

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

Ensuring a safe return to play for baseball and softball activity in England (softball only), 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.

There are no rule modifications to the game whether played outdoor or indoor where permitted. 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 social distancing guidance at all times.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p><u>England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUTDOOR: Participant numbers unrestricted (players, coaches, managers, officials, umpires). • INDOOR: unlimited and guided by below. <p><u>Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUTDOOR: Participant numbers restricted to 50 adults, children U18 unrestricted. • INDOOR: Participant numbers restricted to 30 adults, children U11 unrestricted bar below. <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUTDOOR: Athlete field of play bubble limits for adults and children: Level 0 = 500, L1 = 100, L2 = 50 (actual for most of Scotland), L3 = 30, L4 = 15. Non-athletes excluded from Levels 0-2 limits. • INDOOR: unlimited and guided by below. <p><u>Indoor: All</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers determined by venue size, ventilation and social distancing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all shared equipment (e.g., bases, team bats and balls) is collected and disinfected.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an opt-in form and attendance register to support NHS contact tracing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional, in-person, award ceremonies are not permitted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shower and change at home recommended, changing rooms may not be accessible other than disability / emergencies so come ready to play. 	<p><u>Outdoor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to social distancing in dugouts. <p><u>Scotland only</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of dugouts/benches prohibited; players must bring their own seating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialise after the event in line with current Government guidelines on hospitality.
<p><u>England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions on travel distance, car sharing permitted from 17 May, per guidance. <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel permitted for organised activity across all Levels for children and restricted to Levels 0-2 for adults, per guidance. <p><u>Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel within Wales and to England and Scotland permitted, per guidance. Follow Government guidance on modes of transport and note where car sharing is discouraged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfect all personal and team equipment before and after warming up and before the game. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the venue whilst maintaining social distancing.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of equipment is discouraged and items disinfected between use if shared. <u>Scotland only</u> Helmets to only ever be shared with one other person in extended household (reflected in batting line up) and with an extracap or head covering worn underneath. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shower and change at home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Covid-19 Officer will ensure the facility is compliant with current Government legislation related to Covid-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umpires must not share indicators, counters or other equipment. 	<u>Indoor</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 – and as required by venue operators.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<u>Bat handling</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a player fails to reach base while batting, they must pick up their own bat (by the handle) upon leaving the field. If a player gets on base while batting, the on-deck batter must remove the bat (by the barrel). Sharing bats is discouraged. If shared, they must be disinfected between uses, and batting gloves worn if possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring your own hand sanitiser where possible, use it and wash your hands regularly. 	<u>Ball handling</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Games: Each team must bring (or be provided with) two game balls for use during defensive innings (ideally new and unopened). 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. Games: each team must disinfect balls after warm up and prior to each inning. Balls used in tagged plays should be taken out of play and disinfected immediately by the defensive team before being returned to play. Umpires should not handle balls. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisers and teams must bring hand sanitiser, anti-bacterial wipes or spray to disinfect equipment and bin bags for rubbish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tag plays: these remain permitted and must be conducted and concluded quickly, noting the Ball Handling protocol above. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players must use hand sanitiser prior to warming up with equipment or the game itself. 	<u>Catchers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseball & Fastpitch Softball: must be positioned a minimum of one metre (1m) behind the Batter and only approach to receive a pitched ball. Slowpitch Softball: must be positioned a minimum of 1m behind the batter. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must avoid sharing equipment and use their own helmet, glove, mitt, batting gloves, bat, etc., where possible. 	<p><u>Umpires (Plate)</u></p> <p>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"> • Baseball & Fastpitch Softball: the Umpire and Catcher must both wear face coverings, in addition to any protective wire safety masks. • Umpires may choose to call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher, without need for face coverings. • Follow UK, Welsh and Scottish Government guidance on face coverings respectively. 	
<p><u>SPECTATORS</u></p> <p><u>England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 30 spectators permitted with socially distancing outdoors; 6 indoors subject to venue considerations. <p><u>Wales & Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectators only permitted if looking after children or vulnerable adults and must socially distance. 	<p><u>England - Indoor Softball</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fielders should remain 2m away from an offensive player who is occupying a base unless in a tag play situation. • Catchers and umpires should be positioned 1m+ apart, using tape to mark out positions. • Batters waiting to take their turn should be 2m apart. • 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). 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players should bring individual drinks containers and refrain from sharing drinks with other players. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cheering, shouting, loud celebrations, calling out, in-person award ceremonies, etc., permitted. • Indoor activity: Coaches should use a mic, ideally their own head mic, when teaching, and avoid shouting. Scotland/Wales: a face covering should also be worn. 	
<p><u>Indoor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 – and as required by venue operators. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chewing gum, tobacco or seeds, spitting into gloves/mitts, licking fingers, smoking or vaping not permitted. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled participants can take part in organised outdoor and indoor sport without being subject to social contact limits. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Providers in Scotland should also ensure they adhere to sportScotland guidance at all times. 		