

Dear State Partners

Major League Baseball (MLB) has issued a mandate for scouts to cease operations in their entirety during the shutdown of professional baseball.

While all scouts in Australia would have received this correspondence from their employer, it is of importance that you as leaders within the sport are aware of what is not allowed, and if you become aware of violations relating to this prohibition, that they are reported back to me. Breaches relating to the prohibition can have consequences for players such as ineligibility to sign professional contracts.

The Commissioner's Office prohibition extends to **all** Club scouting activities, including remote communications with players. These include:

- Clubs may not contact players or parents via text or email, and may not schedule phone calls or video conference meetings as substitutes for in-home visits.
- Clubs cannot speak with high school or college coaches or advisors regarding players who are eligible for the 2020 draft; similarly, Clubs cannot speak with trainers or agents regarding international players who are eligible to sign in the current International Signing Period or future International Signing Periods.
- If any of the prohibited individuals contact you (player, trainer, coach), you can tell that individual that MLB has put a temporary prohibition on scouting for the safety of the players and scouts, but you will be in touch once these rules are relaxed.
- If you think it's necessary to speak with an international player or trainer regarding health and safety issues related to the pandemic, please contact Baseball Australia and we will facilitate appropriate conversations with MLB.
- Clubs should not use the Draft Prospect Link to communicate with players, including: reminding players to complete tasks in the Draft Prospect Link or requesting medical information from players. Similarly, Clubs should not submit registration documents or pre-contract investigations internationally for now.
- Clubs can work with any video, data or other information that they obtained prior to the prohibition while this temporary prohibition is in place (e.g., write internal reports from scouting video and data that was obtained prior to the prohibition). Additionally, Clubs do not need to cut off any data feeds or partnerships that they had entered into prior to the prohibition. However, Clubs should not solicit or purchase new video or data—either directly from a player (or other individual) or a vendor. If a player, trainer or coach attempts to provide new video or other data to you, you should decline and explain that you cannot accept such information during the prohibition.

Kind regards,



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