



Stay Safe Guidelines for Youth Baseball & Softball - 2021

(Guidelines will be amended as new information and best practices are updated)

Mandatory

Arriving at the Field

- All participants, coaches, spectators and officials must practice six-foot physical social distancing while at the field/complex if they are unable to wear a mask.
- No water fountains, team water coolers or shared drinking stations are allowed.
- All requirements must be provided to all players, families, coaches, spectators and officials prior to arriving at the field.
- Benches and bleachers are reserved for players and coaches only.

Practice/Games

- All coaches and players must practice six-foot physical social distancing except when the ball is in play.
- Coaches and players must conduct daily self-assessment. Anyone experiencing symptoms cannot participate in the practice/game.
- Coaches must wear face covering when social distancing is not possible.
- Players must wear face covering when social distancing is not possible.
- No water fountains, team water coolers or shared drinking stations are allowed.
- No sharing of equipment. Catchers gear will be disinfected prior to use.
- Team equipment bags and player equipment should be out of the field of play and out of the dugouts, lined up at a minimum of 6' apart along the fencing.

Players

- Players must practice six-foot physical social distancing when not on the field of play while not wearing a mask.
- Players must wear face covering when social distancing is not possible.
- Families/players must conduct daily self-assessment. Anyone experiencing symptoms cannot participate in the practice/game.
- Do not share any personal equipment or water bottle.
- No handshakes, high fives or other touching.
- No spitting, sunflower seeds, gum or other food.
- Retrieve all foul balls.
- Tip of the cap at the end of the game from your team's base/foul line. No handshake lines.

Recommended Best Practices

- Carpooling to the field is NOT recommended. Participants should travel to the field only with members of their immediate household.
- All players and coaches should have their own hand sanitizer available.

- Face coverings are strongly recommended for any spectators when social distancing is not possible.
- Players and coaches should bring their own water and keep it with their personal belongings.
- Equipment should not be shared whenever possible. Each player should have their own batting helmet and other personal equipment. If equipment is shared, proper sanitation should be completed between users.

- All players should have their own hand sanitizer available and use in place of hand washing during practices/games.
- Equipment and personal items should be separated and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper disinfecting should be done in between uses.
- Have their own equipment, including batting helmets.
- Always have a mask in your back pocket.

Daily assessment and self-evaluation - per CDC guidelines: symptoms include cough, fever, chills, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle pain, headache and new loss of smell or taste.

Update 4/2/21



Mandatory

Recommended Best Practices

Coaches

- Coaches must practice six-foot physical social distancing when not on the field of play while not wearing a mask.
- Coaches must take attendance at every practice.
- Coaches/Families/players must conduct daily self-assessment. Anyone experiencing symptoms cannot participate in practice/game.
- Coaches must wear face covering at all times when social distancing is not possible.
- No handshakes, high fives or other touching.
- No spitting, sunflower seeds, gum or other food or snacks
- Ensure players and coaches are following Stay Safe Guidelines.
- Must disinfect all shared equipment as necessary.
- No Team snacks after any practice or game.
- If a coach visits a pitcher, players must stay at their position.
- Coaches, who dispute a call on the field, must call time and call the umpire to the dugout to discuss. All must maintain social distancing.

- Remind and enforce all guidelines for players and coaches while not participating on the field of play.
- Equipment and personal items should have proper separation. Equipment shared by players and coaches should be properly disinfected in between uses.
- Assign a Team Parent to monitor players for physical social distancing, utilizing hand sanitizer and wearing a mask when applicable.

Pre-Game Meetings

- One coach per team with the umpire and must maintain social distancing requirements. No players allowed.
- Umpires do not need to exchange anything with the teams.
- Each teams

- Each team's scorekeeper exchanges lineups electronically prior to the start of the game.

Umpires/ Officials

- Must practice six-foot physical social distancing when not on the field of play.
- Must conduct daily self-assessment. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- Must wear face covering at all times if they are positioned behind the catcher. The umpire has the choice if they prefer being behind the catcher.
- Coaches have the right to have the umpire stand behind the pitcher, even if the umpire prefers the other. Both teams should be comfortable with the umpire and it should be the same for both teams.
- No handshakes, high fives or other touching.
- No spitting, sunflower seeds, gum or other snacks.
- Must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with coaches, players or spectators.

- Umpires should call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher.
- Do not handle any equipment, including baseballs or softballs.

Leaving the Field

- Individuals should not congregate in common areas or the parking lot following a practice or game.
- Individuals should not exchange any items.
- Umpires should adhere to social distancing when interacting with coaches, players or spectators.

- Team meetings should occur virtually vs group meetings before or after an event.
- Carpooling to the field is NOT recommended. Participants should travel to the field only with members of their immediate household.

Daily assessment and self-evaluation - per CDC guidelines: symptoms include cough, fever, chills, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle pain, headache and new loss of smell or taste.

Update 4/2/21