

2021 Baseball/Softball Rules Modifications

The National Federation of High Schools Baseball Rules Committee, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio High School Athletic Association have developed the following guidelines for the 2021 High School Baseball Season.

Baseballs/Softballs

- Any ball that comes into contact with bodily fluids must be replaced or disinfected.

Player Equipment

- Personal items such as towels, facial coverings and water bottles shall not be shared.
- If equipment such as helmets and bats must be shared, proper sanitization must be performed between users.
- Player/team equipment shall be sanitized before and after each practice or game.



Pregame Conference

- Attendees are limited to the head coach from each team plus the umpires.
- Coaches shall stay outside the width of the batter's box at home plate, maintaining six feet of distance between each person.
- Everyone attending this meeting must wear a face covering.

Substitutions

- Verbal exchanges shall occur six feet from the coach or substitute to the plate umpire and from the plate umpire to the opposing team's coach.

Bench and Field Conduct

- The number of individuals in the dugout is dependent on the size of dugout.
- Players and coaches must maintain six feet of social distance.
- Players are not permitted to leave the dugout area to congratulate players scoring or after home runs.
- Players and all team personnel shall follow the "no touch" rule – refraining from high fives, handshakes and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans. A "tip of the cap" can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.

Charged Conferences

- Coaches holding defensive conferences must stay on the home plate side of the pitcher's circle and the player(s) must be on the opposite side of the pitcher's circle maintaining the six feet distance.
- Only one coach is permitted during the conference.
- When a coach visits the pitcher, all other players shall stay outside the pitching circle.
- Team huddles without physical distancing are prohibited.

Exchange of Lineup Cards

- Lineups shall be handed to the umpire, and the umpire will verbally approve or ask any questions about the lineup.

Interruptions by the Pitcher

- If the pitcher puts his/her hands to their mouth off the mound and touches the ball, "Time" is called, a new ball is inserted and the pitcher must sanitize their hands before throwing the next pitch.
- A pitcher using a resin bag shall take that item to the dugout with him/her at the end of each half inning.