

Team Responsibilities & Dugout Rules (4.17.21)

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Home Team Responsibilities:** The home team occupies the first base dugout & must:
 - Provide two new regulation balls.
 - Arrange for a volunteer to help in the concession stand.
 - Open / close the field as needed.
 - **Visiting Team Responsibilities:** The visiting team occupies the third base dugout & must:
 - Provide a volunteer to operate the scoreboard. *When playing in the first game of the day, get the scoreboard controller from the concession stand & turn on the scoreboard. When playing in the last game of the day, return the scoreboard controller to the concession stand & turn off the scoreboard.*
 - Make sure that the field is safe & hazard-free. *If a safety issue is observed, the game cannot be played until it is corrected. Other issues should be reported to the league coordinator or a member of the ground crew.*
 - The visiting team is encouraged to assist the home team with field prep / closing tasks.
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DUGOUT RULES

- **Dugout Management:** Only uniformed players, coaches and a scorekeeper are permitted on the bench. Siblings, parents, friends, etc. are not permitted. The head coach must require all others to leave the dugout. *Teams that do not adhere to this rule will receive one warning; subsequent violations will result in the team forfeiting the game.*
 - **Player Management:** During a game, the only players allowed outside of the dugout are the defense team, the batter & base runners. Players must stay in the playing area or on the bench during the game unless the head coach permits them to leave.
 - **Nut Ban:** For the safety of individuals with allergies, peanuts & tree nuts are not allowed in the dugout or anywhere at the ballpark.
 - **Equipment Storage:** All team equipment must be stored in the dugout, behind the dugout or on the bat rack. It may not be stored on the field or next to any of the fences.
 - **Equipment Inspection:** Coaches must regularly inspect all team equipment and request a replacement for any equipment that is unsafe. Equipment that is broken or unsafe should never be used (even in practice).
 - **Bat Swinging:** For safety reasons, players are not permitted to swing a bat unless they are in an approved soft toss station, in a batting cage or in the batter's box on a playing field. *Teams that do not adhere to this rule will receive one warning; subsequent violations will result in the ejection of the offending player.*
 - **Post-Game Cleanup:** After every game, both teams must clean up their respective dugout areas.
 - **Player Supervision:** Coaches should never leave an unattended player after games or practices. Coaches should ensure that all players have someone present to care for them before they leave the area.
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ON-FIELD PREGAME WARMUPS

- **Team Warm-up:** Players may warm up in foul territory or in the outfield prior to games.
 - **Infield practice:** Time permitting, the home team may conduct infield practice for eight minutes or the time available until the official start time, whichever is less. Time permitting means that the infield practice cannot interfere with the game's official start time. All players present (not just the starting infielders) should participate in the infield practice.
 - **Pitcher Warm-Up:** Pitchers warming up prior to or during the game must do so in each field's designated area. Pitchers must throw from the area closest to the dugout with catchers located farthest away from the dugout.
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GAME PACING

INNING SWITCH: Players must hustle on & off the field between offense & defense so that the game proceeds quickly.

WARM-UP PITCHES: Pitchers are limited to a maximum of four warm-up pitches prior to each half inning. The catcher may choose to throw the fourth pitch to second base.

DELAY OF GAME PENALTY: The first pitch of a half inning must be delivered not longer than 90 seconds after the third out of the previous half inning. *When delays occur, the umpire may call a strike on the batter if the violation is by the offensive team, or a ball on the batter if the violation is by the defensive team. The umpire may continue to call strikes or balls each 20 seconds until the first pitch is delivered.*

COURTESY RUNNER FOR CATCHER: To allow the catcher to be in gear and ready to play without delay, a courtesy runner may be used for the catcher at any time, but is mandatory when there are two outs. This runner will be the individual who made the previous out in the inning. If the previous out was made by the scheduled pitcher the courtesy runner may be the out prior to that.
