side must leave the field first before the other team takes over.
- Pitchers conferences with coaches must follow government social distancing guidelines.
- Limiting capacity at the venue for the safety of all and following local and government guidelines. For example, 14 players, coaches, and managers on playing field per sider and up an additional two officials for a maximum of 30 persons in a game.
- No pre-game or post game celebrations or award ceremonies on or off the fields.
- Refrain from spitting, chewing gum, eating (sunflower seeds) or rinsing out your mouth. [NHS useful link](#)