



# FOUL BALL SAFETY NOW MLB NETTING REPORT

APRIL 2021



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# Introduction

[FoulBallSafetyNow.com](https://FoulBallSafetyNow.com) conducted a study in early April through telephone and analysis of MLB.com to examine the current state of safety netting at the 30 MLB ballparks. Findings indicate that:

- Dangerous conditions remain at major league stadiums throughout the country, and fans are still exposed to high-speed line-drive foul balls.
- Most MLB teams are failing to communicate the status of protective netting and fan safety with regards to dangerous foul balls and risk of serious injury or death.
- 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.

Here are some highlights from the study:

- Only 3 out of 30 teams include the word "netting" in the URL in their seating chart. These three teams provide either visual or text indications of the status of netting. However, as can be seen for the Reds and Indians, a liability disclaimer is repeated noting that "ticket holder assumes all risk of injury."
- Many fans purchase tickets through third-party website vendors where there is often no information on which seats are protected by netting.
- Only 1 MLB team website provides information about the height of the netting (Atlanta Braves seating chart says: "Height of netting is 31.5 feet." It isn't clear if this is consistent for all netted areas.)
- Dodger Stadium, where Linda Goldbloom was killed in the loge section by a foul ball that sailed over the net, raised their netting a year after that 2018 incident, but their MLB.com website notably does not provide any details about the status of netting, and the Dodgers box office was not available when FBSN called to inquire.
- Whether the rest of the league has done anything to address concerns about the height of netting in various places of concern throughout the ballpark is unknown.

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 Minor 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 100+ minor league ballparks where MLB affiliate teams play 3x as many games as MLB in a season.

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 minor leagues where press coverage and netting is 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

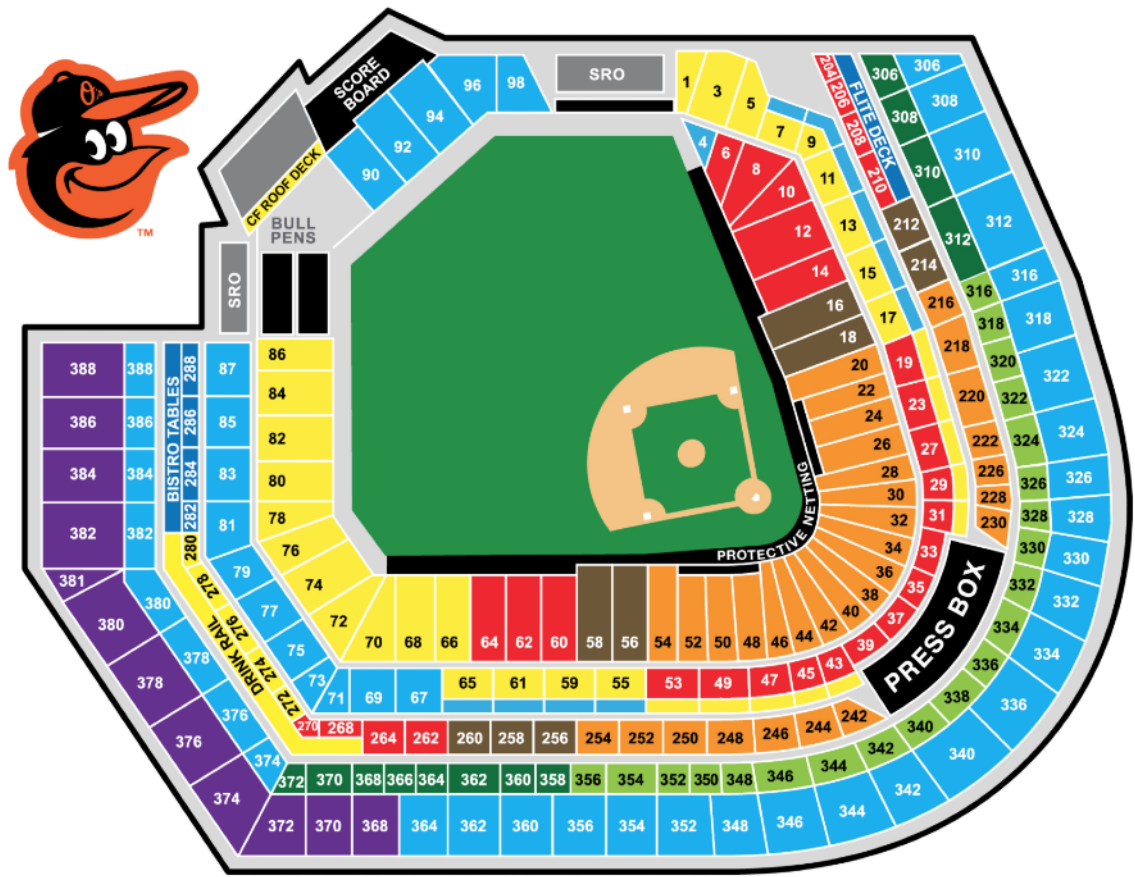
This research involved phone inquiries to box offices, as well as review of team websites within the [MLB.com](#) domain.

# American League Findings

**Baltimore Orioles**  
 Orioles Ballpark  
 Seating Chart

<https://www.mlb.com/orioles/ballpark/netting> (Note that URL mentions netting)  
 Clearly indicates netting on the main seat map, but not on [Ticketmaster seat map](#)

**Orioles Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 6 to 70**



**Boston Red Sox**

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

3D map, no netting information on it

**Red Sox Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 9 to 80**



**Chicago White Sox**  
 Guaranteed Rate Field  
<https://www.mlb.com/whitesox/ballpark/seat-map>

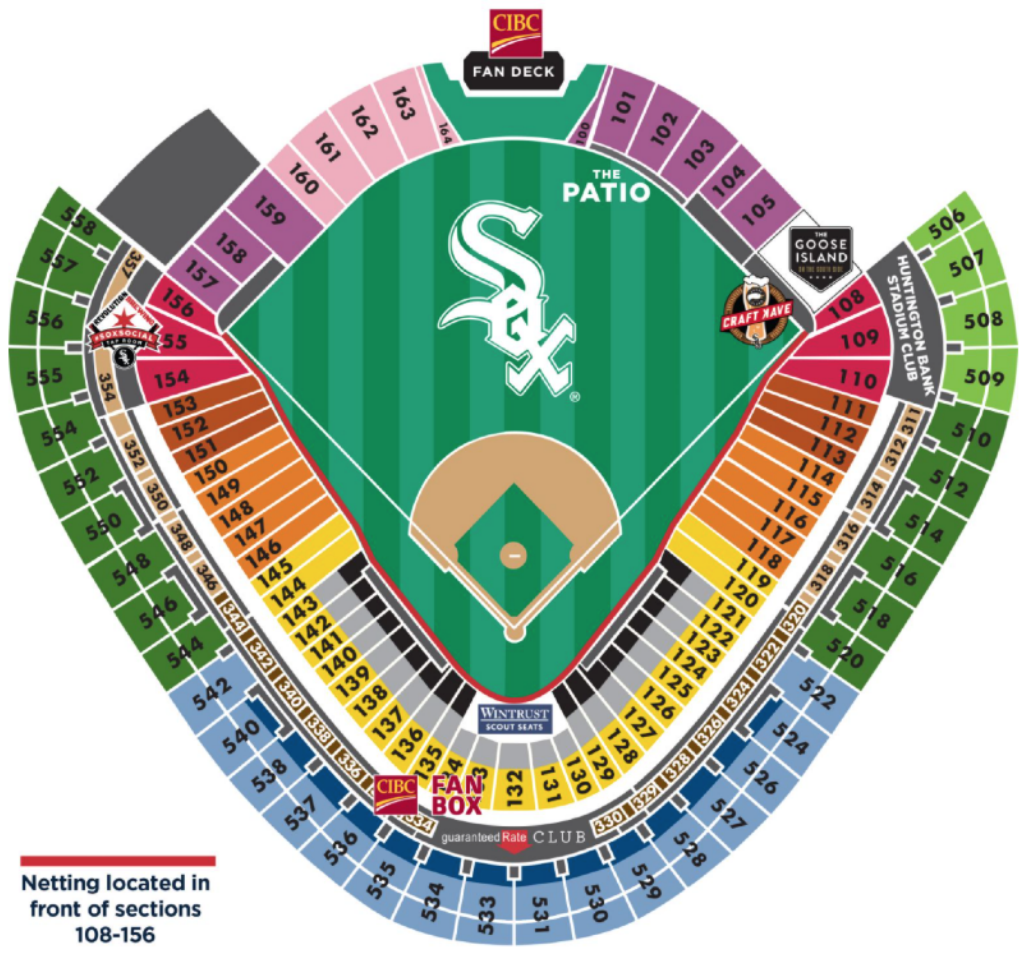
Provides netting information by text  
 (not visually)

**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.



**White Sox Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 109 to 155 Cleveland Indians**

Progressive Field

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

Seating Map & Netting

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

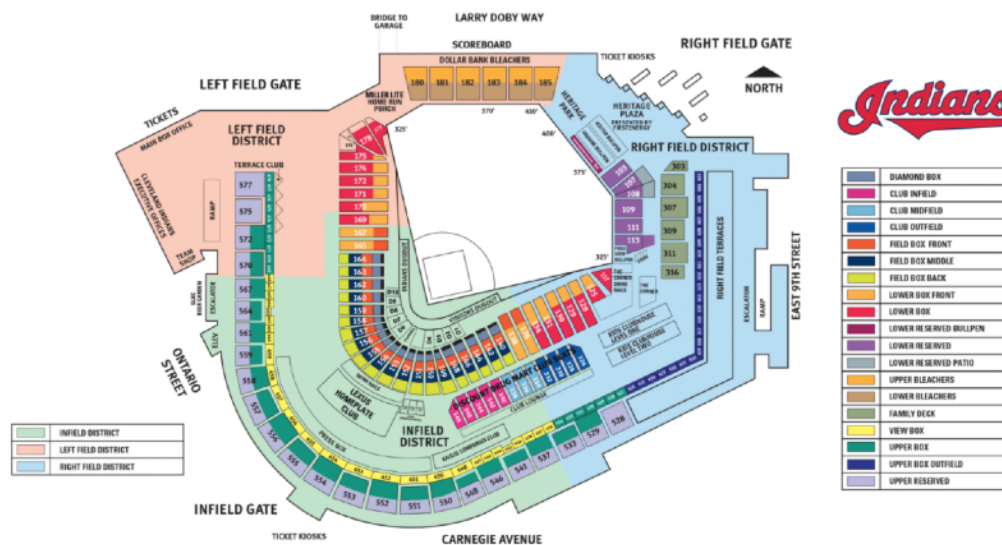
Netting information provided prominently in text

**Indians Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 128 to 174**

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 Indians 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

**Tigers Box Office told FBSN about Netting: No answer at box office**

## Comerica Park Seating Map



Comerica Park features an enhanced netting system, extending past the dugouts and down the baselines. The enhanced netting covers a much greater area and is some of the thinnest in baseball, reflecting our commitment to providing you with a fan-friendly, safe and enjoyable experience when you visit the ballpark.

Based on Major League Baseball's recommendation for extended netting and on our own research, netting runs from behind home plate through section 140 on the third base line, and section 116 on the first base line. The netting is 20 percent more narrow, increasing transparency and providing an enhanced view, particularly behind home plate.

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: On Deck, Lower Infield Box, Infield Box Sections 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130; Tiger Den Sections 125, 125A, 125B, 126A, 126B, 127, 127A, 127B, 128A, 128B, 129, 129A, 129B, 120A, 130B.

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 Detroit Tigers ticket office at (313) 471-2255.

## Houston Astros

Difficult to find seating map

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

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

**Astros Box Office told FBSN 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).





**Los Angeles Angels**

Angel Stadium

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

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

**Note extremely small reference to netting**

**Box Office told FBSN about Netting:  
No answer at box office**

## Angel Stadium Seating Map



Protective netting extends from SECTIONS 109 - 127

## Minnesota Twins

Target Field

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

No visual display of netting status, but text information

Twins Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 103 to 125, but seemed unsure

## Target Field Seating Map

There is some amount of netting or screening in front of certain seating sections. [More info >](#)



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:

- Champions Club (Sections 7 - 10)
- Dugout Box & Dugout Box Infield (Sections 1 - 6 & 11 - 17)
- Home Plate Box (Sections 109 - 119)
- Infield Box (Sections 105 - 108 & 120 - 123)
- Diamond Box (Sections 103 - 104 & 124 - 125)
- Field Box (Section 126) – *Partially covered*

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 Minnesota Twins ticket office at 1-800-33-TWINS.

## New York Yankees

### Yankee Stadium

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>

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

Yankees Box Office told FBSN about Netting: **No answer at box office**



**Oakland Athletics**

<https://www.mlb.com/athletics/ballpark/seating-map/2021>

No visual or text information about netting

**Box Office told FBSN about Netting:  
Sections 103 to 330**



## Seattle Mariners

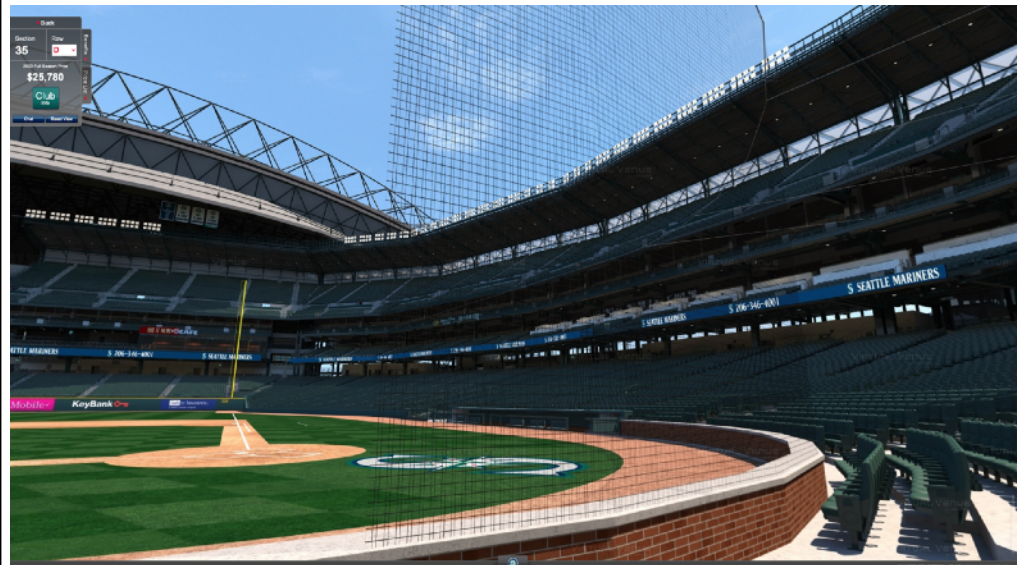
T-Mobile Park

Virtual Venue interactive seating map

No mention of netting on main page  
<http://mariners.io-media.com/web/index.html>

(Very misleading virtual map! Only shows basic netting behind home plate)

**Mariners Box Office told FBSN 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

<https://content.mlb.com/assets/images/6/8/8/312755688/raw.jpg>

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 about Netting: Sections 129 to 130**

## Tropicana Field Seating Map



## Texas Rangers

Globe Life Field

No seat map available in main menu, no netting information  
Seating Map is very hard to find in footer menu only

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

One mention of netting on rules section of ballpark guide

<https://www.mlb.com/rangers/ballpark/guide>

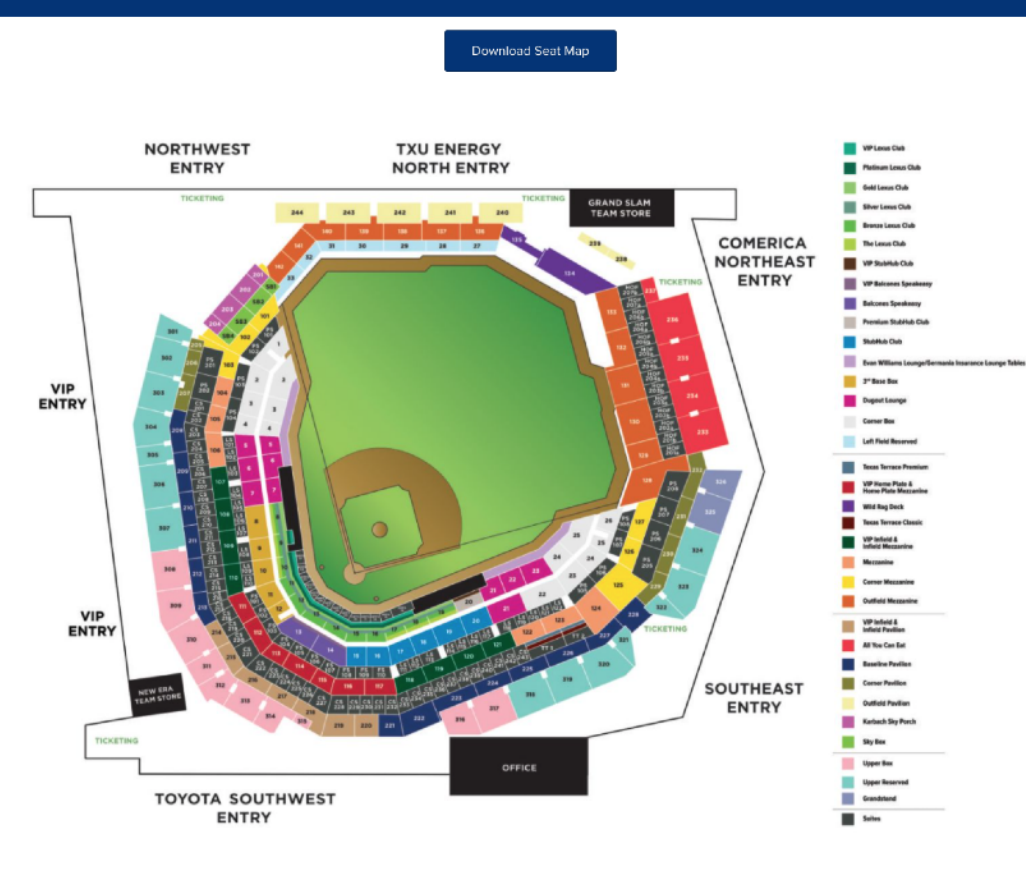
Globe Life Field Ground Rules

FOUL TERRITORY / FIRST AND THIRD BASE LINES

Protective netting over top of fan seating area beyond both dugouts:  
Dead Ball.

Rangers Box Office told FBSN about Netting: **No answer at box office**

## GLOBE LIFE FIELD SEATING MAP





# National League Findings

## Arizona Diamondbacks

Chase Field

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

Seating map

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

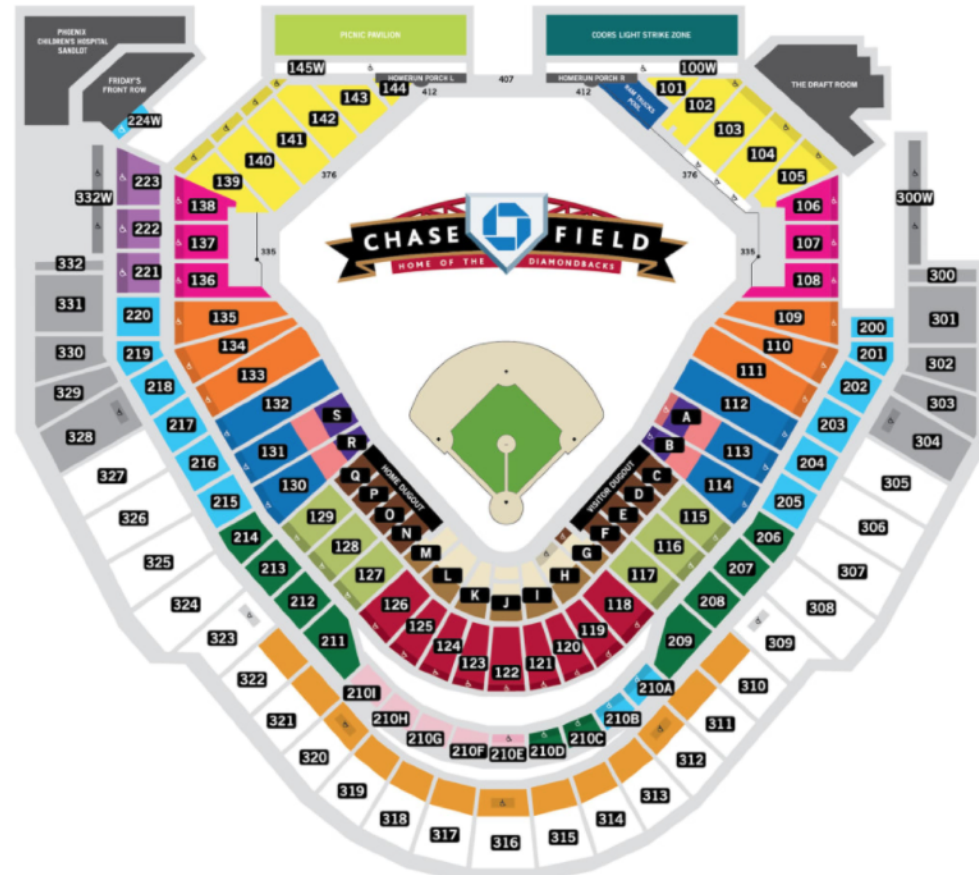
No visual or text information about netting

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

No information on netting in A-Z Guide

**Diamondbacks Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 111 to 133**

## Chase Field Seating Map



## Atlanta Braves

Truist Park

Seating chart

<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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**Box Office told FBSN about Netting:**

**No answer at box office**

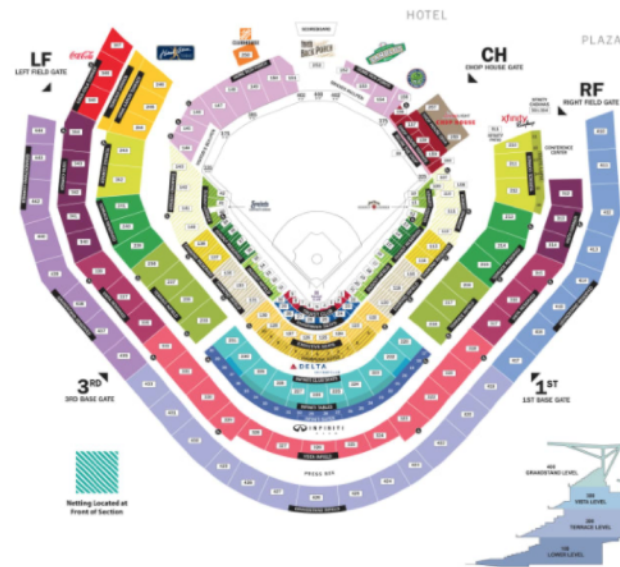
## TRUIST PARK SEATING CHART

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

Seating Chart/Map

<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/tickets/seat-map>

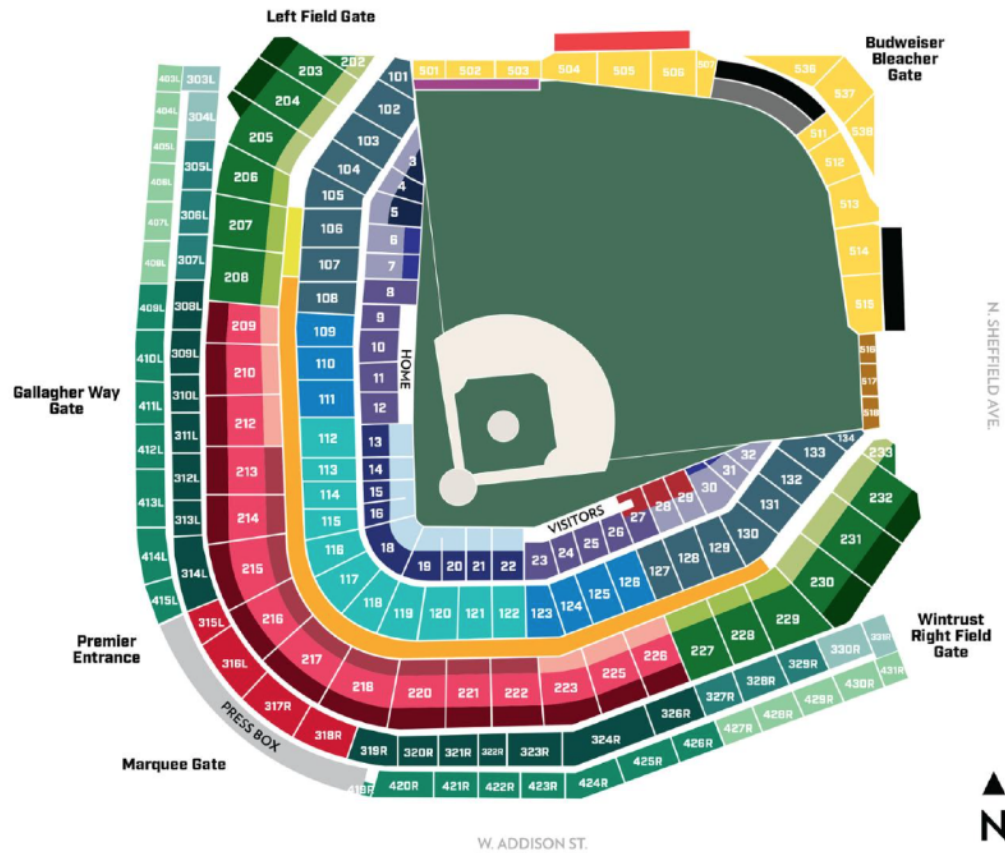
No visual or text information about netting

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

No netting information in ballpark guide

**Box Office told FBSN about Netting:  
Sections 6 to 29**

**Wrigley Field Seating Map**



## Cincinnati Reds

### Great American Ball Park Seating Map

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

Text information about netting

No visual netting information

Text:

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.

**Box Office told FBSN about Netting:  
Sections 111 to 135**

## 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.



**Colorado Rockies**

Coors Field

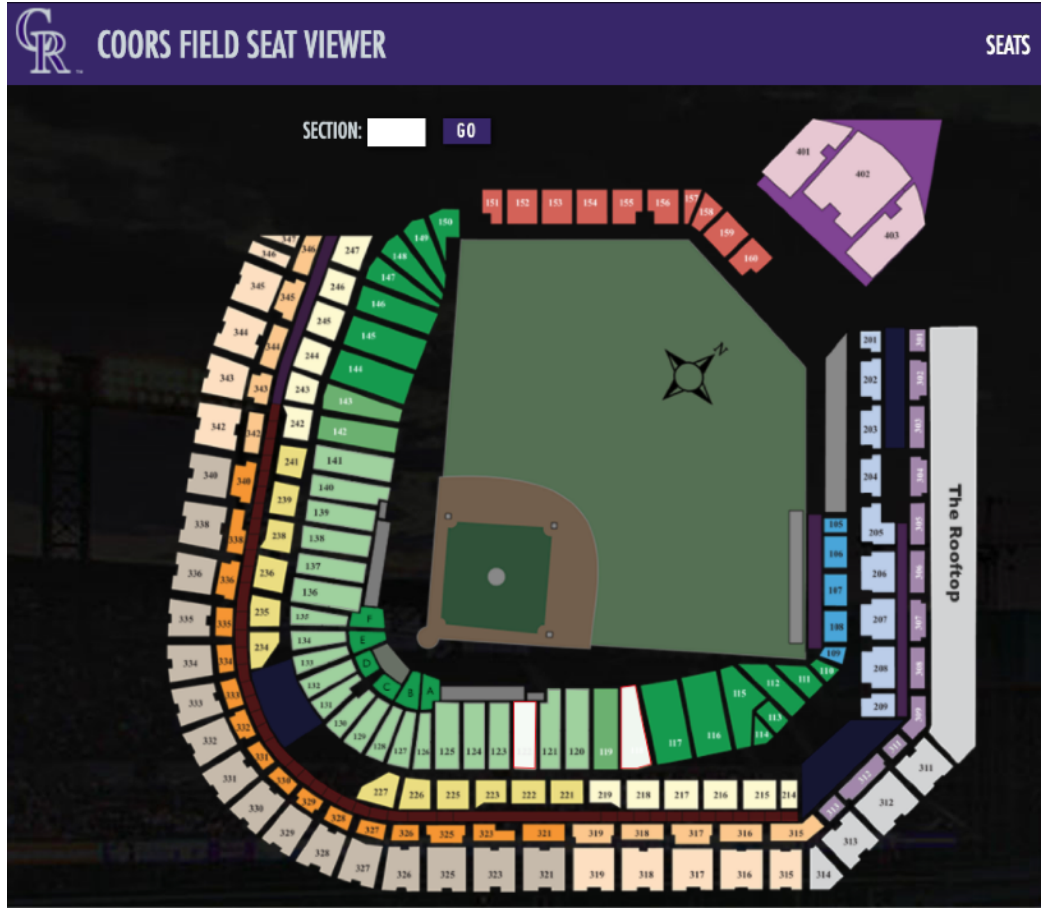
<https://www.mlb.com/rockies/tickets/pricing>

Seat Viewer

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

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

**Rockies Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 112 to 147**





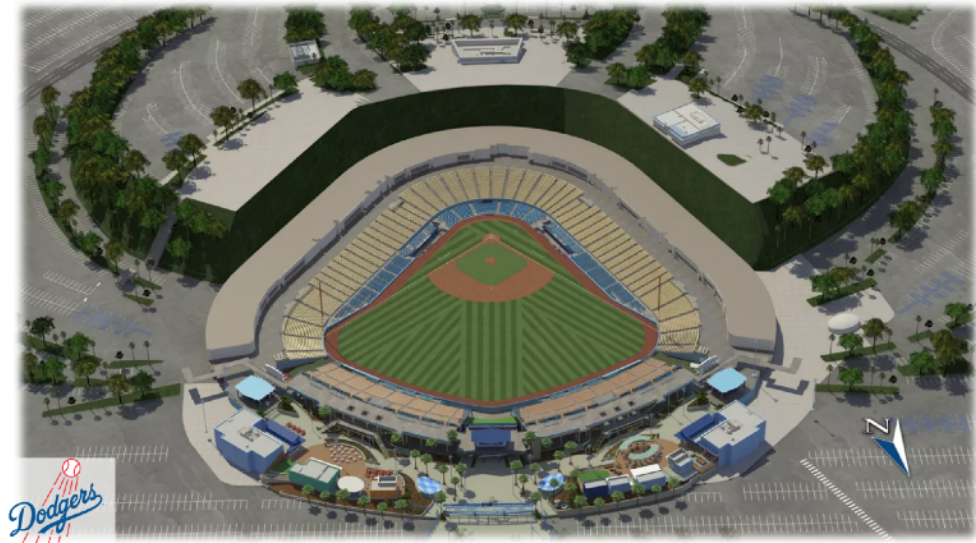
**Los Angeles Dodgers**  
Dodger Stadium

No seating map listed in menu  
Have to click through to view  
[https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/  
ballpark/seat-map](https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark/seat-map)  
Nets appear to end at 43BL

[https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/  
ballpark/information/guide](https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark/information/guide)  
No netting information

**Dodgers Box Office told FBSN  
about Netting: No answer at box  
office**

**Dodger Stadium Seat Map**



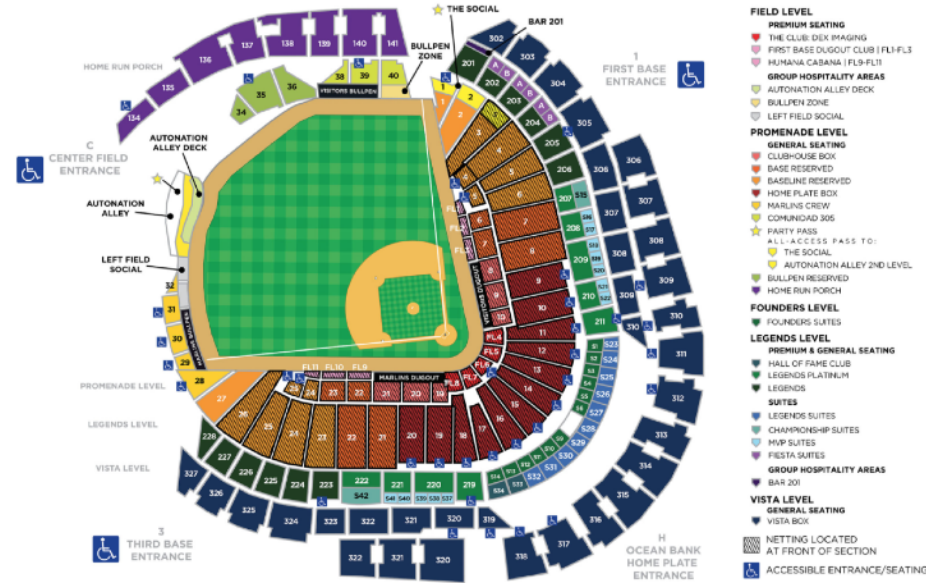
## Miami Marlins

LoanDepot Park

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

Visual information about netting, in legend

Marlins Box Office told FBSN about Netting: **No answer at box office**





**New York Mets**

Citi Field

3-D Seating Map

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

Netting appears to end middle of outfield

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

**Seat Map | Citi Field**



**Philadelphia Phillies**

Citizens Bank Park

Seating Map

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

No visual or text information about netting

**Phillies Box Office told FBSN about Netting: Sections 109 to 138**

**Citizens Bank Park Seating Map**

Season Ticket Pricing

Season Ticket Pricing Per Game

Variable Pricing Schedule



## Pittsburgh Pirates

PNC Park

3-D Seating Map

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

No netting information provided on overview map or by text

Using the 3-D tool, netting appears to end at end of dugouts

Ballpark guide

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

No information about netting

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

## PNC PARK 3D SEATING CHART



**San Diego Padres**

Petco Park

Seating Map

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

No visual or text information about netting

Ballpark guide

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

No information about netting

One mention of risk:

Guests should stay alert at all times for bats and balls that could land in the seating areas.

Team provides a Shade Map to indicate sun exposure

<https://mktg.mlbstatic.com/padres/documents/ballpark/2020-shade-map.pdf>

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

**Petco Park Seating Map**



SEATING LOCATIONS				
FIELD LEVEL	TERRACE LEVEL	LEFT FIELD	RIGHT FIELD	UPPER LEVEL
Field VIP	Terrace VIP	Left Field Lower Box	Right Field Lower Box	Upper Box Infield
Compass Premier Club	Terrace Infield	Left Field Reserved	Right Field Lower Reserved	Upper Box Reserved
Field Infield	Terrace Reserved		Right Field Upper	Upper
Field Plaza	Terrace Pavilion			ADA Seating
Field Box				
Field Reserved				
Field Doubleline				

## San Francisco Giants

Oracle Park

Seating Chart/Map

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

No visual information about netting  
Extremely small microprint in map legend:  
"Protective netting extends from SECTIONS 101-135"

3-D Seating Chart

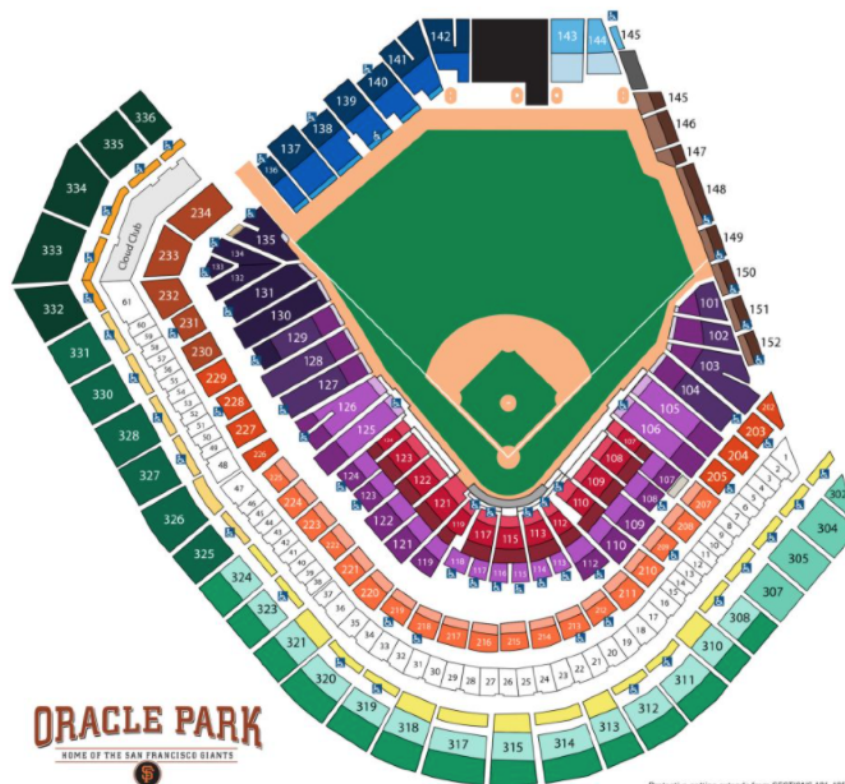
<https://www.mlb.com/giants/ballpark/seat-map/3d>

Using the 3-D tool, netting appears to extend to the foul poles

Giants Box Office told FBSN about Netting: **No answer at box office**

## Oracle Park Seating Chart

Download Printable Seating Chart



### LUXURY

- Suite Level
- Cloud Club
- Lexus Dugout Club

### FIELD CLUB

- Blue Shield Premium Field Club
- Blue Shield Field Club Select
- Blue Shield Field Club

### LOWERBOX

- Premium Lower Box Select
- Premium Lower Box
- Field Box
- Lower Box Select
- Lower Box
- Lower Box Left Field
- Promenade Patio Tables
- Promenade Patio Tables Left Field

### VIEW RESERVE

- View Box
- View Box Outfield
- View Box Left Field
- View Reserve Infield
- View Reserve
- View Reserve Right Field
- View Reserve Outfield
- View Reserve Left Field



## St. Louis Cardinals

Busch Stadium

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."

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

## Busch Stadium Seating Map

Printable Map 3D Map A-Z Guide Directions Ticket Info

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



## Washington Nationals

Nationals Park

Seating Map

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

No visual information about netting

Text information about netting

Text:

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

Nationals Club (sections A-E)

PNC Diamond Club (sections 119-126)

Sections 109-118 and 127-135

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 Washington Nationals Box Office at 202.675.6287(NATS) or [ticketinfo@nationals.com](mailto:ticketinfo@nationals.com).

The Washington Nationals Baseball Club may expand its use of netting. No refunds, exchanges or cancellations will be permitted.

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Ballpark A-Z Guide

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

No mention of netting

Foul Ball section includes:

All guests are asked to stay alert throughout the game for foul balls or bats that might leave the

## Nationals Seating Map



### ACCESSIBLE SEATING

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

Nationals Club (sections A-E)

PNC Diamond Club (sections 119-126)

Sections 109-118 and 127-135

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 Washington Nationals Box Office at 202.675.6287(NATS) or [ticketinfo@nationals.com](mailto:ticketinfo@nationals.com).

The Washington Nationals Baseball Club may expand its use of netting. No refunds, exchanges or cancellations will be permitted.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 severe, 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 maimings 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.

Baseball will continue to lose the respect of a growing number of fans as they realize it could have been them or their young families injured unnecessarily. The national epiphany of outrage has arrived.

Please report on this before more life-altering injuries occur. It's not if but when these unfortunate incidents will happen.



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Foul Ball Safety Now! is a campaign started by Jordan Skopp, a Brooklyn realtor, lifelong baseball fan, and author of a forthcoming book about the wildly overlooked scandal in the professional baseball industry – the all-too-frequent incidence of fans being maimed by dangerous foul balls due to the lack of extended protective netting, and related failures to educate fans about their assumed risk at the ballgame.

Learn more at <https://www.foulballsafetynow.com/>