



## BASEBALL MANITOBA COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY

# UMPIRE CHECKLIST: COMPETITION (COVID-19 PREVENTION PROCEDURES)

**This checklist has been created to help you, as an umpire, stay within the guidelines of Baseball Manitoba's Return to Play for competitions in 2021.**

### BEFORE THE GAME:

- Anyone displaying ANY illness symptoms WILL NOT be allowed to participate. This includes umpires.
- Anyone who has been in contact with anyone who is sick or not feeling well should consider not participating. This includes umpires.
- Ride sharing is discouraged whenever possible.
- Umpires will arrive at the ballpark at least 15 minutes early if the umpire arrives dressed, or 30 minutes early if the umpire must change. Umpires will not use changing rooms but may change in the parking lot according to physical distancing guidelines. (It is recommended that umpires arrive at the ballpark in their gear.) Umpires are not to park directly beside another vehicle. Loitering in a parking lot before or after a game will not be permitted.
- Umpires are encouraged to wear a mask outdoors when not engaged in physical activity or cannot properly Physical Distance (2m)
- Gloves/hands must be sanitized at the beginning of the game. Gloves should not be removed until the end of the game, if worn. Umpires are responsible to bring their own hand sanitizer. Umpires are encouraged to sanitize their hands/gloves every half inning.
- 10 minutes before game time, each team's Health and Safety Coordinator (HSC) will approach the umpire in the parking lot to introduce themselves and answer any COVID-related questions.
- Leagues are encouraged to pay umpires by e-transfer or mailed cheque. In situations where umpires are paid by cash or cheque on-site, payment shall be remitted by the home team's HSC in an envelope prior to the game.
- The umpire(s) will enter the field. The umpire shall ensure that the baseballs have been sanitized by both teams prior to the start of the game.
- There will not be a formal plate meeting, although a brief, informal discussion with managers is encouraged provided all parties are adhering to physical distancing protocols.
- The umpire will receive the lineup card from the home team first, then from the visiting team. Umpires may take the cards from the managers via a "brief exchange" or managers can insert the cards into the fence for the umpire to retrieve.

### DURING THE GAME

The following actions are **not** permitted:

- Spitting, or using saliva to moisten hands or fingers
- Sharing water bottles or food
- Eating sunflower seeds or chewing gum
- Sharing helmets, masks, sunglasses, phones, or any other personal item or equipment
- Shaking hands or high fiving

**Note: umpires may request that players sanitize their hands if seen doing any of the above.**

- Games must follow physical distancing guidelines. Players, coaches, supporters, and umpires should always be at least 6 feet apart, except for brief exchanges.
- Umpires will attempt to minimize the time they spend within 6 feet of the catcher. This means that when calling pitches umpires shall move deeply into the slot, and shall walk into position (rather than crouch into position). For 11U and 13U A and AA baseball, umpires may call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher's mound.
- Umpires will not be handling baseballs, except in situations where an umpire must inspect a ball to ensure it is acceptable for play. Only the defensive team may touch baseballs. The defensive team is in charge of collecting passed balls.
- Umpires will not handle bats, except in situations where an umpire must inspect a bat to ensure it is acceptable for play. If a bat must be removed from a running lane, an umpire shall kick it, rather than pick it up.
- There may be mound visits by the coach, permitted that they adhere to the physical distancing guidelines. Umpires will try and avoid conferences with coaches, players, or other umpires during the game or between innings.
- Umpire discussions with players and managers about gameplay will be non-confrontational, although polite discussions may occur at a distance. If a coach or player approaches an umpire and does not respect physical distancing, the umpire will ask the coach/player to back up. Failure to comply will result in the coach/player being ejected.

### AFTER THE GAME

- All uniforms or clothing are to be washed after each event and all participants will shower at first opportunity after each event.
- Loitering in a parking lot before or after a game will be discouraged. Ride sharing is discouraged whenever possible.