

Baseball

Social distancing:

- **Practice** – Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing chatting, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to bat. Workouts should be conducted in ‘pods’ of students, with the same 5-10 students always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- **Dugouts** – No dugouts should be used during practice. Players’ items should be lined up outside and against the fence at least six feet apart. Dugouts should be permitted only during games, and may be extended, by NFHS rule, down the foul lines outside the playing area to allow for social distancing. Additionally, bleachers can be placed directly behind the dugouts for additional seating for team personnel. Players should maintain social distancing unless they are actively participating in the game.
- **Field of Play** – Only essential personnel are permitted on the field of play. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and umpires. All others, i.e., ball/bat shaggers, managers, statisticians, pitch count designees, media photographers, etc. are considered non-essential personnel and are not to be in the dugout or extended dugout area.
- **Spectators** – Schools must limit the use of bleachers for fans. Schools should encourage fans to bring their own chairs or stand. Fans should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines.
- **Media** – All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by media members planning to attend games. Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving at games to plan appropriate entry and available workspace.
- **Concession stands** – Concession stands are not recommended.
- **Umpire Interaction** – Coaches should consider social distancing guidelines (6 feet) when interacting with an umpire or any other individual on the field. Substitutions and a general rules interpretation conversation can occur at social distance. Pre-game – One coach from each team and 2 umpires at home plate may have a meeting with the players remaining in the team dugout. Normal line-up exchange can take place.
- **Coach conferences** – Encourage limiting the number of individuals in a defensive and offensive conference to those who must be in close proximity for these discussions. It is encouraged that coaches wear a mask.
- **Team handshakes** – Teams shall NOT exchange handshakes following the contest – teams can acknowledge opponent with a tip of hat or a wave, or other appropriate non-contact measures.
- **Press box** – Local schools shall determine which personnel should be in the press box considering Wisconsin DHS guidelines.

Practice and Game Protocols:

- **Masks** – Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings, but may do so if they desire. Coaches and umpires are encouraged to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain social distancing. If an individual would like to wear a mask on the playing field, in the dugout, or in the stand, they may do so. A white mask is not allowed for pitchers. Spectators, workers, and others are encouraged to wear masks and they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines.
- **Pitcher licking fingers** – If a pitcher touches their mouth, a dead ball is called and the pitcher must sanitize their hands. If they touch the ball after going to their mouth, call a dead ball, remove the ball from play to be sanitized and the pitcher sanitize their hands. Players may have 1 to 2 oz bottles of sanitizer in their baseball/softball pants and a 1 to 2 oz bottle of sanitizer may be left behind the pitchers’ mound near a rosin bag.
- **Baseball habits** – Coaches should now work to create new habits including staying away from touching their face, not allowing sunflower seeds and not spitting.
- **Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes** – Players, coaches, and umpires are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes. The WIAA SMAC recommends using hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) before and after each at bat and when going out to, and coming in from, the field. Additionally, emphasize to all to avoid touching their face.
- **Admission or Ticket Selling** – Ticket sellers/takers should follow similar guidelines to that of check-out personnel at retail stores. Where possible, stand behind a shield. Wear a mask. Use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) frequently.

Equipment:

- **Batting helmet** – Players should use their own batting helmet.
- **Baseball bat** – Players should use their own baseball/softball bat and not share bats.

- **Catching equipment** – Players should use their own catching equipment.
- **Baseballs need to be sanitized** – Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each game.
- **Maintenance equipment (rakes, bases, paint sprayer, tractor to drag field, etc.)** – Daily cleaning and disinfection are recommended.
- **Dugout cleaning** – Daily cleaning and disinfection is recommended.
- **What kinds or brands of sanitizer should we be using** – The WIAA SMAC recommends referencing and utilizing [EPA-registered disinfectants](#). Balls and equipment may be wiped with listed disinfectants and a damp cloth.

Hydration:

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) should NOT be utilized.