



## Playing Rules Waivers due to COVID-19 for 2021 Baseball

Waivers	Rule Reference	Rationale
<p>To permit teams to utilize a designated area in the bleachers to space uniformed team personnel.</p> <p>Previous Rule: The team is restricted to the dugout and identified dead ball areas on the outfield side of the dugout.</p>	1.16.b	Promote social distancing and reduce the spread of germs.
<p>To permit the pitcher to have a wet rag in their back pocket to prevent a pitcher from going to the mouth or blowing on their hand before delivering the pitch.</p> <p>Previous Rule: The pitcher may go to the mouth, when not on the pitcher's plate, with the pitching hand to get moisture on the hand for grip. The pitcher must wipe the hand before engaging the pitcher's plate.</p>	9.2.d and 9.2.e Note 3	Reduce the spread of germs.
<p>To permit the start or completion of a game with one umpire.</p> <p>Previous Rule: The minimum number of umpires by rule is two. The game officials are the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) and one, two, three or five field umpires.</p>	3.6	Allow for the completion of contests due to potential positive tests of umpires.
<p>To require that the coach may only come to the middle point of their respective foul line when coming to the field to ask a question about a call in the field. To also require that the coach may not enter the dirt circle around home plate to ask a question about a call at the plate, when making a line-up change or during the pre-game/home plate meeting.</p> <p>Previous Rule: The head coach is permitted to enter the field of play to perform certain responsibilities including communicating line-up changes to the umpire and the right to appeal an umpire's decision or challenge a play under the rules of video review.</p>	3.6.e; 4.4; 5.5; App.E	Reduce the spread of germs.
<p>To allow, by conference rule or mutual agreement prior to the start of the game, teams to start each extra inning (10th inning in a 9-inning game or 8th inning in a 7-inning game) with a runner on second base.</p> <p>Previous Rule: If the score is tied at the end of regulation, play shall be continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings.</p>	5.8.d	Safety due to consolidated playing schedule during the 2021 season.