

FENCES, BACKSTOP PADDING, DUGOUT FENCING & FOUL POLES

FENCE DISTANCES:

If your institutional field has a homerun fence that is **4 feet high** and...

- 1) is between 210 and 235 feet down the lines and between 230 and 235 feet in center, it meets both the current recommended distances and the 2017 required distances;
- 2) is not between 210 and 235 feet down the lines and/or between 230 and 235 feet in center, it must be renovated by the 2017 season.
 - a) If renovated before the 2016 season, the option exists to retain the 4 foot fence by adjusting the distance as noted above or, preferably, to increase the height to 6 feet with distances as noted below.
 - b) If renovated after the 2016 season, there is no option- the fence must be a minimum of 6 feet high and between 190 and 235 feet down the lines and between 220 and 235 feet in center.

If your institutional field has a homerun fence **higher than 4 but not greater than 6 feet high...**

- 1) the fence is essentially grandfathered in as compliant regardless of the fence distances and renovation is not required;
- 2) if renovated any time after the 2016 season, the fence must be a minimum of 6 feet high and between 190 and 235 feet down the lines and between 220 and 235 feet in center.

If your institutional field has a homerun fence that is **6 feet high or higher** and

- 1) is between 190 and 235 feet down the lines and between 220 and 235 feet in center, it meets both the current recommended size and is the targeted size for renovations and new construction;
- 2) is not between 190 and 235 feet down the lines and/or between 220 and 235 feet in center, the field is essentially grandfathered in as compliant and renovation is not required;
- 3) if the existing field is renovated after the 2016 season, the fence must be a minimum of 6 feet high and between 190 and 235 feet down the lines and between 220 and 235 feet in center.

If you are building a new field or renovating an existing one between now and the end of the 2016 season, it is highly recommended that the fence be of the targeted specifications (minimum of 6 feet high and between 190 and 235 feet down the lines and between 220 and 235 feet in center). New construction and renovation after the 2016 season must meet the targeted specifications listed above.

Beginning in the 2017 season, if you play on or host a tournament on a municipal or other non-institutionally owned field with a 4-foot fence, it is highly recommended (but not required) that the fence be between 210 and 235 down the lines and between 230 and 235 in center.

2016 FENCE/BACKSTOP PADDING:

Beginning with the 2016 season, if the backstop is constructed of wood, cement or brick, it is required that it be padded from dugout to dugout beginning **no higher than one foot off the ground** and extending to the top of the wood, cement or brick **or 6 feet from the ground**, whichever is shorter.

If the homerun fence is constructed of wood, cement or brick, it is strongly recommended that it be padded beginning no higher than one foot off the ground and extending to the top of the wood, cement or brick or six feet from the ground, whichever is shorter.

2018 DUGOUTS

It is highly recommended that the field side of the dugout be protected by netting or fencing not less than 6 feet from the floor of the dugout except for the designated entrances and exits to the field. **Protection is required by the 2018 season.**

2018 FOUL POLES

Beginning in 2018, foul poles on institutional fields shall be a minimum of 10 feet high (or the recommended height of 20 feet) and be either white or optic orange.