



2021 COVID-19 Safety Plan and Guidelines

Updated 5/13/2021

With the current COVID-19 situation, player and umpire safety is paramount. The Boston Men's Baseball Organization (BMBO) has developed these updated 2021 guidelines with safety in mind.

The BMBO will follow guidelines as established based on Federal, CDC, State and local authorities.

The league has specifically modeled its guidelines after the May 10, 2021 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) which has relaxed regulations around outdoor face coverings. See [Safety Standards for Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities - Phase IV, Step 1](#).

KEEP IN MIND THAT LOCAL REGULATIONS MAY BE STRICTER THAN THE STATE REGULATIONS. PLEASE CHECK WITH LOCAL PARKS DEPARTMENT.

Other guidelines are suggested by MSBL National, other leagues, as well as common sense to reduce risk and maximize the safety for our players and umpires (Collectively called *Participants*). These guidelines are temporary and may be amended during the course of the season. We will shape our approach as we learn more information and get more feedback.

Participants should understand that even with these guidelines, no activity is 100% safe.

The general rule of thumb: Participants should stay six feet apart as much as possible. To reduce risk, players are required to wear a face covering in and around dugouts, while on offense, and when they can't socially distance.

BMBO COVID-19 Waiver of Liability, Release, and Indemnity

Prior to playing in any BMBO event, all participants must individually accept the guidelines and the *BMBO Waiver of Liability, Release, and Indemnity Agreement* acknowledging the contagious nature of COVID-19 and agrees to indemnify, save, release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the league from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, suits, loss, and causes of action it may incur, including court costs and attorneys' fees, arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including but not limited to, death, illness, injury and/or disease that in any way may be related to or arising out of COVID-19 that may be sustained in connection with attendance at any BMBO event, regardless of whether they arise in tort, contract, strict liability, or other legal theory.

Keeping Participants Socially Distanced

1. All participants should maintain six foot social distancing to the extent possible. This includes batting cages, pre-game warmups and pregame umpire/manager rules reviews. Face coverings are required when you can't socially distance.
 - a. It is recommended that managers swap lineups via text messaging.
2. Per the State of Massachusetts "dugouts, benches & bleachers are allowed to open only if they can be thoroughly cleaned before and after every use and six feet of distance can be maintained."
3. Where possible, all other players will spread six feet out behind the dugouts, down the fence lines, etc.
4. No touch rule. No post game handshakes or high fives (A tip of the cap is suggested to acknowledge the opposing team).
5. When holding a meeting on the mound, all participants need to stay a safe distance from each other.
6. First and third base coaches are reminded to stay at least six feet from other participants.
7. Post game gatherings at the field and in the parking lots are strictly prohibited until further notice.
8. Where possible, participants are strongly recommended to travel to/from the field alone or with a member of their immediate household.
9. Home plate umpire will stand behind the catcher giving more space than normal between the catcher and umpire.
 - a. If teams/umpires agree, the umpire may stand behind the pitcher's mound.

Face Coverings (Updated 5/13/2021)

When worn/applied, face coverings should be worn properly completely covering the mouth and nose.

Per the State of Massachusetts EEA May 10, 2021 amendment, face coverings are "not required for low risk or moderate risk sports when outdoors where social distancing can be consistently maintained."

For BMBO, examples include:

1. All players are required to wear coverings while in and around the bench/dugout areas where other players may congregate.
 - a. Per Massachusetts EEA..."Participants for all sports must wear facial coverings on the bench, sidelines, start/finish lines at all times and in any huddles or time-outs from active play."
2. Offensive players are required to wear face coverings to add a layer of protection between the other team and umpires.
 - a. Batters must wear face coverings. A batter who steps to the plate without a face covering may be assigned a strike by the umpire. A second offense may lead to an ejection.
 - b. Runners must wear face coverings.
 - c. Defensive players are not required to wear face coverings with the following exceptions.
 - i. Positional players shall wear face coverings when holding runners on base (example: a first baseman holding a runner on at first).
 - ii. It is strongly recommended, but not required, that catchers wear face coverings (due to safety concerns, face coverings could impact visibility while wearing catchers gear, also heat exhaustion concerns).

3. Face covering exceptions may be made with a doctor's note and with the prior approval of the league President.

Sanitizing/Risk Reduction Guidelines

1. Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between players.
2. Participants are encouraged but not required to wash/sanitize their hands before/after each game as well as during the game.
3. Teams are encouraged to provide hand sanitizer to their players.
4. Pitchers will NOT be allowed to go to his mouth between pitches. This will constitute an illegal ball and the ball must immediately be replaced by the pitching team.
5. No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.
6. No spitting seeds or other similar products.

Other

1. Managers/Players are required to sign an extended liability waiver noting the additional COVID-19 risks.
2. Managers must ensure all his players are following COVID-19 guidelines.
3. Please keep all people who are sick at home.

Quarantine Protocol

1. Any reports of a COVID-19 positive player must be reported to the league by the player or player's manager.
2. Any COVID-19 positive player must quarantine and is not allowed to return to his team until he tests negative twice in a row.
3. If a participant has contact with anyone who tested COVID-19 positive, the participant should check for fever, cough and shortness of breath. The participant can not attend games for 14 days from the last day the player had close contact with the person.