



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. Spectators and guests should also avoid touching their face and face covering.

Face coverings are available for purchase on USABaseballShop.com.

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.

COACH, PLAYERS OR SPECTATORS SYMPTOMS

Any person who is awaiting the results of COVID-19 test, 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

COACH OR PLAYER’S POSITIVE COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS

If any coach or player tests positive for COVID-19 during the event, their team will immediately be withdrawn from the tournament as soon as USA Baseball has been notified.

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.

LINEUPS

While USA Baseball may announce the starting lineups for games played on Coleman Field at its National Training Complex, players and coaches should not line up on the baseline prior to the beginning of the game.

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.

TICKETING

Each participating team will be allocated 25 event passes, with each player's family being allowed to purchase a maximum of two (2) passes (while supplies last) on USABaseballShop.com. Spectators of all ages must have an event pass to enter the complex.

Event passes can be picked up at one of the two ticket booths at the entrance of the National Training Complex. In order to pick up your pass, spectators must show their receipt and present photo identification.

Any unsold event passes allocated for your team will be available for purchase on site; however, once all 25 allotted passes per team have been sold, no additional passes will be available.

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

BATHROOM

All spectators are required to wear a face covering in the bathrooms at the National Training Complex. USA Baseball and the Town of Cary will restrict access to particular stalls in an effort to protect its players, spectators and staff by physical distancing.

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.

CONCESSION STAND

The concession stand at the USA Baseball National Training Complex will be closed throughout the National Team Championships North Carolina. A drink cart will be on-site for spectators to purchase bottled drinks. All purchases must be made by electronic payment only.

OUTSIDE FOOD & DRINK

Outside food and drinks, as well as coolers, will be allowed at the National Training Complex during the National Team Championships North Carolina due to the concession stand being closed. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited from the National Training Complex.

USA BASEBALL TEAM STORE GUIDELINES

HOURS OF OPERATION

The USA Baseball Team Store is closed for renovations and will reopen in 2021. Fans are encouraged to visit USABaseballShop.com to purchase USA Baseball gear.