



## Fastpitch Umpires Covid-19 Protocols 2021

All Protocols are subject to Local Health Units and Government changes. ***Local Health Units rule take precedence over anything written here.***

### **Key Notes:**

**Non-medical face masks including gaiters/bandannas are highly recommended but not mandatory where 3 metres distancing can not be maintained. Catcher/batter/umpire are considered incidental contact so highly recommended but not required. Incidental contact is defined as contact of 15 minutes or less.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Reopening is subject to implementation by each individual Public Health Unit. Please check with your local public health unit to verify any restrictions or conditions they might have and communicate this to all visiting teams.**

**Umpires will need to complete a Pre-Tournament Health Declaration form provided by the Host each day.**

### **Responsibilities**

Umpires are responsible to enforce these guidelines on field with assistance from host and UIC if available.

### **Umpire Game Procedures**

- Umpires will not touch any equipment that is not theirs. This includes game balls and bats.

- Umpires will stand with Base umpire on First base line, plate umpire on 3<sup>rd</sup> base line. This is a Softball Canada mechanic, but let's face it, who does during regular games – We will now!
- Maintain at least 3 meters from coaches & players whenever possible.
- Pre-game meetings all people must maintain 3 meters of separation or masks must be worn.
- Umpire to umpire conferences should only be used if required. (face covering required if closer than 3 metres.)
- Umpires should carry hand sanitizer with them at all times.
- No sharing of any liquids on the field.
- Before & after each game wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds. If facilities are available.
- Avoid the use of dressing rooms, change in a private area around your vehicle.
- Base umpires – wearing of a mask is optional, (but recommended). However a mask must be worn when with meeting a coach/player.
- Plate Umpires - wearing of a non-medical mask or spit shield is optional (but recommended). However a mask must be worn when meeting with a coach/player or another umpire on field.
- Plate umpire will maintain their normal slot position to make calls at home plate.
- Line Up cards - umpire copy will be placed in a protected sleeve and pin to the screen. The official scorekeeper will should be the only book you look at. If there is no official score keeper, the Home Teams score book will be used.
- Umpire should keep a notebook in their ballbags to keep track of in game changes.
- An antifog coating is suggested for umpires that wear glasses
- A gaiter is optional to wear instead of a mask.
- Tournaments Bat Check
- UIC/DUIC will do a visible inspection of bats before a teams first game, focusing on the Certification marks and visible damage. Bats will be lined up

in the dug out with the Certification marking face out 30 minutes prior to game time. UIC/DUIC should not touch the bats.

- For Pre-game inspection bat will be lined up in the dugout area with certification marks facing out.
- **Player General Protocols**
- No handshakes, team huddles, high fives, etc. not allowed. Suggest a new show of respect for the opposition at safe distance.
- No bat girls/boys permitted
- **Ball Control** Defensive team will supply their own game balls while in the field to reduce contact with individuals on the opposing team no one on the offensive team to retrieve or touch games ball. Consideration should be made for safe ball retrieval (homeruns, foul balls) defensive team only Game Balls may require consistent sanitization (by team every half inning) consider how often for practices. Put more game balls into play and have a designated person on each bench “sanitize” the game ball. This would require clean water and soap. Foul ball must be retrieved by the defensive team only Each team is responsible for cleaning their games balls between innings and will be the supplier of the same while on defense, **umpires will not handle the balls at any point.**

### **Hand Sanitization**

- Umpires will be subject to any hand sanitization guidelines provided by the league/tournament organizer.
- Umpires will be asked to supply their own personal hand sanitizer.

### **No sunflower seed, gum chewing or spitting**

- General spitting will be discouraged for all participants, both on and off the field.
- Sunflower seeds/chewing tobacco/gum will be handled with a zero-tolerance policy, that will become enforceable through ejection from the game and/or removal from events.

### **Lightning/Inclement weather**

- All persons must return to the vehicle in which they arrived at the park, no congregating under tents, shelters etc.

- **Player General Protocols**

- No handshakes, team huddles, high fives, etc. not allowed. Suggest a new show of respect for the opposition at safe distance.
- No bat girls/boys permitted
- **Ball Control**
- Defensive team will supply their own game balls while in the field to reduce contact with individuals on the opposing team no one on the offensive team to retrieve or touch games ball.
- Consideration should be made for safe ball retrieval (homeruns, foul balls) defensive team only
- Game Balls may require consistent sanitization (by team every half inning) consider how often for practices.
- Put more game balls into play and have a designated person on each bench “sanitize” the game ball. This would require clean water and soap.
- Foul ball must be retrieved by the defensive team only
- Each team is responsible for cleaning their games balls between innings and will be the supplier of the same while on defense, **umpires will not handle the balls at any point.**

**Important so I'm repeating it!!!**

**All Protocols are subject to Local Health Units and Government changes.**