

*Office of the Commissioner*  
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** All 40-Man Roster Players and Major League Clubs

**FROM:** Office of the Commissioner of Baseball

**DATE:** March 27, 2019

**RE:** Smokeless Tobacco

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As you know, regulations are in effect for the 2019 season regarding tobacco use in Major League Baseball stadiums. These laws prohibit the use of any tobacco products (including smokeless tobacco) in all baseball stadiums located in Anaheim, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, Tampa, Washington D.C., and most recently, Phoenix. These laws ban the use of tobacco throughout the stadium and will apply to Players, Club personnel, Umpires and fans. These laws will not only affect Players and Clubs located in these cities, but also those Players and Clubs that travel to these cities throughout the season. In response to these laws, the Commissioner's Office and the Players Association also agreed to the following policies regarding tobacco, which are set forth in Attachment 28 of the Basic Agreement:

- 1) **Ballparks Subject to a State or Local Law.** The use of tobacco products by all Players is prohibited in any ballpark where such use is prohibited by state or local law. This prohibition shall apply on-field during games.
- 2) **Ballparks that Become Subject to a State or Local Law.** If any state or city passes a law banning the use of tobacco products in any ballpark that is not listed above, these prohibitions shall apply in that new ballpark as of the date that new law takes effect.
- 3) **Players Without Major League Service Prior to 2017.** Any Player who had no credited Major League service at the end of the 2016 season (*i.e.*, Players who make their Major League debut during the 2017 season or later) is prohibited from using tobacco products on-field during games in every ballpark. In addition, such Players are prohibited from using tobacco products: (i) during televised interviews and (ii) during Paragraph 3(b) appearances on behalf of the Club.
- 4) **Players With Major League Service Prior to 2017.** In addition to the restrictions on the use of tobacco products at ballparks subject to a state or local law, any Player who has been credited with at least one day of Major league service as of the end of the

2016 season is prohibited from using smokeless tobacco (i) during televised interviews and (ii) during Paragraph 3(b) appearances on behalf of the Club.

- 5) **Requirement to Conceal**. At any time when fans are permitted into any ballpark, all Players must conceal tobacco products (including tobacco tins and packages) and may not carry tobacco products (including tobacco tins or packages) in their uniform or on their body.

The Commissioner's Office will continue to monitor Players and Club personnel for compliance with these policies, and Players will be subject to penalties for violating any of these prohibitions.

The Commissioner's Office and the Players Association (the "Parties") have jointly contracted with Dr. Michael Steinberg, who is an expert in tobacco treatment at the Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program in New Jersey. Dr. Steinberg is available on a confidential basis to all Players and Club personnel who are interested in assistance with their smokeless tobacco use. Dr. Steinberg can be reached directly by e-mail at [michael.steinberg@rutgers.edu](mailto:michael.steinberg@rutgers.edu) or by phone at 732-235-8219 (office) or 732-512-8108 (cell). Dr. Steinberg is also in the process of developing educational programs and materials for Players regarding the dangers of smokeless tobacco. Clubs should reach out to Jon Coyles at the Commissioner's Office at 212-931-7859 if they are interested in having Dr. Steinberg address their Club in-person or via video conference.

Finally, to assist Players in complying with these laws, the Parties will continue to provide complimentary supplies of nicotine replacement therapy products to all interested Players on a voluntary basis through the Club's athletic training staff. Dr. Steinberg will be available to answer any questions about these products or their use.

cc: Michael B. Steinberg, M.D., MPH  
Major League Baseball Players Association.