



# RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

2020 USA BASEBALL NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS NORTH CAROLINA

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### GOVERNMENT-MANDATED GUIDELINES

USA Baseball will follow all current federal, state and local government-mandated guidelines regarding COVID-19 with relation to the location of the facilities hosting its events. Guidelines may differ or change from one USA Baseball event to another due to location or timing.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING

USA Baseball encourages all participants and guests to practice social distancing, also referred to as “physical distancing.” USA Baseball adheres to the CDC guidelines and protocols regarding social distancing, which means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home.

According to the CDC, in order to practice social or physical distancing, stay at least six (6) feet (about two arms’ length) from other people.

### FACE COVERINGS

Spectators and guests are strongly encouraged to wear a cloth face covering that covers both the nose and mouth while attending USA Baseball events. Face coverings will be required in enclosed areas such as the USA Baseball Team Store. Spectators and guests should also avoid touching their face and face covering.

Face coverings will be available for purchase in the USA Baseball Team Store. Only electronic payments will be accepted.

### HAND WASHING

Spectators and guests should wash their hands often with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water is not available, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Spectators and guests should also avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.

### SYMPTOMS

Any person who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home.

Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

# USA BASEBALL STAFF HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

## COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

USA Baseball is committed to following all federal, state and local government-mandated guidelines related to COVID-19 in order to protect all athletes, coaches, parents, staff and umpires attending its events.

## HEALTH & SAFETY PLEDGE

Every member of the USA Baseball staff will sign a health and safety pledge in an effort to protect themselves, their coworkers and events participants from the continued transmission of COVID-19. Included in this pledge is the agreement to submit to a daily temperature check prior to the start of their work day, wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, practice social distancing and wear a face covering.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

USA Baseball staff members will practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of six feet (about two arms' length) between themselves and others at all times.

## FACE COVERING

USA Baseball staff members and facility attendants will be required to wear face coverings when unable to maintain social distancing. Additionally, staff members and facility attendants will be required to wear gloves when handling the exchange of payments and wristbands.

# ON FIELD PROCEDURES

## AVOIDING CONTACT

USA Baseball strongly encourages teams, players and coaches to avoid contact, prohibiting handshakes between players and coaches, and no celebratory high-fives, fist-bumps, etc. Additionally, handshake lines between teams will not take place following games.

## SCHEDULES

USA Baseball will follow the scheduling guidelines set forth by the host facility with regard to the government-mandated guidelines in place. Scheduling guidelines may include staggered game times (30 minutes, one hour, etc.) in order to minimize the flow of people in and out of the facility. Additionally, USA Baseball may not be able to utilize all fields at the facilities and be required to schedule games on alternating fields.

## PLAYER EQUIPMENT

All players and coaches should avoid sharing equipment with others as much as possible, including gloves, batting gloves, helmets and catcher's equipment. They are also encouraged to clean their own equipment at the at the end of every day.

Players and coaches are permitted to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) on the field of play if they choose, so long as these items do not compromise the safety of any participants. If players choose to wear PPE gear, USA Baseball encourages the use of neck gaiters (preferably cooling gear) so that they may cover their face while in the dugout and be comfortably placed around their necks in the field of play.

## DUGOUTS

Players and coaches should practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of six feet (about two arms' length) between themselves at all times while in the dugout. Personal equipment (including bags, equipment bags, etc.) should be kept to a minimum in the dugout and stored in a manner that reinforces the act of social distancing.

Coaches are encouraged to sanitize the dugouts prior to their team's entry.

## COMMUNAL FOOD/DRINK

USA Baseball will not provide communal water coolers in the dugouts or in the facility. Each player and coach should have their own water supply. USA Baseball will provide a case of water to each team prior to the game and will deliver it to their assigned dugout.

Sunflower seeds and gum are prohibited at USA Baseball events. Players and coaches are to avoid spitting, in any form, at all times.

### **PRE-GAME/WARMUP**

Teams, players and coaches should not enter the facility any earlier than 90 minutes prior to game time. Additionally, teams, players and coaches should practice social distancing at all times as possible and should not congregate/huddle.

### **UMPIRES**

Umpires should practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of six feet between themselves (about two arms' length) and others during the pre-game plate meeting, mound visits, pitcher/catcher conferences and challenges.

The pre-game plate meeting should be conducted practicing social distancing and will include the umpire and one coach from each team. No players are permitted to be present at the pre-game plate meeting.

Umpires should avoid making contact with player equipment at all times.

### **ON-FIELD CONFERENCES**

On-field conferences, including but not limited to mound visits, pitcher/catcher conferences and challenges, should be conducted practicing social distancing by maintaining a distance of six feet (about two arms' length) between the participants.

### **AWARDS**

USA Baseball will not hold any post-event award ceremonies. All awards will be given to a team representative for distribution.

## **SPECTATOR GUIDELINES**

### **SPECTATORS 65 AND OLDER**

Individuals aged 65 and older should exercise extreme caution if attending a USA Baseball event; or, should avoid attending the event.

### **SPECTATORS WITH KNOWN MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Individuals with known medical conditions should exercise extreme caution if attending a USA Baseball event; or, should avoid attending the event.

### **TICKET BOOTHS/ENTRY**

USA Baseball will not accept cash payments at any events or facilities. Participants and families may only use credit cards. USA Baseball accepts Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover.

All attendees should practice social distancing while in line at a USA Baseball ticket booth by maintaining a distance of six feet (about two arms' length) between yourself and others from different households. Guests should stand on a decal placed on the pavement while waiting to enter the facility.

### **SEATING**

Spectators should plan to supply their own chairs and/or seating at all facilities the events are taking place. Bleacher seating will be extremely limited in order to effectively maintain social distancing efforts.

### **Conclusion of Games**

All spectators should exit the facility immediately following the conclusion of each game.

# FACILITY GUIDELINES

## CLEANING

USA Baseball and its facility managers will increase the cleaning of dugouts, as well as all common areas shared throughout the facilities, during its events.

# USA BASEBALL TEAM STORE GUIDELINES

## MAXIMUM OCCUPANCY

The USA Baseball Team Store will impose a maximum occupancy limit of 12 people at all times. This is subject to change and will be enforced by USA Baseball staff.

## ENTRY

All attendees should practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of six feet (about two arms' length) between yourself and others from different households while in line for the Team Store. Customers should stand on a decal placed on the concourse. USA Baseball staff will monitor the maximum occupancy limits and control the flow in and out of the store.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Customers are encouraged to practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of six feet (about two arms' length) between themselves and others at all times while in the store. Customers should stand on a decal placed on the floor while waiting for check out.

## FACE COVERING

All customers and USA Baseball employees are required to wear a face covering while inside the USA Baseball Team Store.

## ACCEPTED PAYMENTS

The USA Baseball Team Store will not accept cash payments. Customers may only use credit cards. USA Baseball accepts Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover.

## CHECKOUT

Customers should stand on a decal placed on the floor when ready to checkout. Once called up by a cashier, customers must place all merchandise directly on the counter, they should not hand items to cashiers directly.

## FOOD & DRINK

Absolutely no food or drink will be allowed inside of the USA Baseball Team Store.