

## Participant Code of Conduct

Ensuring a safe return to play for baseball/softball in England, Wales and Scotland requires cooperation and diligence by all Participants. We therefore ask that you please read, understand, adopt and share the Participant Code of Conduct, which will enable everyone to play their part in keeping our sports as safe as possible.

Please also support your Covid-19 Officer by helping provide information requested and adhering to guidance they've put into place to support you. The guidance will help mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission and cannot eliminate it completely.

In the spirit of the guidance and order to minimise the number of people you come into contact with, we strongly recommend you enjoy friendly games and coaching/training sessions, rather than organising single site tournaments. There are no rule modifications to the game whether played outdoor or indoor at this time.

Note, this guidance could change at short notice in response to Covid-19 alert levels or other Government advice.

Before play ↓	During play (outdoor & indoor) ↓	After play ↓
You should adhere to Government <b>social distancing</b> guidance at all times.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for symptoms of Covid-19. If you are symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible infection, you must self-isolate for 10 days (subject to change) and follow Government guidance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups limited to a maximum of 30 participants (players, coaches, managers, officials, umpires). <u>Scotland only</u></li> <li>A 'field of play bubble' of up to 30 people can be created whilst a sporting activity is taking place, in effect suspending Scottish Government household number guidelines for the duration of the activity. Normal household guidelines remain in place before and after activity for those aged 12+ years. <u>England: Indoor</u></li> <li>Group size limited to 6 Participants. Activity can continue to take place with larger numbers present provided groups of more than 6 do not mix. Exemptions apply for children U18 who are not included in the group size limit and for disability activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all shared equipment (e.g., bases, team bats and balls) is collected and disinfected.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete an opt-in form and attendance register to support NHS contact tracing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adhere to social distancing except when the ball is in play: any incidental close proximity and face-to-face interactions must be kept to an absolute minimum and for the shortest time possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional, in-person, award ceremonies are not permitted.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shower and change at home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Outdoor</u> Adhere to social distancing in dugouts. <u>Scotland only</u></li> <li>Use of dugouts/benches prohibited; players must bring their own seating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socialise after the event in line with current Government guidelines on hospitality.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow Government guidance on public transport or car-sharing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfect all personal and team equipment before and after warming up and before the game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave the venue whilst maintaining social distancing.</li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;">Before play</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">During play (outdoor &amp; indoor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">After play</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow advice on use of the specific venue facilities (changing rooms, toilets, clubhouse).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of equipment is discouraged and items disinfected between use if shared.</li> <li><u>Scotland only</u></li> <li>Helmets to only ever be shared with one other person in extended household (reflected in batting line up) and with an extra cap or head covering worn underneath.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shower and change at home.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your Covid-19 Officer will ensure the facility is compliant with current Government legislation related to Covid-19.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Umpires must not share indicators, counters or other equipment.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Scotland &amp; Wales Indoor only (recommended in England)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face coverings should be worn after (and before) activity and when in non-playing areas of the facility – with exemptions for health conditions or certain disabilities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet-up times should reflect this. Participants should arrive changed and ready to begin if possible.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Bat handling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a player fails to reach base while batting, they must pick up their own bat (by the handle) upon leaving the field.</li> <li>If a player gets on base while batting, the on-deck batter must remove the bat (by the barrel).</li> <li>Sharing bats is discouraged. If shared, they must be disinfected between uses, and batting gloves worn if possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report any subsequent Covid-19 case of self or household to the NHS, your event organiser and the Covid-19 Officer, your affiliating body and BaseballSoftballUK.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring your own hand sanitiser where possible, use it and wash your hands regularly.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Ball handling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Games: Each team must bring (or be provided with) two game balls for use during defensive innings (ideally new and unopened).</li> <li>Games: mixed Slowpitch outdoor softball only: these should be two 11" and two 12" balls, with a nominated defensive team player on the sidelines (or an offensive player if short) responsible for sanitising balls before returning them into play.</li> <li>Games: each team must disinfect balls after warm up and prior to each inning.</li> <li>Balls used in tagged plays should be taken out of play and disinfected immediately by the defensive team before being returned to play.</li> <li>Umpires should not handle balls.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisers and teams must bring hand sanitiser, anti-bacterial wipes or spray to disinfect equipment and bin bags for rubbish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tag plays: these remain permitted and must be conducted and concluded quickly, noting the Ball Handling protocol above.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Players must use hand sanitiser prior to warming up with equipment or the game itself.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Catchers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseball &amp; Fastpitch Softball: must be positioned a minimum of one metre (1m) behind the Batter and only approach to receive a pitched ball.</li> <li>Slowpitch Softball: must be positioned a minimum of 1m behind the batter.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players must avoid sharing equipment and use their own helmet, glove, mitt, batting gloves, bat, etc., where possible.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Umpires (Plate)</u> If the umpire assesses that in calling balls and strikes, a 1m+ distance from the catcher can be regularly maintained, no mitigations are necessary. Otherwise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball &amp; Fastpitch Softball: the Umpire and Catcher must both wear face coverings, in addition to any protective wire safety masks.</li> <li>• Umpires may choose to call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher, without need for face coverings.</li> <li>• Follow <u>UK</u>, <u>Welsh</u> and <u>Scottish</u> Government guidance on face coverings respectively.</li> </ul>	
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	<p><u>Indoor Softball</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fielders should remain 2m away from an offensive player who is occupying a base unless in a tag play situation.</li> <li>• Catchers and umpires should be positioned 1m+ apart, using tape to mark out positions.</li> <li>• Batters waiting to take their turn should be 2m apart.</li> <li>• Games: a safety line extending 2m from home plate (front corner) should be marked out with masking tape for baserunners to run through in order to minimise contact via tag plays (which remain permitted).</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Games: each team may bring up to 14 participants comprising the player roster, base coaches and managers (15 participants permitted if no external umpire/s are attending).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players should bring individual drinks containers and refrain from sharing drinks with other players.</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Outdoor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inclusion of a second umpire (field) is discouraged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cheering, shouting, loud celebrations, calling out, in-person award ceremonies, etc., permitted.</li> <li>• Indoor activity: Coaches should use a mic, ideally their own head mic, when teaching and avoid shouting.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spectators are discouraged and must adhere to social distancing if present.</li> </ul> <p><u>Scotland only:</u> Spectators only permitted if looking after children or vulnerable adults, and must socially distance.</p>		

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<p><u>Scotland &amp; Wales Indoor only (recommended in England)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face coverings should be worn before (and after) activity and when in non-playing areas of the facility – with exemptions for health conditions or certain disabilities.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chewing gum, tobacco or seeds, spitting into gloves/mitts, licking fingers, smoking or vaping not permitted.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity Providers in Scotland should also ensure they adhere to <a href="#">sportScotland guidance</a> at all times.</li> </ul>		