



FOUL BALL SAFETY NOW ANALYSIS OF MLB NETTING STATUS

May 2023



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Introduction

[FoulBallSafetyNow.com](https://foulballsafetynow.com) conducted this follow-up analysis of MLB.com to examine the current state of safety netting at the 30 MLB ballparks, and information available to fans on the website and on Ticketmaster regarding netting.

Findings indicate that:

- MLB.com still provides an inconsistent patchwork of website information that leaves fans mostly in the dark when trying to use MLB's official website to learn about netting before purchasing tickets or attending games at each of the 30 stadiums. A fan interested in learning about where to purchase seats behind netting will have a totally different journey to try to learn that information depending on which MLB team site they visit.
- Some teams have removed information about netting status. Pages that used to exist detailing netting locations are no longer online. (Examples: Mets, Pirates)
- Other teams have pages with some details about netting, but these pages don't appear to be linked to in the obvious menus and guides that a fan would expect to find them. We only discovered them through searching Google for specific keywords such as 'netting' and the name of the team or stadium. (Example: Cardinals)
- Only a few teams have 3-D seat maps where fans can look to see what the netting actually looks like in front of a particular section. And the accuracy of these 3-D renderings has not been verified.
- Individual MLB stadiums continue to fail to communicate, and sometimes even diminish, important information about the dangers of being hit by foul balls and the status of protective netting at their ballparks.
- In some cases, the minor improvements made in recent years to the information provided are still woefully inadequate. For example, the Washington Nationals added a nearly invisible dotted line to indicate which sections may have protective netting, but it doesn't contain any detail about how high the nets are or if there are seats that aren't really protected due to the tapering of many netting systems.
- MLB.com continues to advertise an official [MLB Ballpark app](#) that fans can use while visiting MLB ballparks, further creating potential fan distraction during the game.
- All MLB online ticket purchasing is handled through Ticketmaster.com which provides inconsistent information on which seats are protected by netting.

This inconsistent approach to fan safety clearly indicates the need for an independent review outside of MLB's influence. Congress and state lawmakers should take action to address and correct MLB's ongoing disregard for fan safety.

Foul Ball Safety Now issues the following recommendations:

Recommendations

- There should be uniform standards across MLB.com about where details on netting are found. It should be consistent across all team sites, appearing on the seat map, in the A-Z guide, and prominently listed in the main drop-down menu for each stadium.

- Ticketmaster should also provide consistent information to fans purchasing tickets on their platform to learn about netting status.
- Federal, state and local lawmakers should explore appropriate regulatory responses to bring MLB into compliance with providing consumers vital information they need to assess the risks of attending games at MLB facilities.

In addition to the study findings, the enclosed report includes:

- Collected information on each individual stadium.
- Quotes from players themselves who won't let their families sit in unprotected seats.

Background

Major League Baseball continues to put fans' lives at risk from dangerous high-speed foul balls throughout MLB stadiums, as well as Spring Training and Professional Development League ballparks.

NBC News compiled data from first aid contractors working for only four out of the 30 MLB teams (accounting for 701 injuries) and NBC's own research which found an additional 107 injuries, and reported that [at least 808 fans had been injured by baseballs from 2012 to 2019](#) in MLB stadiums. FBSN believes that if the other 26 teams are factored in at a similar injury rate, that would come out to roughly 5,000 fan injuries over the same time period. And this would only include injuries at MLB stadiums — not the 120 Professional Development League ballparks where MLB affiliate teams play in front of fans.

In 2019, when a regular 26.5 week season was played, [at least 15 fans were maimed by foul balls in MLB](#), again not including the rest of professional baseball.

Foul Ball Safety Now is in the process of collecting information on the number of children injured by foul balls, and has discovered at least 43 children who have been injured by foul balls throughout professional baseball since 2008. Most of these children were hit in the head and some continue to suffer from life-altering impacts. Most of these injuries were accounted for in the MLB stadiums, however many more games are played throughout the Professional Development Leagues where press coverage and netting are sorely lacking, so this number is not comprehensive.

Foul Ball Safety Now was created to demand accountability for MLB's ongoing failure to protect fans.

Methodology

This research has involved phone inquiries to box offices, as well as review of team websites within the [MLB.com](#) domain over the past several years.

American League

Baltimore Orioles

Orioles Ballpark (No change since prior report)

[Seating Chart](#)

<https://www.mlb.com/orioles/ballpark/netting> (Note that one URL mentions netting)

Clearly indicates netting on the main seat map, but not on [Ticketmaster seat map](#)

Netting: Sections 6 to 70

Oriole Park at Camden Yards Seating Map

In a continuing effort to create the most fan and family-friendly atmosphere in sports, protective netting at Oriole Park at Camden Yards extends from Section 6 through Section 70.



The safety and security of our fans is of the utmost importance to the Orioles as we continue cultivating a fun, fan-friendly, and affordable experience for everyone to safely enjoy Orioles Baseball.

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Baltimore Orioles ticket office at 888-848-BIRD (2473).

Boston Red Sox

<https://www.mlb.com/redsox/ballpark/seat-map>

3D map, no netting information on it



On a separate page, the Red Sox include information about netting. <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/ballpark/netting>

FENWAY PARK NETTING

The protective netting at Fenway Park extends from Field Box Section 79 to Field Box Section 9. It is positioned with varying heights all the way around, approximately 12 feet, 8 inches above the playing field.

While the netting system offers protection, the club continues to encourage all fans to be vigilant during games and to be on the lookout for any objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holders assume all risk of injury.

Fenway Park 3D Seat Map



An archive of this page from 2021 included more details, including a phone number: <https://web.archive.org/web/20211127035822/https://www.mlb.com/redsox/ballpark/netting>. The protective netting at Fenway Park is being extended beyond the dugouts for the start of the 2018 season. The new netting system will extend from Field Box Section 79 to Field Box Section 9, expanded from an area previously covering Field Box Section 61 to Field Box Section 29. It will be positioned with the same consistent height as the existing system, which stands at approximately 12 feet, 8 inches above the playing field.

While the expanded netting system will offer some additional protection, the club continues to encourage all fans to be vigilant during games and to be on the lookout for any objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holders assume all risk of injury.

For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Boston Red Sox ticket office at 877-RedSox9

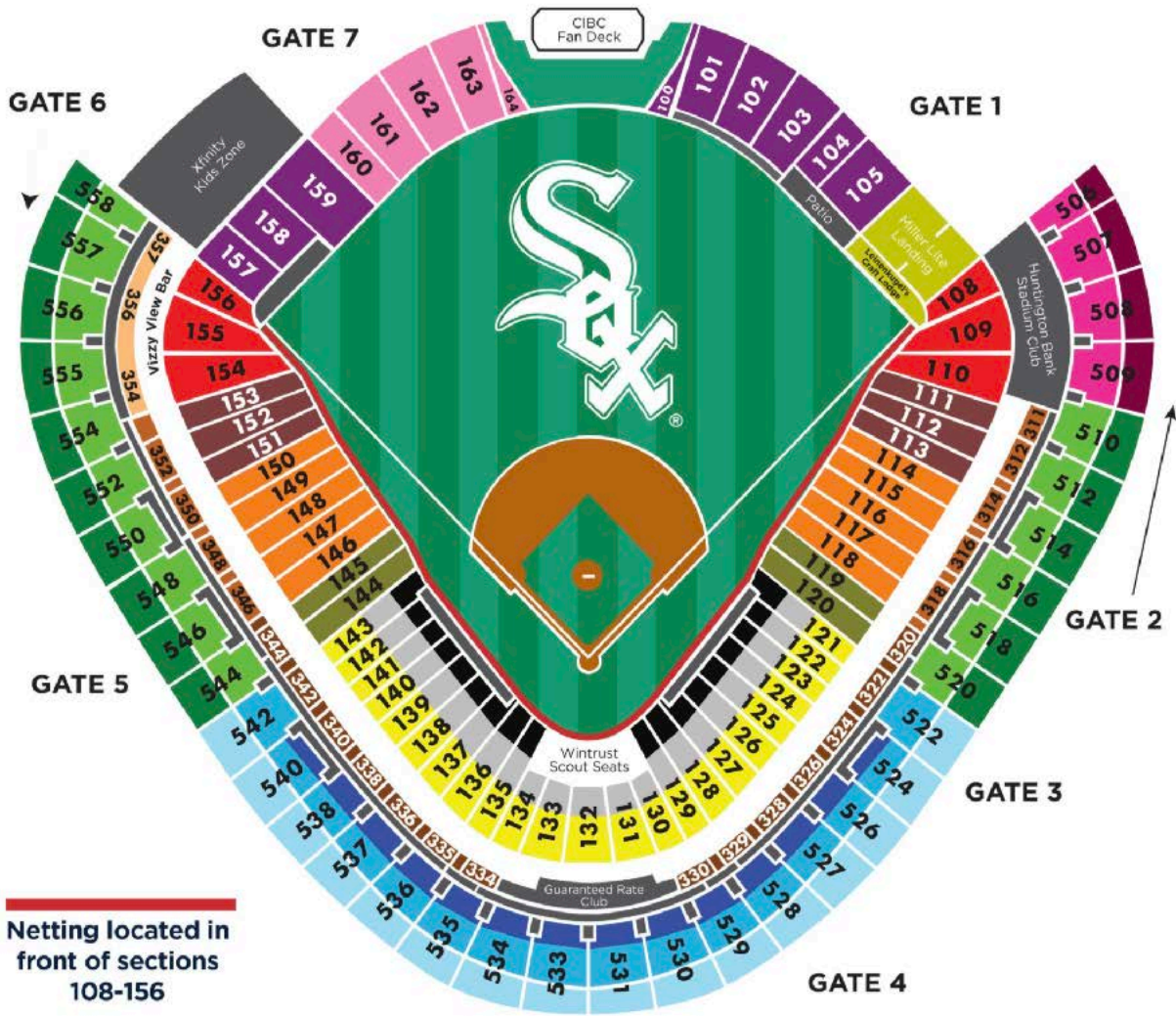
Chicago White Sox
 Guaranteed Rate Field (No change since prior report)
<https://www.mlb.com/whitesox/ballpark/seat-map>

Guaranteed Rate Field Seat Map

Following our goal to create a safe environment at Guaranteed Rate Field, some amount of netting or screening is in front of 49 sections (Sections 108-156); the height and coverage of netting or screening will vary by section.

Sections: 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156.

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Chicago White Sox ticket office at (312) 674-1000.



Cleveland Guardians

Progressive Field (No change since prior report)

<https://www.mlb.com/guardians/ballpark/information>

Seating Map & Netting

<https://www.mlb.com/guardians/ballpark/netting> (Note that URL mentions netting)

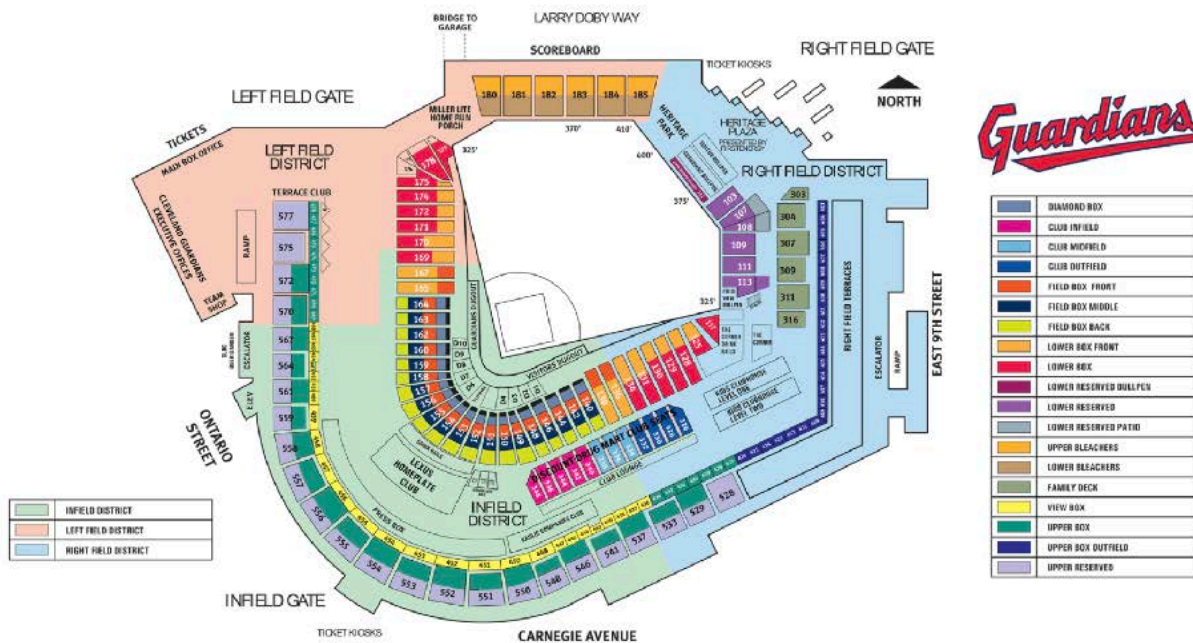


- Information Guide
- Gate Times
- ADA Information
- Seating Map & Netting
- Ground Rules
- Ballpark History & Dimensions

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections; the height and coverage of netting or screening will vary by section:

Sections: 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Cleveland Guardians ticket office at (216) 420-HITS.



Detroit Tigers
Comerica Park

<https://www.mlb.com/tigers/ballpark/seat-map>

No visual display of netting status, but text information below map (which has been updated since the prior FBSN report to highlight its transparent netting)



Houston Astros

Difficult to find seating map, not linked from the main “MMP” menu.

<https://www.mlb.com/astros/ballpark/seat-map>

No visual display of netting status, but text information at top, including disclaimer.

<https://www.mlb.com/astros/ballpark/information/facts-and-figures>

No mention of netting or fan safety. Touts the fact that “the nearest spectator along the first and third base lines can be as close as 43 feet to the game.”

Astros Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 106 to 129

Minute Maid Park Seating Map

Please note that the following sections will be screened with netting, in efforts to enhance our fan experience and safety - Sections with netting: 112 through 126 and the Diamond Club.

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Houston Astros ticket office at 1.800.ASTROS2 (1.800.278.7672).



A-Z Guide now has reference to netting (added in early March 2023):

N

NET

The net backstop of the playing field stretches along the foul lines from Section 106 on the Third Base side to Section 133 on the First Base side. The front of Sections 107 through 132 will be covered by the net. Sections 106 and 133 will be partially covered by the net. No other sections will be protected by the net. Regardless, fans must be aware of the potential to be struck by flying objects including but not limited to bats, baseballs, and promotional items designed to make the fan experience better.

Please note, the netting will be kept in place for most Minute Maid Park events including special events such as concerts, conferences, galas, etc.

Kansas City Royals

<https://www.mlb.com/royals/ballpark/seating-map>

Text info about netting, as well as netting line indicated on seating map

Text reads:

The Royals have always considered fan safety as an important part of our effort to create a great experience at Kauffman Stadium. The Kansas City Royals would like to take this opportunity to provide some information concerning the general location of netting at Kauffman Stadium.

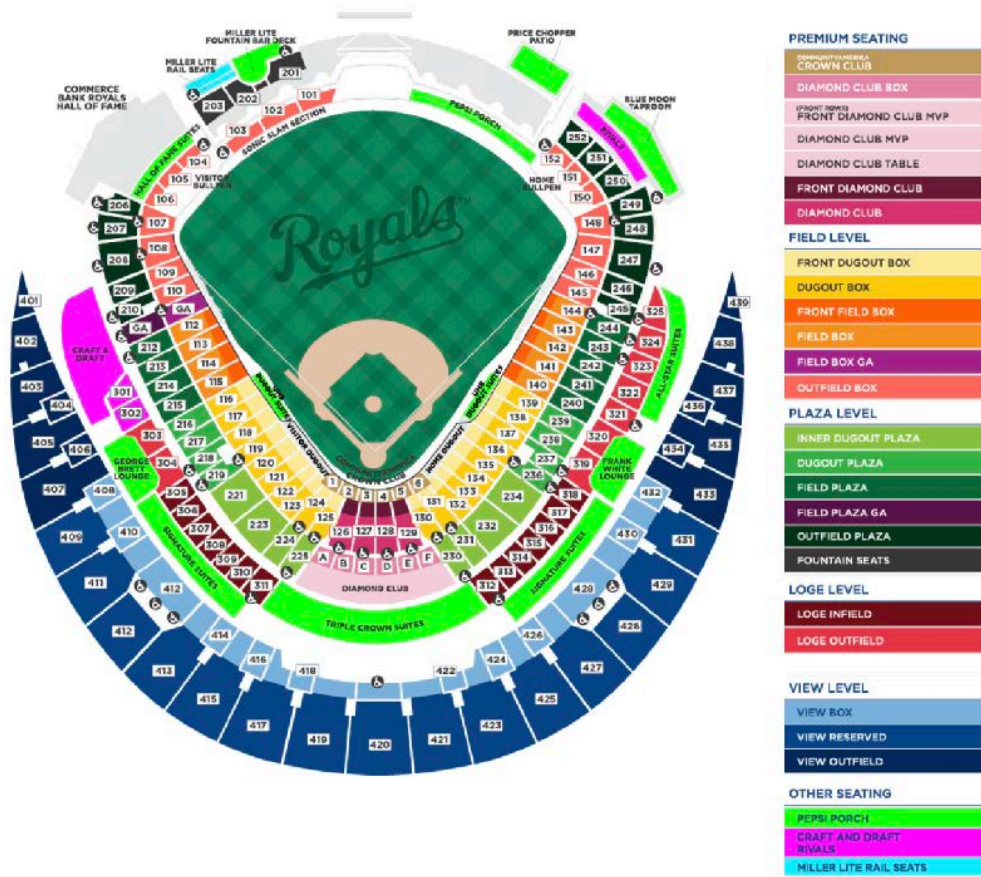
The above pictures show the general location where additional netting has been installed. The height and coverage of netting or screening varies. Please understand that it is not possible for a map like this to show the precise location of the netting. In addition, even if netting exists in a particular location, it is still possible for balls, bats and other objects leaving the field of play to strike fans. No seat in Kauffman Stadium is free from the risk of injury inherent in attending a live baseball game.

The thrill that comes with attending a baseball game comes with some inherent risks that are a part of the game itself. There are seat locations that you may select, if you wish, that may allow you to reduce the possibility that you will be impacted by those inherent risks. However, be aware that some risk remains for each fan when you make a decision to visit Kauffman Stadium, or attend any baseball game at any level of play. Please contact the Royals ticket office at 1-800-6ROYALS if you have any questions about your seat location. Ticket holders assume all risk of injury inherent in attending a live baseball game, including the risk of balls, bats and other objects leaving the field of play.

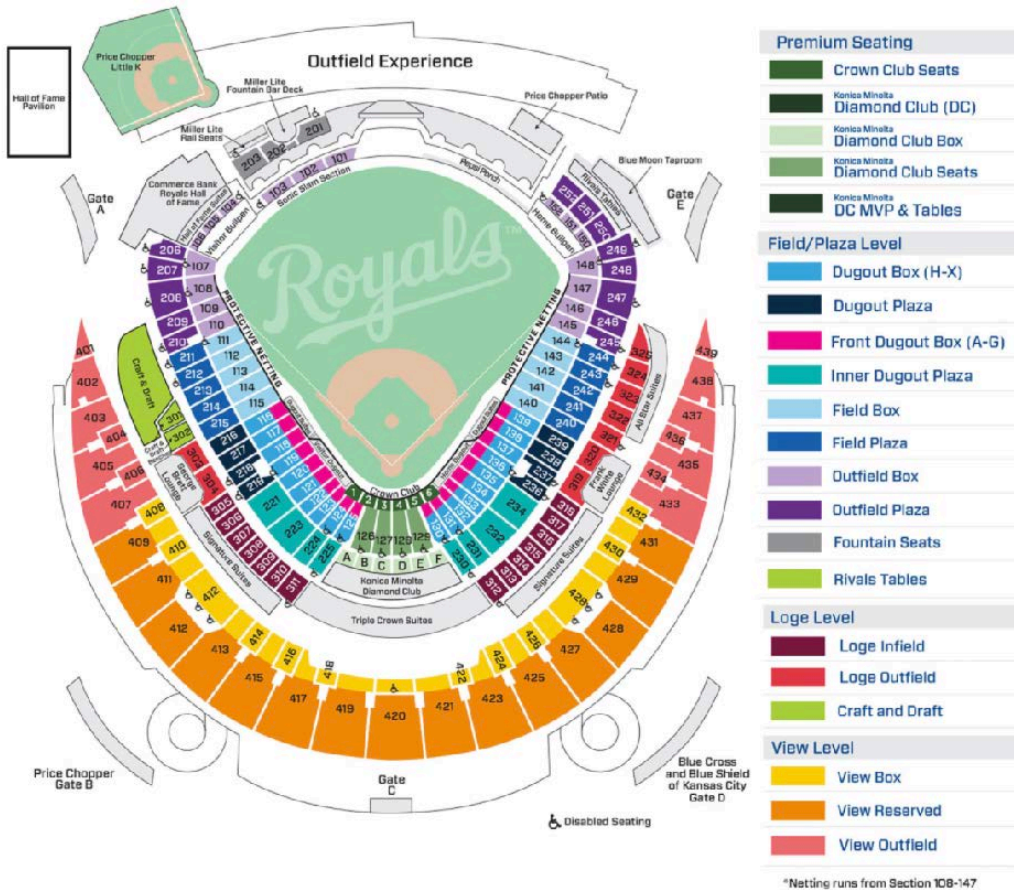
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Note that the Royals website seems to have removed notices about protective netting that were in place in 2022. The dark black line that denoted sections with Protective Netting has been reduced in intensity, and the words 'Protective Netting' have been whited out (but still remain visible on a closer zoomed-in view). Another change was made on the bottom right of the seating map – it used to say “Netting runs from section 108 to 147” and that has been removed.

Screenshot from May 2023:



Screenshot from FBSN 2022 Report:



Los Angeles Angels

Angel Stadium (no change since prior report)

<https://mlb.com/angels/tickets/seating-map>

No visual display of netting status, but text information on seating map (very small)

Angel Stadium Seating Map



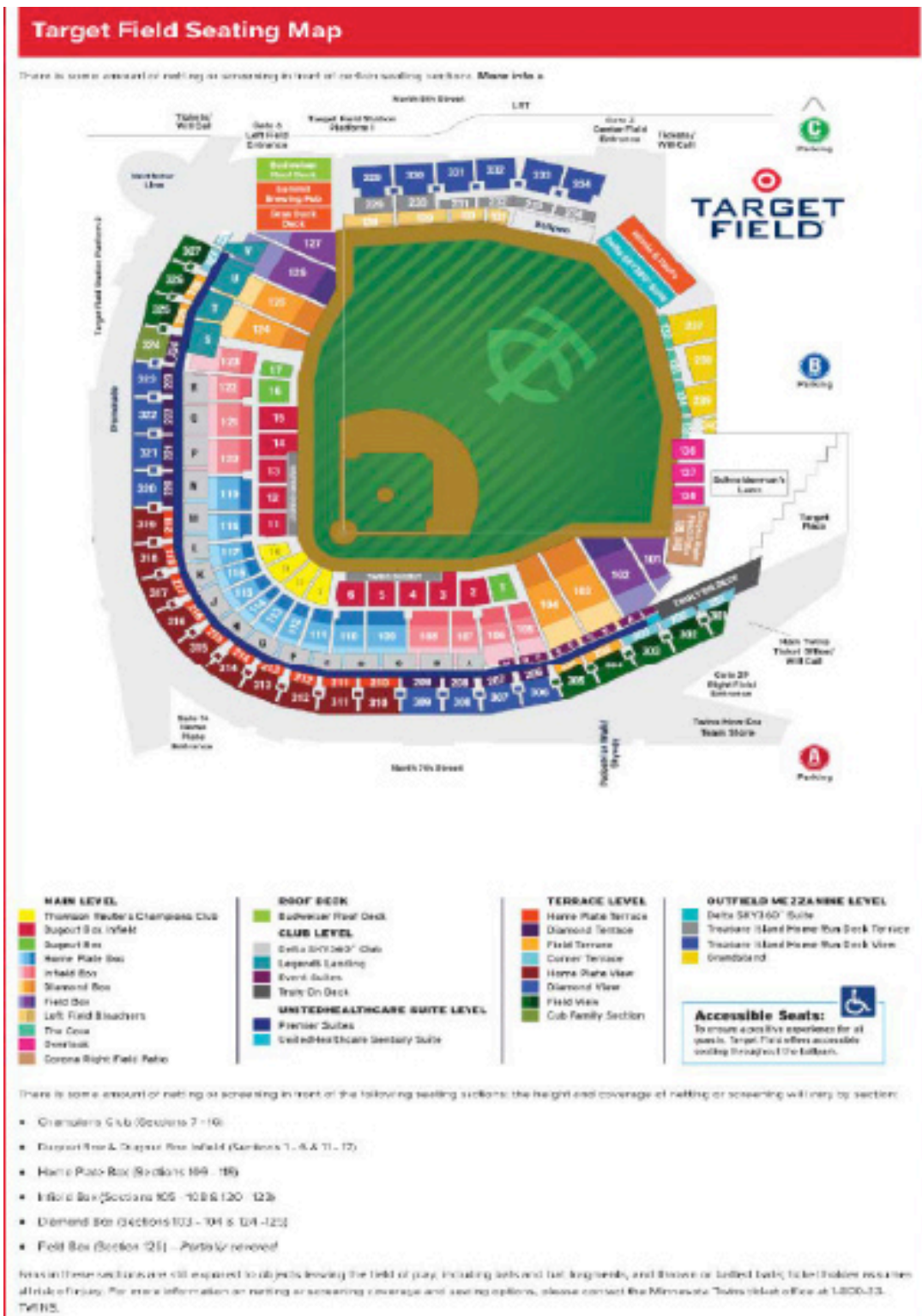
Note very small reference to netting.

The Angels extended the netting for the 2020 season but for only one additional section.

Previously netting covered from sections 110 to 126. Now netting covers from sections 109 to 127

Minnesota Twins

Target Field (No change since prior report) <https://mlb.com/twins/ballpark/seat-map>
 No visual display of netting status, but text information



New York Yankees

Yankee Stadium (No change since prior report)

Virtual Venue interactive seating map, small text note about netting on main page

Inside the virtual map, netting can be seen from each section where visible

<http://yankees.io-media.com/web/index.html>

<https://www.mlb.com/yankees/ballpark/information/guide>

Text reads: Please note that protective netting of varying heights is used in the Stadium from Section 011 to behind home plate to Section 029.



Example of netting visible in Yankee Stadium virtual map



<https://www.mlb.com/yankees/ballpark/netting>

This page exists, but is not linked to within the main menu. It includes a disclaimer:

“Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the New York Yankees ticket office at (212) YANKEES.”

Oakland Athletics

Oakland Coliseum (No change since prior report)

The “Ballpark Map” link in the menu links to:

<https://www.mlb.com/athletics/ballpark/seating-map>

No visual or text information about netting at all.



A’s Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 103 to 330 “pole to pole”

A Google search for ‘Oakland A’s netting’ returns a different page (not easily found)

<https://www.mlb.com/athletics/ballpark/netting>

A’s Seating Map

The netting extends from foul pole to foul pole. Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Oakland Athletics ticket office at 510-568-5600.

Seattle Mariners

T-Mobile Park (No change since prior report)

<https://www.mlb.com/mariners/ballpark>

Virtual Venue interactive seating map, No mention of netting on main page

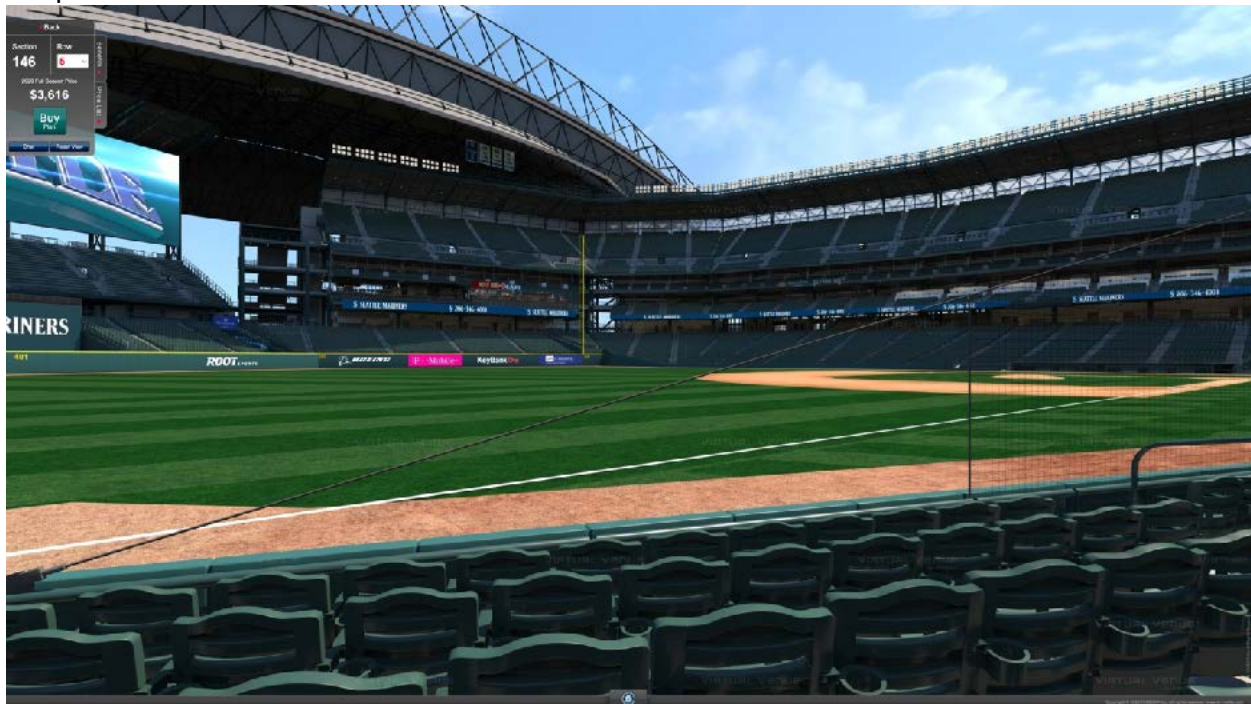
[A-Z Guide](#) mentions:

FOUL BALLS & HOME RUNS

The Mariners encourage Guests to keep any balls that are hit into the stands. However, batted balls can be dangerous and we ask that Guests stay alert at all times. If Guests would like to lessen their risk, the Mariners will exchange tickets for one in the View Level prior to the first pitch being thrown.

<http://mariners.io-media.com/web/index.html>

Virtual guide appears to show netting from Sections 116 to 145, but no explanation or specifics are provided.



Mariners Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 114 to 147

Tampa Bay Rays

Tropicana Field

Seating Map

<https://www.mlb.com/rays/ballpark/information/seating-map>

No netting info on seating map, either text or visual

https://img.mlbstatic.com/mlb-images/image/private/q_100/mlb/trn5blok1qew6civ3od

Tropicana Field Seating Map



Ballpark Information Page updated for 2023 to include a section called 'Tropicana Field Netting'

<https://www.mlb.com/rays/ballpark/information>

leads to:

<https://www.mlb.com/rays/ballpark/netting>

Tropicana Field Netting

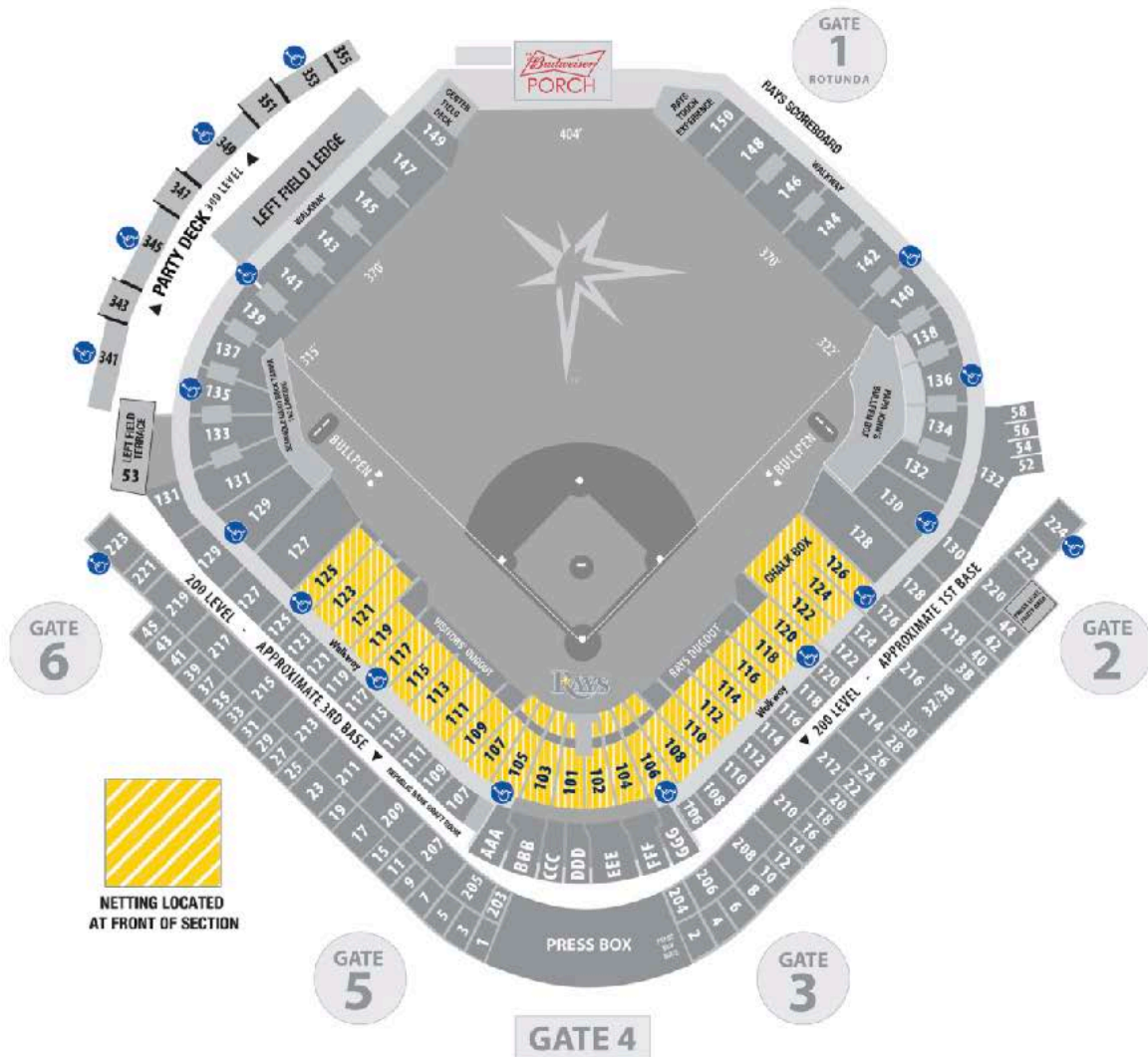
The Tampa Bay Rays are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for each person who enters Tropicana Field. Protective netting has been expanded to sections 125 & 126 at Tropicana Field.

There is some amount of netting in front of the seating sections listed below; the height and coverage of the netting varies by section.

Netting Sections: 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126

Please understand that it is not possible for a map to show the precise location of the netting and/or to what extent netting may or may not impact your view. In addition, regardless of the location of netting, fans in the sections listed above are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. No seat in Tropicana Field is free from the risk of injury inherent in attending a live baseball game.

For more information on netting coverage and seating options, please contact the Tampa Bay Rays ticket office at 1-888-FAN-RAYS.



Please note that protective netting of varying heights is used in the Stadium from Section 125 to behind home plate to Section 126.

A-Z Guide has a section on Netting

<https://www.mlb.com/rays/ballpark/information/guide>

NETTING

The Tampa Bay Rays are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for each person who enters Tropicana Field and Charlotte Sports Park. Protective netting has been expanded to the outside edge of the dugouts at Charlotte Sports Park and to sections 125 & 126 at Tropicana Field. The backstop netting and extensions at both parks are a green knotless net, which will provide better game visibility than the traditional black knotted netting.

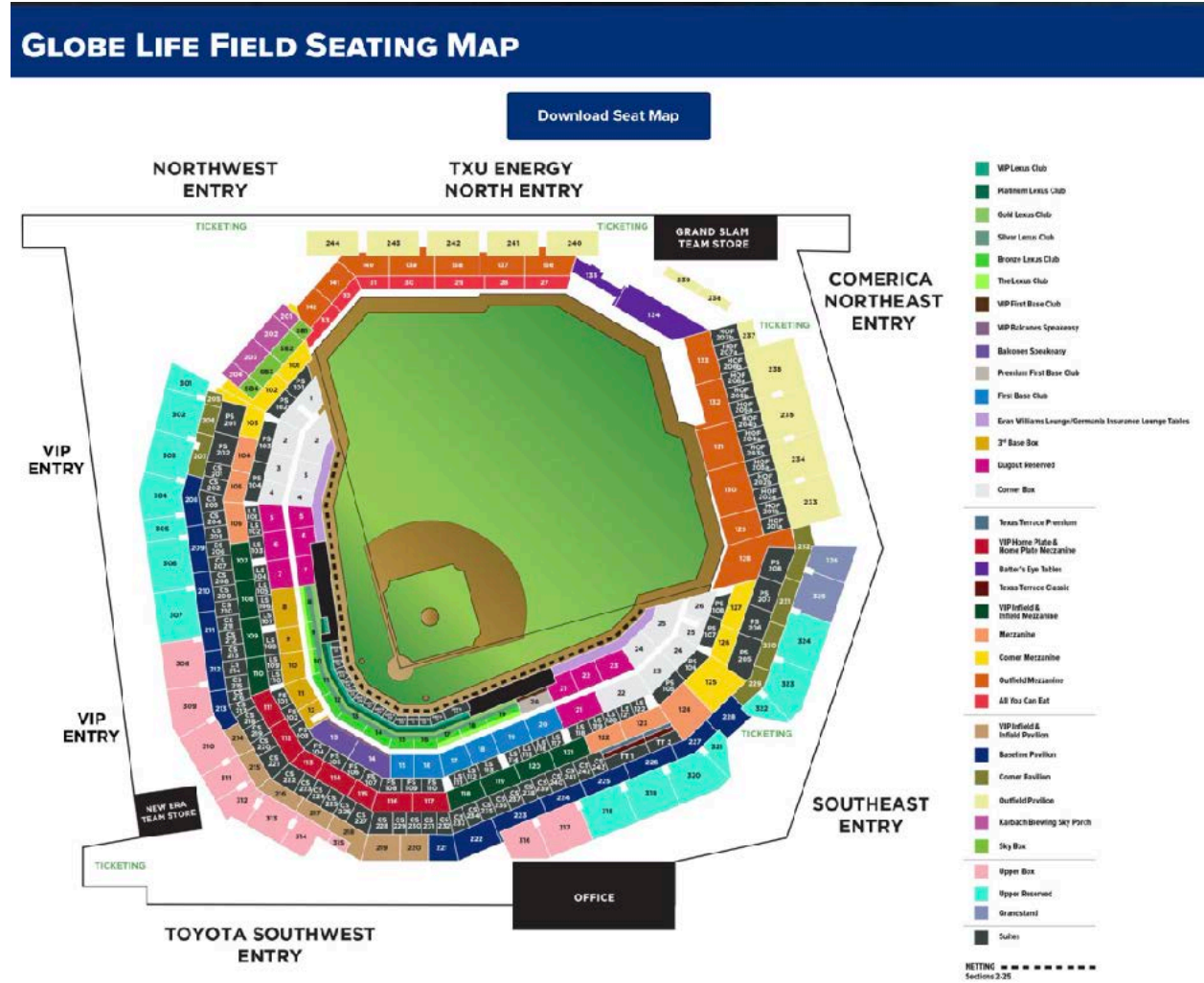
Rays Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 129 to 130 (this was and remains inaccurate)

Texas Rangers
Globe Life Field

In 2022, there was no netting information provided, and the seating map was very hard to find, in Tickets section, not in Globe Life Field menu.

For 2023, the Globe Life Field menu now links to the Seat Map, which has a new dotted line to indicate where netting exists, and a new text explanation.

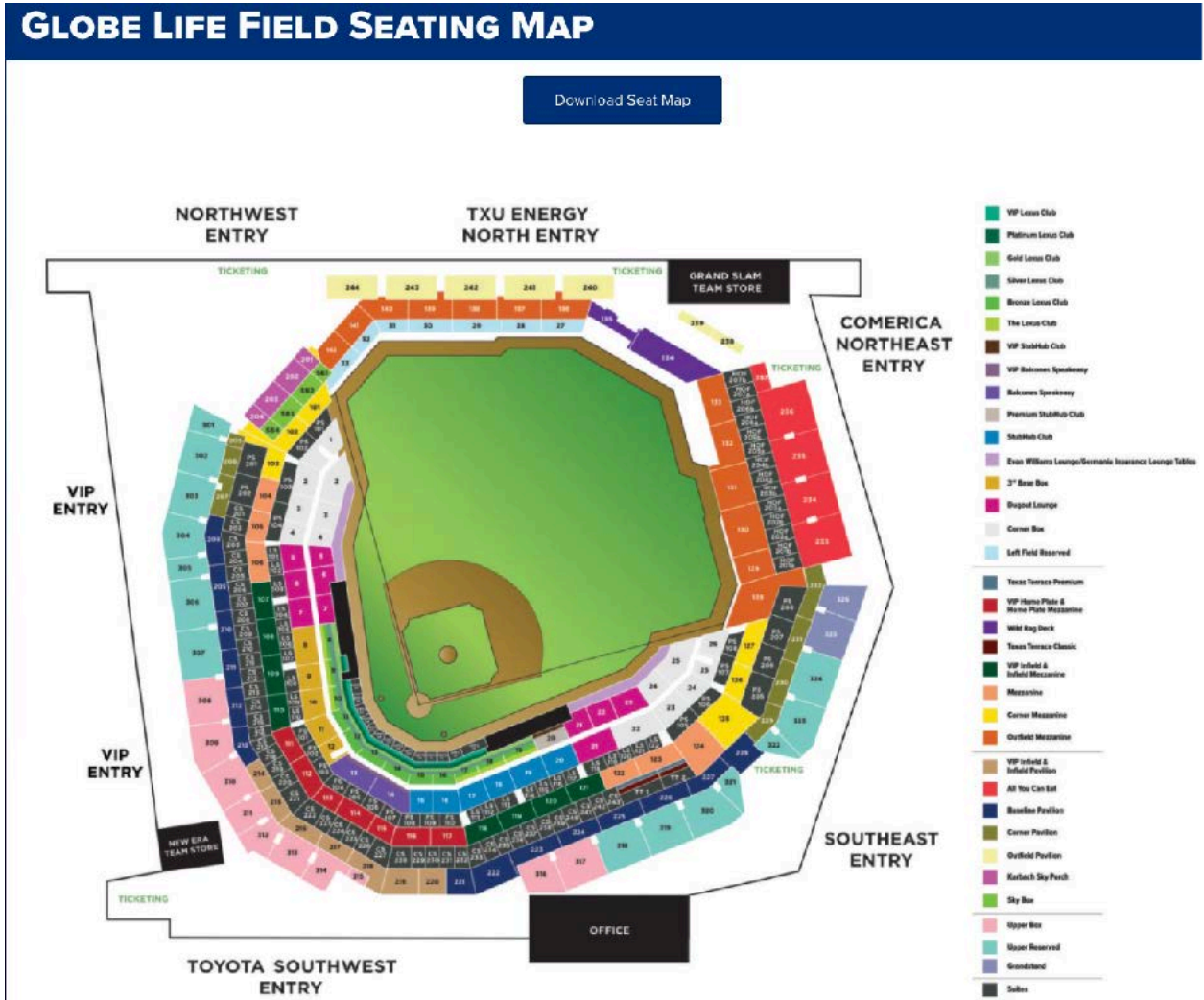
<https://www.mlb.com/rangers/ballpark/seat-map>



There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections:
Sections 1-26. The height and coverage of netting or screening varies by section.

Fans in the sections listed above are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments and thrown or batted balls. Ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Texas Rangers Box Office at **972-RANGERS** or ticketoffice@texastrangers.com

2022 Seating map for comparison:



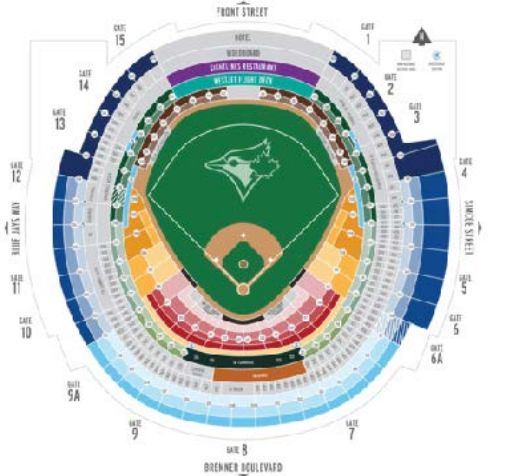
Toronto Blue Jays

Rogers Centre

Seating map: No visual or text information about netting

<https://www.mlb.com/bluejays/ballpark/seating-map>

Rogers Centre Seating Map



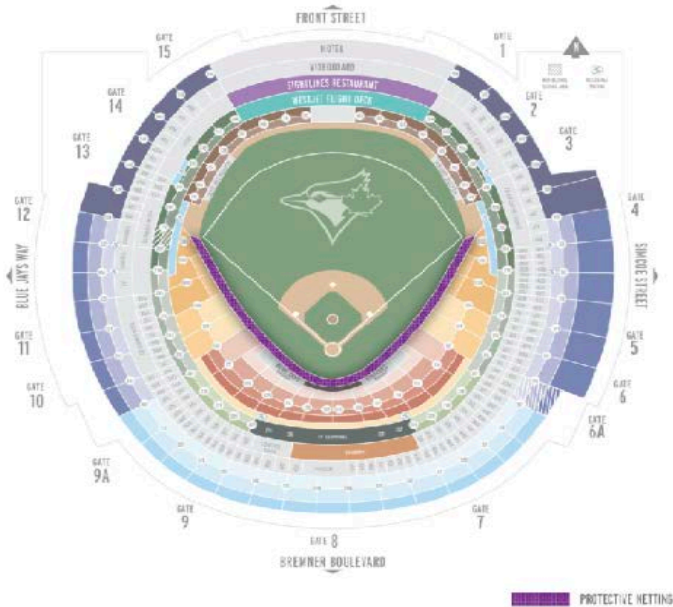
In 2022, the menu separately listed ‘Rogers Centre Netting’

In 2023, this is no longer found in the menu, and must be typed manually to access.

<https://www.mlb.com/bluejays/ballpark/netting>

Rogers Centre | Netting

The Toronto Blue Jays extend the protective netting at Rogers Centre, as part of the club's commitment to improve fan safety while preserving the live baseball experience. The protective netting extends down the length of the first and third baseline walls, to Sections 120C & 120D, respectively, opening off to the curve before the foul poles. The height of the extended netting matches what was in place before (13 feet), and the structure and anchoring is the same as well. The installation of netting is designed to blend into the background and provide greater safety by allowing fans to remain close to the action in a safe manner without compromising the viewing experience.



The menu includes a virtual venue seating map which appears to accurately depict where netting exists.

The [A-Z guide](#) has a section:

Foul Balls, Homerun Balls & Bats

During the game, fans must stay in their seats except when travelling to concessions, restrooms, or for emergencies and fan services support.

All fans are asked to stay alert throughout the game for foul balls or bats that might leave the playing area. Fans are permitted to keep any foul and home run balls that are hit into the seats, but are asked to be cautious and courteous to others when collecting a ball. Bats entering the stands must be returned if requested by the Blue Jays or visiting team. Fans are prohibited from throwing balls back onto the field. Violators are subject to ejection and possible arrest. Any fan that interferes with a ball in play or the game in any way is subject to ejection from the ballpark and/or criminal prosecution.

National League

Arizona Diamondbacks

Chase Field

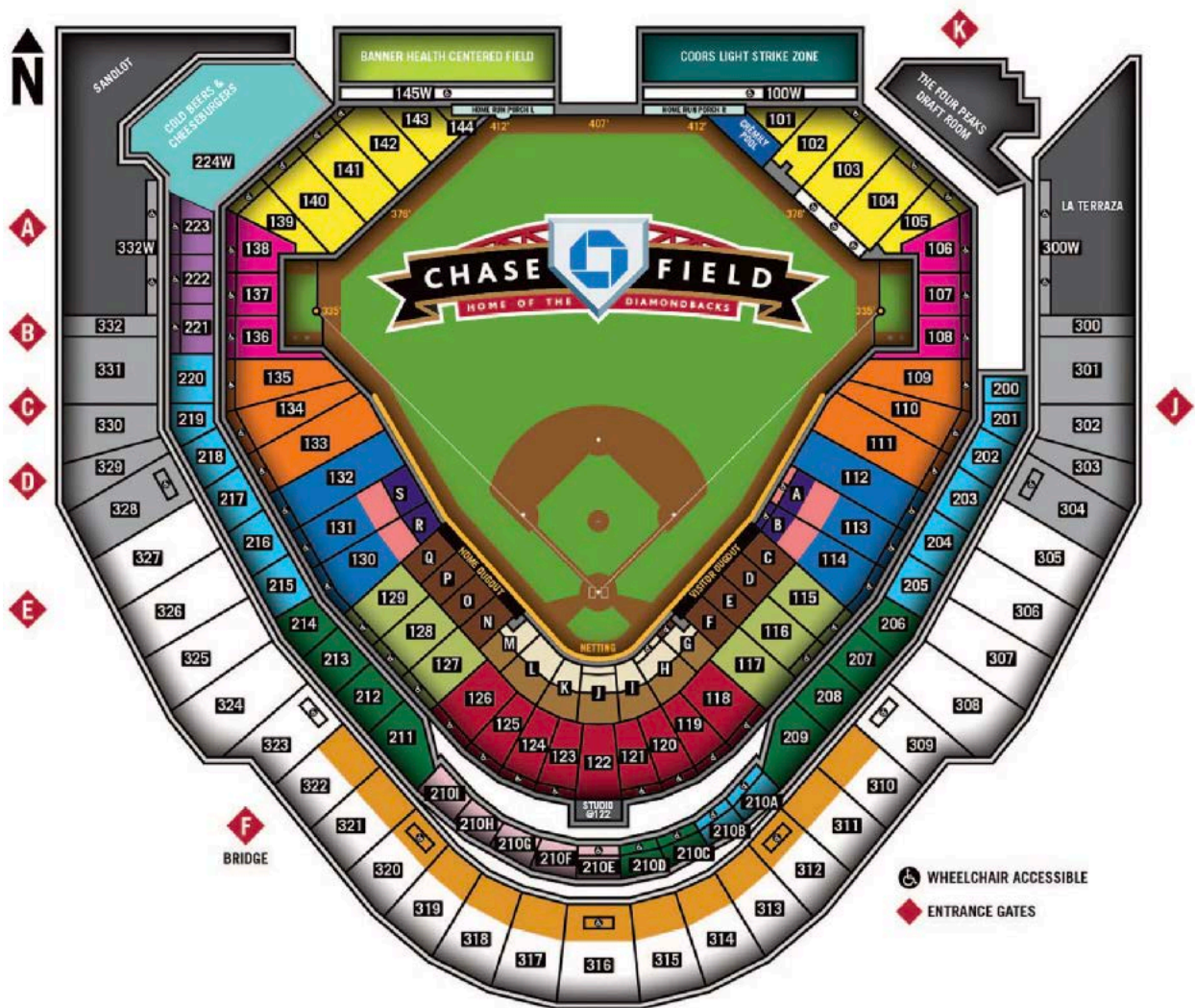
<https://www.mlb.com/dbacks/ballpark/information>

Seating map

<https://www.mlb.com/dbacks/ballpark/information/seating-map>

Updated since 2022, this page now has an orange line marked 'Netting' between sections 11-133

Chase Field Seating Map



Atlanta Braves

Truist Park (No change since prior report)

<https://www.mlb.com/braves/ballpark/information/guide>

“Sections 10 to 42 and sections 111-141 are behind protective netting.”

<https://www.mlb.com/braves/ballpark/seating-chart>

Text information about netting, including height

Text:

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections:

Sections: 1-9, 10-42, 107-143, Champions Suites (Suites A,B,1-10)

Height of netting is 31.5 feet.

Netting extends from foul pole to foul pole.

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Atlanta Braves ticket office at (404) 577-9100.

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TRUIST PARK SEATING CHART

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections:

Sections: 1-9, 10-42, 107-143, Champions Suites (Suites A,B,1-10)

- Height of netting is 31.5 feet.
- Netting extends from foul pole to foul pole.

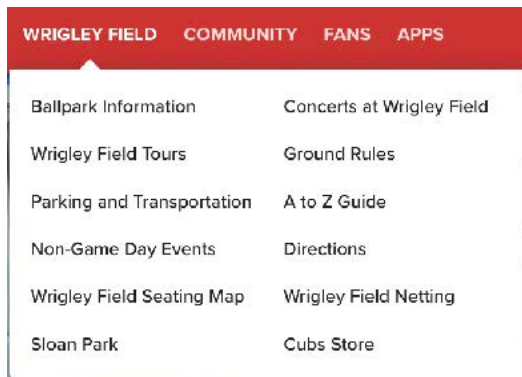
Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Atlanta Braves ticket office at (404) 577-9100.



Chicago Cubs

Wrigley Field (No change since prior report)

The menu does include a separate page 'Wrigley Field Netting'

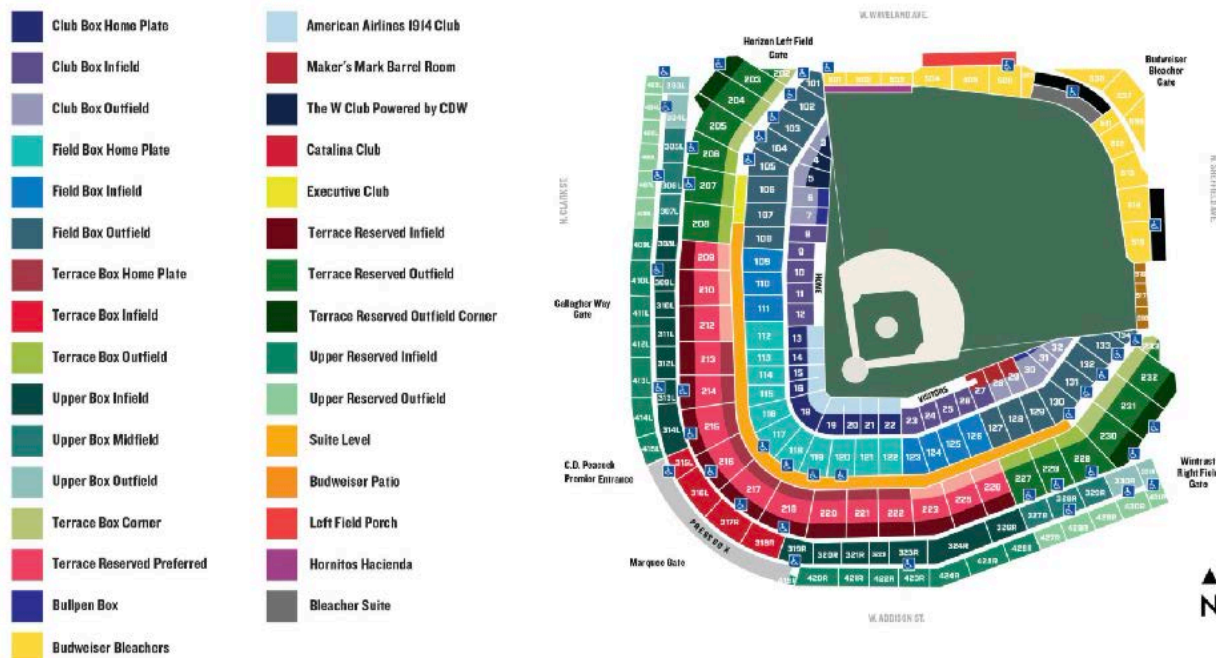


However, on the 'Wrigley Field Seating Map' page, there is no visual or text information about netting

<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/ballpark/information/gates>

Wrigley Field Seating and Gate Map

2023 SEATING MAP



<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/ballpark/information>

No netting information in ballpark guide.

The section on Foul Balls and Home Run Balls includes these disclaimers:

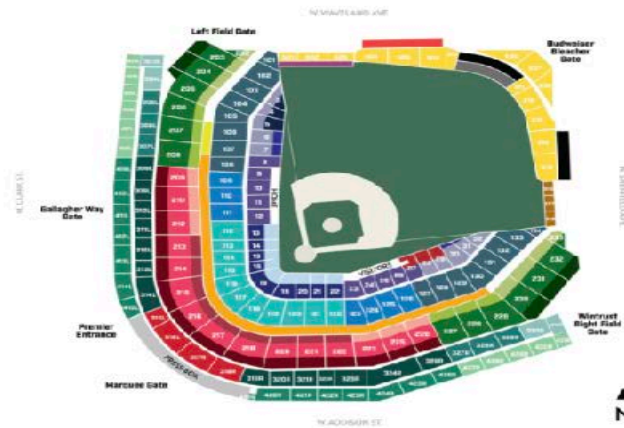
“Ticket holders assume all risks and dangers incidental to the game of baseball, whether occurring prior to, during, or subsequent to the actual playing of the game including (but not exclusively) the danger of being injured by or in connection with any thrown or batted ball. The Chicago Cubs are not liable for resulting injuries.”

Separate menu item ‘Wrigley Field Netting’ notes that “Netting extends to the outfield edge of each dugout.” But does not explain which sections are protected vs. exposed.

<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/ballpark/netting>

Wrigley Field Seating Map - Netting

As part of our ongoing commitment to fan safety, the Chicago Cubs would like to take this opportunity to provide some information concerning the general location of netting at Wrigley Field.



Netting extends to the outfield edge of each dugout. The height and coverage of netting or screening varies. Please understand it is not possible for a map like this to show the precise location of the netting and/or to what extent netting may or may not impact your view. In addition, regardless of the location of netting, it is still possible for balls, bats and other objects to leave the field of play and enter the stands. No seat in Wrigley Field is free from the risk of injury inherent in attending a live baseball game.

The thrill of attending a baseball game comes with certain risks inherent to the sport. You may choose to select a seat location, based on the above information, to reduce the chance you will be impacted by those inherent risks, but please be aware the risk remains for each fan when attending any baseball game at any level of play at any ballpark, including at Wrigley Field. Please contact the Chicago Cubs Ticket Office at 800-THE-CUBS (2827) if you have any questions about your seat location.

Cubs Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 6 to 29

Cincinnati Reds

Great American Ball Park (No change since prior report)

Seating Map

<https://www.mlb.com/reds/ballpark/netting> (Note that URL mentions netting)

Text information about netting

No visual netting information

Text 2023:

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections; the height and coverage of netting or screening will vary by section:

Sections: 1-5

Sections: 22-25

Sections: 111-135

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Cincinnati Reds ticket office at (513) 765-7500.

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Great American Ball Park Seating Map

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections; the height and coverage of netting or screening will vary by section:

Sections: 1-5

Sections: 22-25

Sections: 113-133

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Cincinnati Reds ticket office at (513) 765-7500.



Reds Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 111 to 135

Colorado Rockies

Coors Field (No change since prior report)

<https://www.mlb.com/rockies/tickets/pricing> No netting information

<https://www.mlb.com/rockies/ballpark/seating-chart> No visual information.

Text says: "Netting runs from the front of Sections 112 to 147."

Coors Field Seating Chart



Netting runs from the front of Sections 112-147.

<https://www.mlb.com/rockies/ballpark/seat-viewer>

Netting still appears to stop at end of dugout based on this tool.

<https://www.mlb.com/rockies/ballpark/information/guide>

No specific reference to foul ball risk or netting, except a bolded (no link) 'See also Colorado Baseball Spectator Law'.

Foul Balls; Game Interference

Guests are welcome to keep any foul ball hit into the stands. At no time should a foul or home run ball be thrown back on the field. Violators will be subject to ejection from the ballpark. Any Guest interfering with a ball in play will be subject to ejection from the ballpark. In addition, any Guest going onto the playing field will be ejected and may also be subject to arrest and prosecution. The Colorado Rockies cannot be held responsible for the conduct of other Guests when attempting to obtain a foul or home run ball. See also **Colorado Baseball Spectator Law**.

Los Angeles Dodgers

Dodger Stadium (No change since prior report)

No seating map listed in menu

Have to click through to view

<https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark/seat-map>

Nets appear to end at 42-43BL on both sides

<https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark/information/guide>

No netting information

Dodger Stadium Seat Map



Home of the two known fan fatalities from foul balls in MLB history – Alan Fish in 1970, and Linda Goldbloom in 2018 — Dodger Stadium has no written information about the status of netting on its website. A [page](#) dedicated to listing Dodger stadium upgrades over the years also never mentions netting improvements.

The stadium's [Information](#) page, while making no reference to protective netting status, includes this note:

Foul Balls and Milestone Balls

The Dodgers are happy for guests to keep any baseball hit into the stands as a souvenir. However, all guests must remain off the playing field and not interfere with a ball in play as it may affect the outcome of the game. Please note that guests who interfere with a ball in play are subject to immediate ejection.

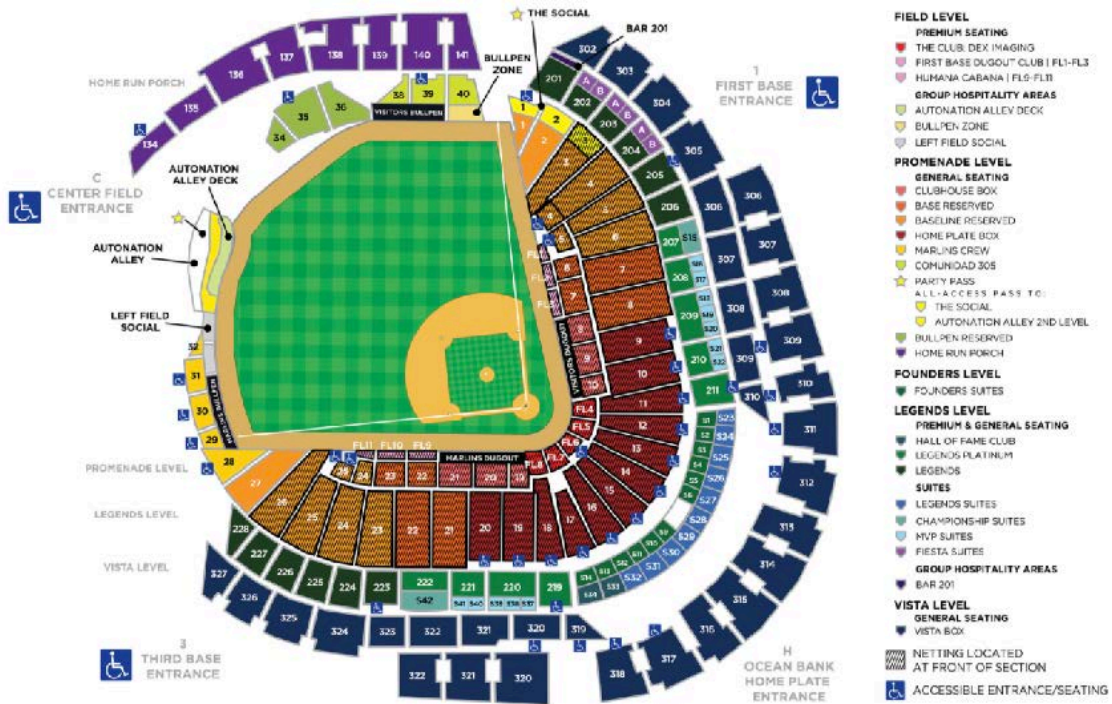
Guests who are concerned with their seat location should contact any Guest Services representative to inquire about an alternate seat location.

Miami Marlins

LoanDepot Park (No change since prior report)

<https://www.mlb.com/marlins/ballpark/seating-map>

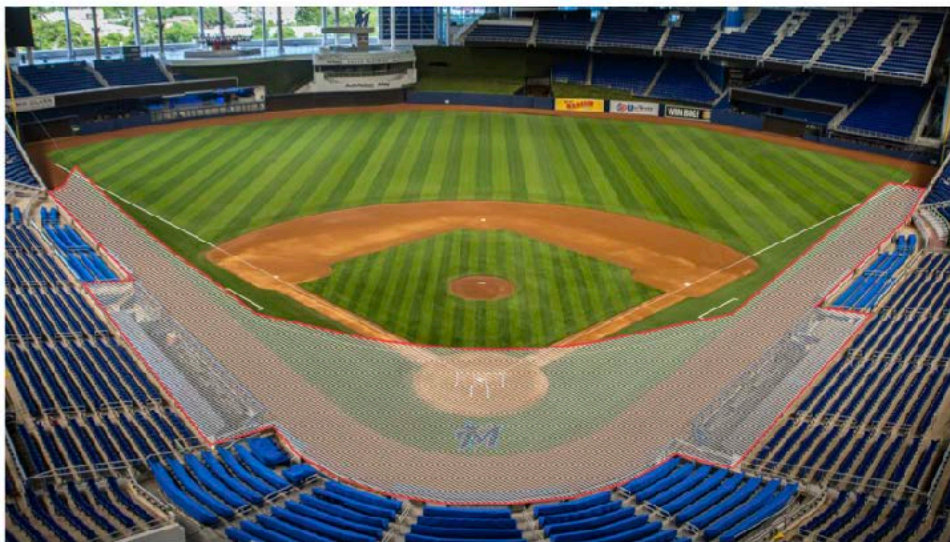
Visual information about netting, in legend



<https://www.mlb.com/marlins/ballpark/information/guide>

- **Protective Netting:** *State-of-the art knotless fiber that is 30% thinner than traditional netting and covers Sections 4 - 10 & 19 - 25. [Click here](#) to view seating sections where netting is located.

loanDepot park Netting



Milwaukee Brewers

American Family Field (No change since prior report)

<https://www.mlb.com/brewers/ballpark/seating-map>

Visual information about netting, in legend indicating netting from 108 to 128

American Family Field Seating Map



FIELD LEVEL

- Field Diamond Platinum
- Field Diamond Box
- Field Infield Platinum
- Field Infield Box
- Field Outfield Platinum
- Field Outfield Box
- Field Bleachers Box
- Field Bleachers

LOGE LEVEL

- Loge Diamond Box
- Loge Infield Platinum
- Loge Infield Box
- Loge Outfield Platinum
- Loge Outfield Box

CLUB LEVEL (Wait Staff)

- Club Infield Box
- Club Outfield Box

TERRACE LEVEL

- Terrace Box
- Terrace Reserved Infield
- Terrace Reserved Outfield
- Bernie's Terrace

■ Netting

♿ Accessible Seating

F Family Section (Alcohol prohibited)

Protective Netting

Despite netting or screening in front of some seating sections, fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Milwaukee Brewers ticket office at (414) 902-4000.

Brewers Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 108 to 128

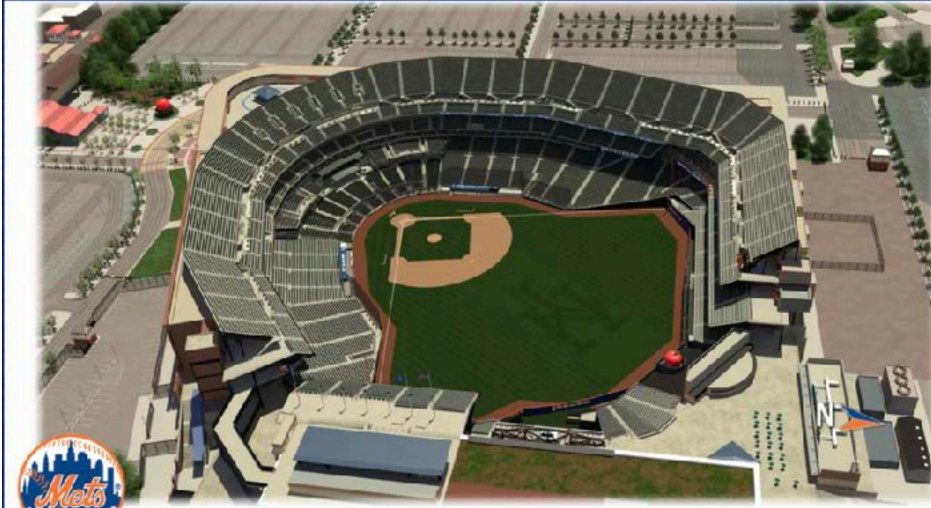
New York Mets

Citi Field (No change since prior report)

<https://www.mlb.com/mets/ballpark/seat-map>

Netting visually represented from Sections 109 to 126

Seat Map | Citi Field



Mets Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 126 to 109

There used to be a page about netting, but this link isn't working as of May 2023:



<https://www.mlb.com/mets/ballpark/netting>

According to archive.org, this page was [first indexed in August 2019](#).

Pittsburgh Pirates

PNC Park (No change since prior report)

3-D Seating Map

<https://www.mlb.com/pirates/ballpark/seating-map/3d>

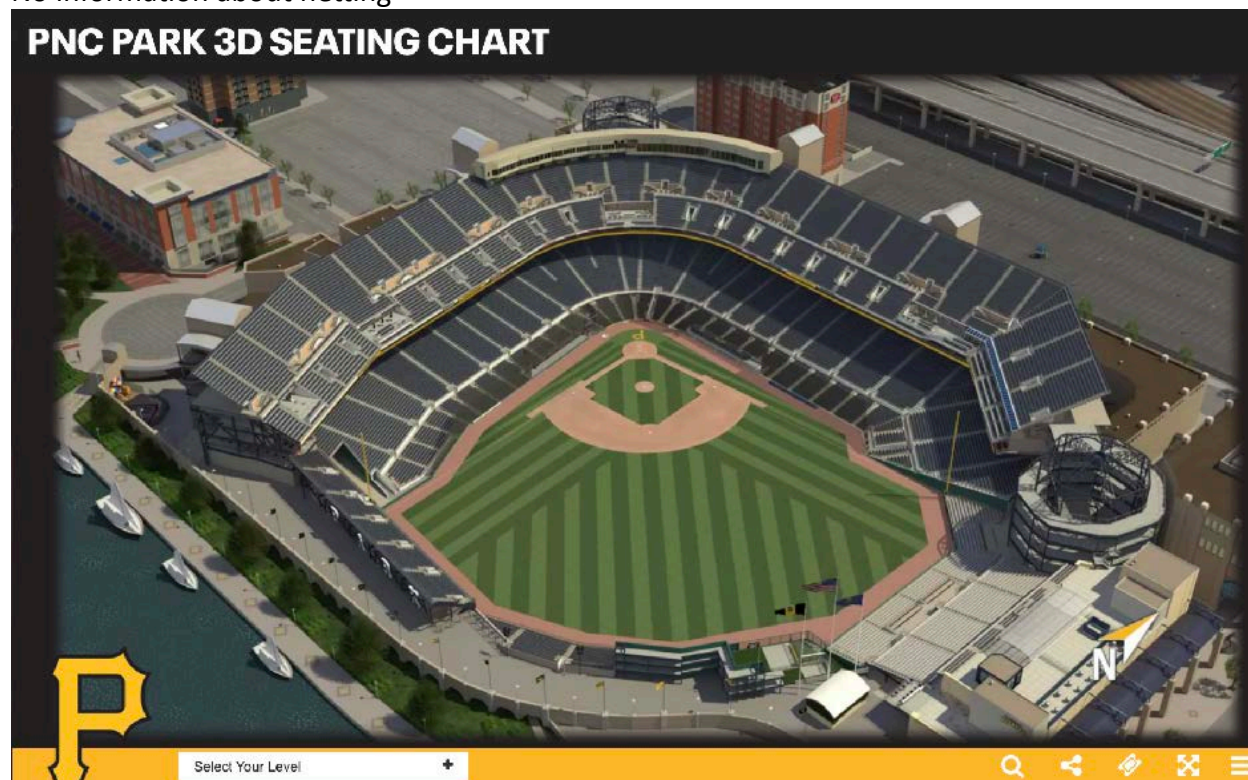
Visual display of netting on overview map and 3D seating map. No text.

Using the 3-D tool, netting appears to extend roughly from Section 1 to 31.

Ballpark guide

<https://www.mlb.com/pirates/ballpark/information/guide/>

No information about netting



Pirates Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 101 to 133

This page about 2020 netting improvements no longer appears online.

<https://www.mlb.com/pirates/ballpark/seat-map>

An archived version can be seen at <https://web.archive.org/web/20210923000220/https://www.mlb.com/pirates/ballpark/seat-map>

<https://www.mlb.com/pirates/ballpark/enhancements>

No information about netting

All Lexus Home Plate Club sections. Field VIP: Field VIP 101-106. The full square net coverage is also from Sections 109-110 while angled net coverage is from Sections 111-115 on the first base side and Sections 112-116 on the 3rd base side.

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the San Diego Padres ticket office at 619 795-5555.”

Padres Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 115 to 117 or 116 to 118 (two calls)

San Francisco Giants

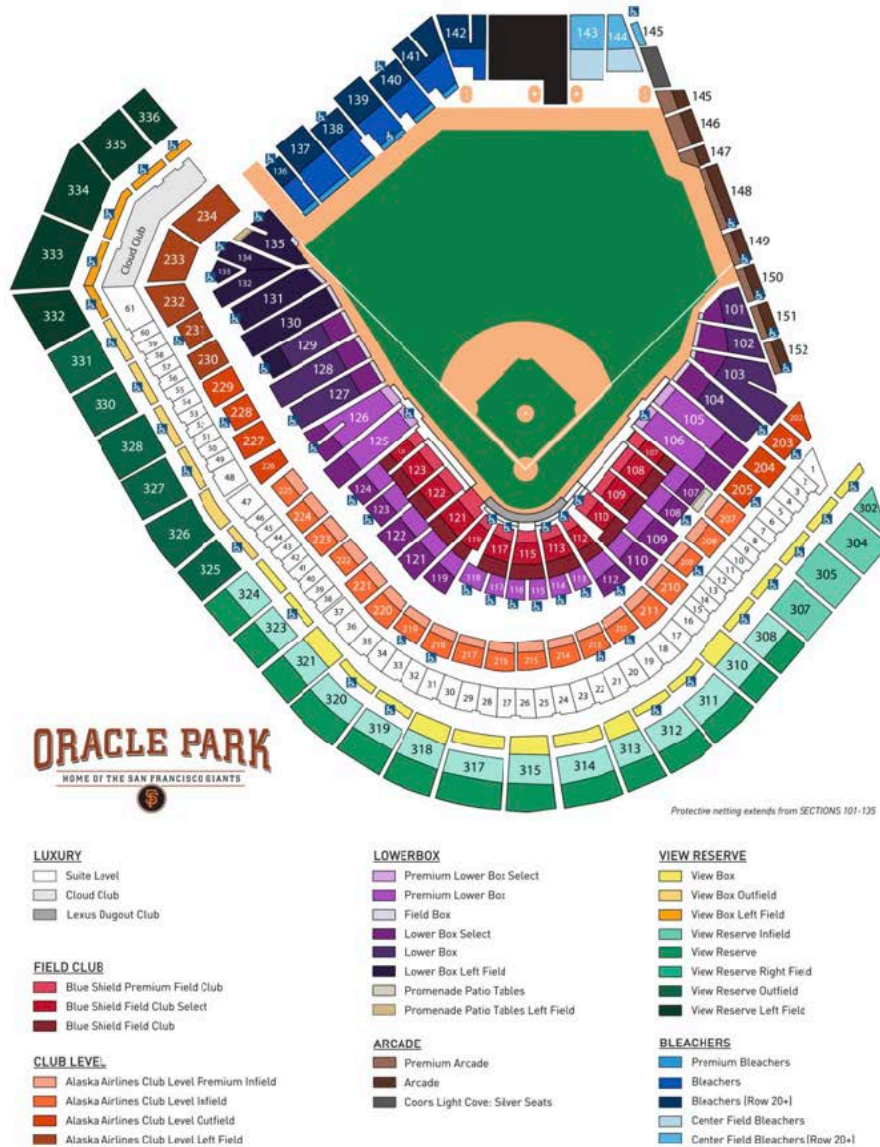
Oracle Park (No change since prior report)

Seating Chart/Map

<https://www.mlb.com/giants/ballpark/seat-map>

No visual information about netting

Microprint in map legend: "Protective netting extends from SECTIONS 101-135"



The protective netting extends across Sections 101-135; the height and coverage of netting will vary by section.

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls; ticket holder assumes all risk of injury.

St. Louis Cardinals

Busch Stadium (No change since prior report)

Seating Map

<https://www.mlb.com/cardinals/ballpark/seat-map>

No visual or text information about netting

3-D Seating Map

<https://www.mlb.com/cardinals/ballpark/seat-map/3d>

No visual information about netting on overview image

Ballpark Guide

<https://www.mlb.com/cardinals/ballpark/information/guide>

No netting information, No information on foul ball risk

They do include a joke in the section on foul balls: "If a fan catches a ball on the fly, they are awarded with a foul ball contract."

Busch Stadium Seating Map



Children, age 3 and under, do not require a ticket for entry into the ballpark.



Cardinals Box Office told FBSN in 2021 about Netting: Sections 132 to 165

This page is very difficult to find, and is not linked to in the main menus:

<https://www.mlb.com/cardinals/ballpark/netting>

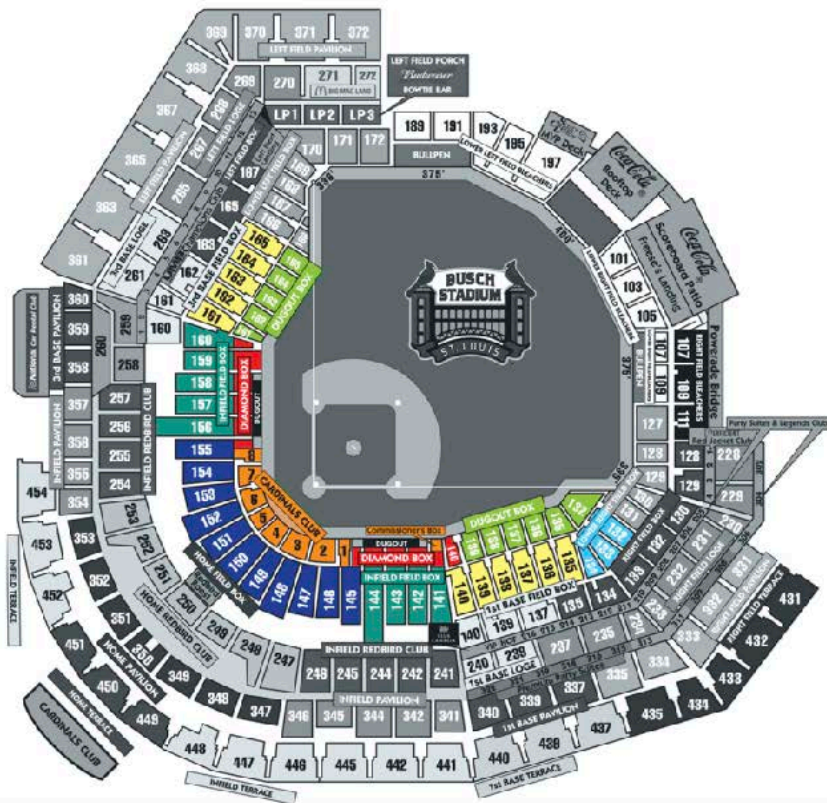
FoulBallSafetyNow discovered it only by manually entering the word 'netting' in the URL.

Busch Stadium Seating Map - Netting

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections, the height and coverage of netting or screening will vary by section:

- Cardinals Club sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
- Home Field Box sections 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155.
- Diamond Box sections 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160.
- Infield Field Box sections 141, 142, 143, 144, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160.
- Dugout Box sections 132, 135, 135, 137, 138, 139, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165.
- 1B Field Box sections 135, 136, 137, 136, 139, 140.
- 3B Field Box sections 161, 162, 163, 164, 165.
- Lower RF Box sections 132, 133, 134.

Fans in these sections are still exposed to objects leaving the field of play, including bats and bat fragments, and thrown or batted balls. Ticket holder assumes all risk of injury. For more information on netting or screening coverage and seating options, please contact the Cardinals ticket office at 314-345-9000.



Washington Nationals

Nationals Park

Seating Map

<https://www.mlb.com/nationals/ballpark/seatmap>

Minor change since last report – there is now a dotted line indicating sections where netting exists

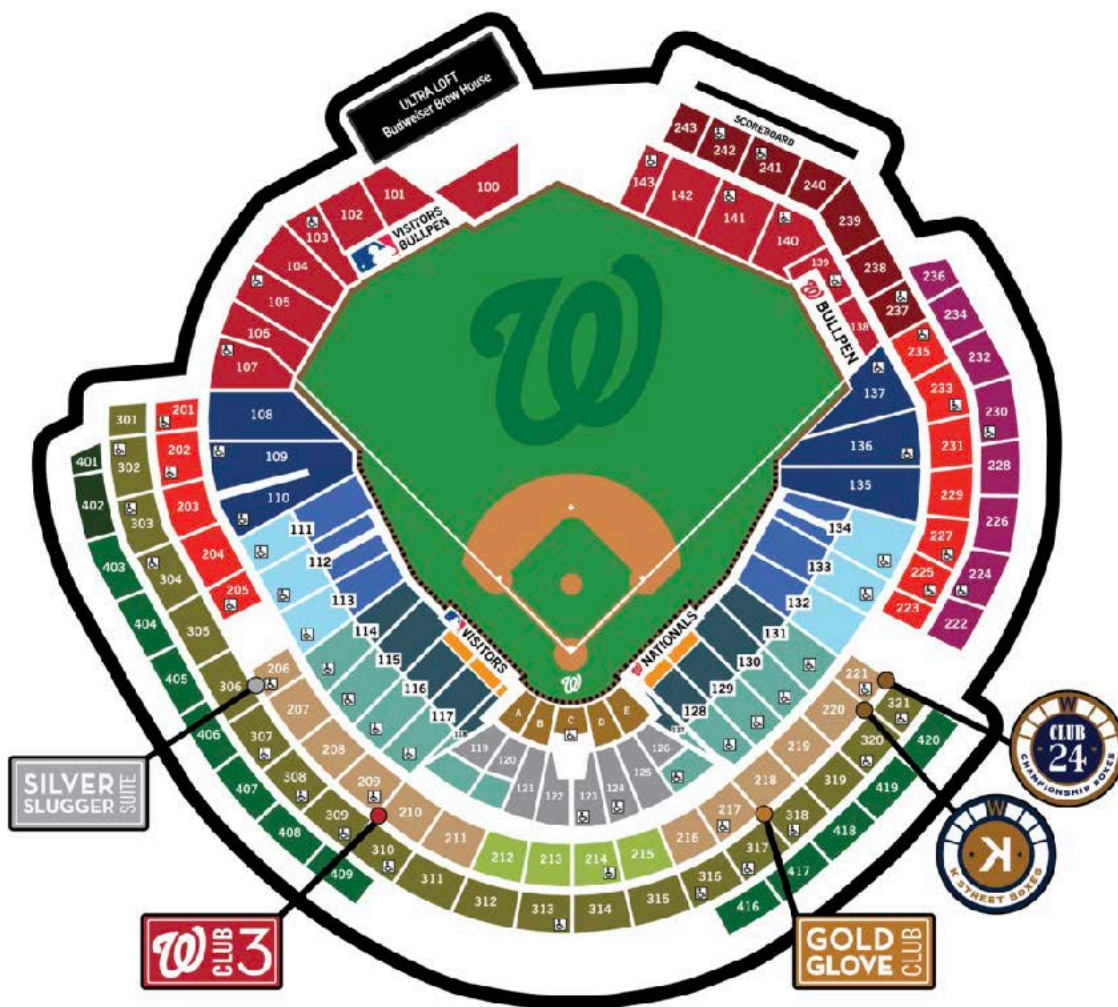
Nationals Seating Map

Multi-Game Ticket Plans

Single Game Tickets

Parking

View 3D Seat Map



ACCESSIBLE SEATING

NETTING •••••

Text information about netting

Text:

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of the following seating sections:

Players Voice Concerns

- “The players seem more attuned to the danger of foul balls and shattered bats than some of the fans are.” (New York Times, 2017)
- “The players don't want to go to work and kill someone.” — Jana Brody, daughter of Linda Goldbloom (2020 Interview with Jordan Skopp)

QUOTES FROM PLAYERS ABOUT THE RISKS OF SITTING IN UNPROTECTED SEATS

- “I will never have my kids sit anywhere but behind a net. It's just too dangerous.” — **Major League outfielder Jay Bruce** (New York Times, 2017) Bruce said that in one of his first games at Citi Field with the new netting in place, “I hit a guy right in the head. It was terrible,” he added. “He was sitting between first base and right field, about 15 rows up. It was a line drive that I pulled foul and it went over the net... It was super scary.”
- “I will tell you that when my family comes to the game, home or away, they don't ever sit in the open. Those balls come too fast, and these guys hit the ball too hard.” — **Major League manager Terry Collins** (New York Times, 2017) “You guys should be in the dugouts when somebody hits a line drive into the stands and see the expression on guys' faces,” Collins said. “It's like, ‘God, please don't hit somebody,’ and when it does everybody has a sick feeling in their stomach. So I think it's a tremendous move to put that netting up.”
- “No chance. I want them behind home plate [where there is a screen] or I want them in the family room. They can watch the game on TV.” — **Major League outfielder Matt Stairs**, who told the Chicago Tribune “you couldn't pay him to let his three daughters sit near a dugout at any ballpark.” (Chicago Tribune, 2002)
- “I remember one time at Fenway Park, for example, I gave my parents nice seats by the dugout. I asked them to move because it stressed me out. It stresses me out when you play because (fans) get exposed to foul balls. There's no way I could let my kid sit there.” — **Retired Major League infielder Nomar Garciaparra** (Orange County Register, 2019)
- “I always told them they had to sit behind home plate. Never behind dugouts where there was no netting.” — **Minor League manager and former player Gary Jones** (The Morning Call, 2019)
- “It's awful. What I see is that I never want my kids sitting unprotected, even though it's a good seat.” **Major League manager Joe Maddon** (Associated Press, 2015)
- **Mike Coolbaugh**, a former player and coach who was killed by a foul ball, also took care to warn his family. He “always asked his family to sit behind the netting,” according to one observer, “and once, Coolbaugh saw his wife Mandy talking with a friend beyond the netting while he was playing third base, and he walked over and told Mandy to move.” “He knew how dangerous foul balls were.” (Arkansas Online, 2017)
- “Even if I'm sitting there with my glove, sitting right above the dugout – and I play shortstop in the big leagues – Frazier hits that ball 105 right at me, there's no guarantee I'm going to catch it, much less someone who doesn't play baseball. Why not take that

out of it? Just extend the nets to the end of the dugout, make that mandatory at every ballpark.” Cozart “said his family sits behind the netting at Great American Ball Park and if the players’ family seats aren’t behind netting or in the upper deck, his wife and 3-year-old son don’t go to the game.” — **Major League shortstop Zack Cozart** (Cincinnati Inquirer, 2017)

- “It’s tough to always keep your attention facing the hitter at all times with all the distractions in the stadium. When line drives are coming right over the dugout, we’re worried about getting hit ourselves. I know it’s not ideal to have to look through a netting, but the worse thing is to come to a ballpark and have to go to a hospital or something like that.” — **Mets left fielder Michael Conforto** (New York Times, 2017)
- “Every stadium needs to have nets. I don’t care about the damn view of the fan. It’s all about safety.” — **MLB second baseman Brian Dozier** (New York Times, 2017)
- “I know that I have had family members and friends that have been in the exposed seating close by and I would much prefer to have them behind home plate behind the protective netting for all the obvious reasons. There’s not something I know more than other people, the one thing I do know is that the balls and bats can get into the stands in short order.” — **Former Major League manager Bryan Price** (Cincinnati Inquirer, 2017)
- “Obviously, I want to put a net around the whole stadium.” — **MLB outfielder Albert Almora** (ABC 13, 2019) “I hope this never happens again, so whatever the league has to do to make that happen, [do it]. I don’t think any kid that goes to a baseball game with their parents or whoever should worry about making it out unhealthy or whatever the case may be. I don’t think that should ever cross their mind. Whatever the league needs to do to do that, that should be in place.” (NBC Sports, 2019)
- “I’m a big believer in nets all around. No. 1 is the safety of not only the players but of the fans and everybody in the baseball stadium. That’s the reason why we have nets [behind] the dugout. Two feet behind us are the fans, and they don’t have a net. That two feet is nothing when a ball is coming 110 miles per hour.” — **MLB first baseman and designated hitter Yonder Alonso** (Chicago Sun Times, 2019)
- “Let’s just put fences up around the whole field. I mean, it’s so sad when you see stuff like that happen. There’s a lot of kids coming to the games -- young kids who want to watch us play. And the balls come in hard. I mean, the speed of the game is quick, and I think any safety measure we can take to make sure that the fans are safe, we should do it.” — **MLB third baseman Kris Bryant** (CBS Sports, 2019)
- “We hit 100 mph balls into the seats all the time. The players get hurt. Fans getting hurt? Put the nets up.” — **Former MLB player Chris Burke** (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 2017)
- “It’s just negligent to not have netting. And if that were my family, I’m suing whoever for whatever they’ve got. Because it’s literally just common sense. Period.” — **Minor league pitcher** (2020 Interview with Jordan Skopp) “I remember, my mom came to a game and I wrote on the sheet, ‘behind the net please’. But we were the visiting team so they didn’t request it. I remember freaking out. I think I yelled at my mom. I was like, ‘I don’t care what you do, just move. I don’t care where it is. Just don’t sit there.’ I mean, that would be literally the worst thing.”
- “We get upset because we don’t want to see any kids get hit because we have families, we have kids and wives and mothers, grandparents. We want them to be safe, too. We just think about them when we see people get hit because we know that it could happen to one of our family members. We don’t want to see anybody get hurt,

especially when they're just coming to a baseball game to try to have fun and have a great day." — **Major League first baseman Dominic Smith** (NorthJersey.com, 2019)
 "Baseball is a long sport," Smith says. "We play three hours on average, a lot of times longer than that. It's hard to keep a kid locked in, paying attention to a game for that long. It's tough. They're going to get lost in their own thoughts, play their own games, want to go on their phones or iPads or whatever. There's a lot of downtime in baseball ... There's a lot of times it's tough to keep a kid occupied." (NorthJersey.com, 2019)

- "What's more important: Enjoying a baseball game or being protected? I feel like definitely being protected, for parents, would hopefully outweigh being a little bit closer. Maybe there should be a little bit more netting, but also there should be different family sections where it's safer." — **Major League first baseman Pete Alonso** (NorthJersey.com, 2019)
- "What year is this? 2016? It's 2016 and fans keep getting hit by foul balls when you're supposed to have a net to protect the fans. The fans give you the money, so you should protect them, right? We're worried about speeding up the game. Why don't you put up a net and protect all the fans?" — **Major League infielder Freddy Galvis** (Philadelphia Inquirer, 2016)
- "It's something that needs to be addressed. Immediately. Seems like something happens once a game where a ball just misses a fan, and inevitably it seems like it's small kids or women. It's something that needs to be looked at. And hopefully it doesn't get to a point where something really serious happens before there's an adjustment made. That kind of thing happened in hockey. I think baseball needs to make an adjustment in a hurry. — **Major League pitcher Justin Verlander** (Macomb Daily, 2015)
- "More protective measures need to be put in place in all ball parks! Players are sick of seeing injuries that could easily be avoided!" Justin Verlander (Twitter, 2015)
- "I encourage every MLB team to put the nets all the way down [to the foul pole]. I know it's all about the fans' experience to interact with the players. I completely get that. You want to have that interaction with the players, getting autographs and stuff. But at the end of the day, we want to make sure everybody comes out of the game healthy. We've got to do something about it." — **Major League shortstop Francisco Lindor** (CBS Sports, 2019)
- "Baseball should absolutely extend the nets down the lines to protect fans. As new ballparks bring fans closer to the action, their safety should be a top priority. As players, we want fans to be able to safely & comfortably enjoy the game without fearing for their safety." — **Major League pitcher Sean Doolittle** (Twitter, 2019)
- "People always say, well, you should be paying attention. But as a player, I know how hard it is to catch the line drive coming at you at 100 miles per hour. For a non-baseball player to be expected to do that is unrealistic. So extended netting has to happen." — **Former minor league pitcher** (2020 Interview with Jordan Skopp)
- "I think back to my own playing career over a decade ago. And yeah, players were incredibly remorseful. I think if you talked to any player, almost every one of them would say that they would support extending the netting because there's just no reason not to, really. If you're sitting behind home plate you get used to having netting in front of you and you enjoy the ballgame. Same thing happens if you're seated down the line." — **Former minor league pitcher** (2020 Interview with Jordan Skopp)

- “I've seen things happen that are really tough to watch as a ballplayer. Obviously, no ballplayer wants to see something like that. But thank goodness nothing has ever happened to me when I'm on the field, with a fan. The only place I've ever seen a foul ball hit a fan in a dangerous way was in the Northwoods League, a summer ball league, in 2017. It was scary. It was in Wisconsin Rapids. A foul ball hit the roof — a metal corrugated roof over the stands — and then bounced down and hit a young fan in the head. I don't believe there were serious injuries, but the fan was taken out of the ballpark. Play stopped. And that's terrifying to see as an athlete.” **Minor League pitcher** (2020 Interview with Jordan Skopp)

Study Conclusion

The threat to fan safety from dangerous foul balls remains, and MLB must be held accountable for safeguarding every facility where fans watch professional baseball, from MLB stadiums to Spring Training and minor league ballparks across the country.

Congressional investigations and legislative action are needed to independently assess MLB's inadequate approach to fan safety, regulate protocols to install appropriate netting, and correct the league's ongoing and historical failures to protect fans from foul balls, and revoke the Baseball Rule legal liability shield.

MLB has failed us fans throughout the history of the game, and should have taken decisive action long ago, and at least since 1970 when 14-year-old Alan Fish was killed by a foul ball at Dodger Stadium. Instead, MLB has hidden behind the Baseball Rule, and only taken ineffective baby steps along the way to add more netting after high-profile fan injuries take place. MLB is no different than Big Tobacco, and has concealed information about foul ball injuries and risky seating areas from the public, knowing that fans would continue to be maimed every year.

Children should not be allowed into the ballpark while MLB continues to fail to provide certified-safe experiences for fans, including comprehensive netting, and foul ball warning systems like they have in Japan.