

2021 COVID-19 Baseball Modifications

More comprehensive “Guidelines & Protocols” for all spring sports will be distributed to all schools.

Umpires

- Umpires are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the official’s health or the official is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- Umpires with documented medical conditions that prevent the wearing of a face-covering may officiate. Schools shall not challenge that determination.
- Face covering shall be worn by all umpires between innings and socially distance from players.
- We will operate as normal regarding baseballs. Umpires may wear ball bags. The touching of baseballs shall be limited to receiving baseballs from the home team and handing the ball to the catcher when replacing a baseball that goes out of play.
- If the plate umpire is not comfortable with handling baseballs, then the home team will be responsible for all ball distribution.
- Visiting teams may also want to bring their own balls, in that case, each team that is on defense will be responsible for the balls.
- It is strongly recommended that umpires carry a travel-size hand sanitizer with them and periodically use it after touching a baseball.
- Umpires shall not pick up a bat on the field of play.

Dugout / Bench Areas

- Players and Coaches within the dugout/bench area shall wear masks and maintain social distancing.
- Each team may extend the dugout/bench area away from home plate to achieve maximum social distancing. Home Team shall provide folding chairs for visitors to use if needed.

Field of Play

- All school personnel must maintain a high level of awareness of possible COVID-19 exposure throughout all phases of the game.
- Coaches are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the coach’s health.
- Students are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health or the student is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- Schools must ensure social distancing practices are maintained to the maximum extent practicable during the game.
- Team benches must be limited to essential personnel. Coaches must limit the number of players at each game.
- Post-game handshakes and celebrations are prohibited.
- Each team shall use their own rosin bag. No sharing of a rosin bag shall be permitted.

Pre-game Meeting

- Participants shall be limited to 1 Coach and 1 Captain that are socially distanced.
- Only the Umpire-in-Chief shall be present.
- Face coverings shall be worn by all participants.
- Participants shall not shake hands.
- The Umpire-in-Chief shall secure both teams' lineup cards prior to the meeting. UIC shall present each team's lineup card to Head Coach and require a coach to confirm that the lineup card is correct before accepting.

Charged Conferences

- The coach must wear a mask. Defensive player(s) shall put on the face-covering when attending and socially distance.
- During an offensive conference, the player(s) and coach shall wear a face covering and maintain social distancing.

After the Game

- It is strongly recommended that umpires clean all equipment with a sanitizer after each game.