



## 2016 REGULAR SEASON CLUB/MEDIA REGULATIONS

The following are Major League Baseball's regulations for Club/Media Relations. They are to be observed by all parties:

1. All accredited press, radio and TV representatives shall have pre-game access to the clubhouse from three hours and 30 minutes prior to game time until one hour prior to game time, except that: (a) the media shall not have access to the clubhouse when the club is on the field for batting practice; and (b) the media may not return to a clubhouse once that club has taken batting practice. The media shall have pre-game access to the clubhouse for a minimum of 50 minutes prior to the time that a Club mandates that all players take the field for batting practice or other related activities (e.g., stretching). If a Club does not take batting practice, it may not close the clubhouse until the media has been granted a minimum of 50 minutes of access. Unless necessary to satisfy the 50-minute requirement, no Club may provide pre-game access prior to three hours and 30 minutes prior to game time. The media shall have access (outside of the clubhouse) to the home Club's manager, players or coaches after home batting practice to discuss newsworthy events (such as lineup changes, injuries, and workouts) that occur after the clubhouse closes.
2. Absent unusual circumstances that require a team meeting immediately following a game, the working media shall have access to both clubhouses no later than 10 minutes following the final out of each game (including doubleheaders and day/night split admission games). When such unusual circumstances exist, and such instances are expected to be rare, the working media shall have access to the clubhouse no later than 20 minutes following the final out of the game. The Commissioner's Office reserves the right to require access to the clubhouse 10 minutes following the final out of all games if the "team meeting" exception is abused.
3. The working media's access following a game shall be for a period no longer than one hour unless reasonable access to players is not provided during that time; provided, however, that card-carrying members of the Baseball Writers Association of America ("BBWAA") will have unlimited access after the post-game opening of the clubhouse. If reasonable access is not provided, the clubhouse must remain open. Members of the media, other than BBWAA members, may make arrangements with the club PR Director for extended access.
4. Media credentials are not transferable.
5. Clubhouses, the dugouts and the field are off-limits except to appropriate club, Commissioner's Office personnel and media bearing appropriate credentials. Club credentials are not to be issued to unauthorized personnel. The Commissioner's Office reserves the right to revoke inappropriately issued credentials.
6. Players will be available to the media before and after games for interviews. These periods should not be limited except for the pre-game period described in #1 above, and the post-game period described in #2 above. Upon request by the media, players who had key roles in the first game of a doubleheader are to be made available for a time between games.
7. The trainer's room and players' lounge may be off-limits to the media, but each club controls these areas, and it is vital these areas not be used as a sanctuary for players seeking to avoid the media. It is very important to our game that ALL players are available to the media for reasonable periods and it is the player's responsibility to cooperate.
8. Ropes or other restraining barriers are not permitted to bar the media.
9. A general code is to be observed by the media so uniformed personnel may do their work unimpeded. Media are to be allowed in foul territory, in an unrestricted manner, in an area that is to be not less than the territory between first and third bases, and which territory includes the area around the batting cage, except the dirt area around the batting cage.
10. Under no circumstances shall any club discriminate in any fashion against an accredited member of the media based upon race, creed, sex or national origin.
11. Physical abuse or threats directed to members of the media (and/or official scorers) by baseball personnel will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action, including fines and suspensions, will be considered in any cases that arise. While in the clubhouse, members of the media are expected to be doing business. Members of the media are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and to respect the privileges and environment of restricted areas and working press areas at all times. Any media member in violation of this conduct policy is subject to revocation of his or her privileges and may be subject to immediate ejection.
12. Visitors in the clubhouse, including accredited media members, should conduct themselves in a professional manner. There shall be no seeking of autographs, no touching or removing of equipment or personal items from lockers, and no sampling of players' food spreads. Clubhouses are work places. Clubhouse business should be conducted as expeditiously as possible with a minimum of disruption of regular game routines. Members of the media should not excessively linger in the clubhouse when not interviewing players. Members of the media who violate the code of conduct set forth in this paragraph shall be subject to sanctions, including the loss of their accreditation as provided for in paragraph 17 below.
13. Live TV and/or radio interviews with uniformed personnel during the course of a game are not authorized or permitted, nor is attaching a microphone to any uniformed personnel permitted without approval from the Commissioner's Office. Microphones may not be placed in or adjacent to dugouts and/or bullpens in a manner that will allow uniformed personnel's remarks or conversations to be overheard during the course of a game without the prior approval of the Commissioner's Office.
14. Live telephone interviews are not allowed from the clubhouse or the field without prior approval of the club. Mobile telephones with digital photography capabilities are prohibited.
15. Telephones from both dugouts to the press box are to be maintained in working order for the purpose of providing information regarding special circumstances to the media during the course of a game. Explanations of injuries should be made as soon as possible (to both the media and fans in the stadium).
16. BBWAA members are not required to sign in for clubhouse or other restricted area access but may be logged in by club personnel, subject to individual club policies. Other accredited media may be required to sign in for clubhouse access, subject to individual club policies.
17. Any club whose personnel violate these regulations will be disciplined. Any member of the media who violates these regulations will lose his or her accreditation.