

SRI BULLETIN #1

2021 COVID-19 PROTOCOL

Umpires,

As we enter the baseball season for 2021, I want to go over the mandates relative to the COVID-19 pandemic, how this will affect us on the field, and keeping us safe.

- **Physical distancing**

Umpires should avoid shaking hands, “fist bumping” or any other contact with players or coaches.

Umpires and Coaches should hold the pre-game conference situated near the outer edge of the dirt circle.

Coaches shall not be permitted to approach the umpire(s) in fair territory to discuss/question/argue any decisions. Physical distancing would require the coach to call time, ask the umpire to approach the baseline or dirt circle and discuss the ruling in that manner. Coaches are not permitted on the field to question calls.

With this requirement, dugouts may need to be extended or other areas be designated as team bench areas. Be sure to go over that during the pregame to ensure only game personnel are allowed in that area and that area, if is considered out of play.

- **Baseballs**

After checking for the certification “marks” **NFHS** and **NOCSAE** stamp, at the pregame conference, umpires will not handle baseballs during the game. The home team is responsible for supplying the game balls and dividing them up for both teams. The defensive team is responsible for retrieving the foul balls and sanitizing the baseballs prior to placing the baseballs back into play.

Pitchers should be discouraged from blowing on their hands and or licking their fingers, even in colder weather, remember you have to lower the mask/ face covering to accomplish this.... As an umpire if you see the pitcher do this, time should be called and request a new sanitized ball from the defensive team.

- **Face Coverings**

Face coverings are required to be worn by players, umpires, coaches and trainers. Umpires should wear the face covering/mask from “Car to Car”.

Umpires are to treat issues with player face coverings as improper equipment and ask them to wear their face covering properly over the nose and mouth. If this becomes a recurring issue with a player or team use the head coach to address problem.

- **Umpire's Health**

Umpires that do not feel well with COVID -19 symptoms should notify their commissioner and crew members and stay at home.

Remember a good thorough pregame with your partners to discuss the new Covid protocols, have fun and be safe. Baseball is back!

See you at the yard....

Tad Cockerill