

## **RETURN TO PLAY: COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR BASEBALL/SOFTBALL**

All baseball and softball leagues/teams with valid permit or facility use agreements may resume scrimmages and competition by submitting a written action plan for a safe return to competition. All plans will be submitted and reviewed by county staff. County staff will notify the league or team when they can resume scrimmages or competition. Current CDC guidance and the recommendations below should be incorporated when preparing the plan. These guidelines are subject to update and plans may be required to be revised as appropriate.

### **CLEANING/DISINFECTION**

- Limit use of shared equipment. Encourage all players to bring their own equipment.
- Any shared equipment is to be sanitized between uses with EPA registered disinfectant suitable against COVID-19. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep products away from children.
- Each team must have FDA approved hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol for coaches and participants.
- Use best efforts to avoid restroom crowding.
- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect common high-touch surfaces such as equipment, shared objects, door handles, sink handles, restrooms.

### **FIELD/FACILITY – ENTRY/EXIT**

- It is recommended for temperature/COVID-19 screening to be conducted at arrival.
- A site-specific entry/exit and drop off/pickup plan which promotes social distancing shall be included in all plans.
- Must keep roster/attendance for 120 days for all scheduled activities to assist with contact tracing, if necessary.
- Staggered competition/scrimmage times shall be implemented to ensure two teams per field. No early arrivals/late departures. All competition/scrimmages will be time limited.
- All fields must be locked/secured after final game of the day except for the designated public use field.
- Signage shall be posted promoting safe hygiene, social distancing, social distancing markers, hygiene etiquette etc.
- Program hours are from sunrise to 9 p.m. until further notice.

### **RETURN TO COMPETITION PROTOCOLS**

- Leagues/Teams must submit a schedule to Hillsborough County for approval. Fields may not all be in use at the same time if they are in close distance to one another. Schedules will allow for greater time gaps between games to help limit the number of people at the park at one time.
- It is suggested that all participants, parents, volunteer, and board members must sign a participation waiver prior to entering the facility. All league/team members shall receive a copy of the league plan/protocols.
- Continue the use of virtual and online registration and use of conference calls or other remote platforms for any group or parent meetings.

- No on field presentations, awards, or photos. Use of virtual award ceremonies is recommended, but may commence if safe social distancing is practiced.
- All persons entering the facility shall have with them on their person a facial covering/mask or face shield upon entry:
  - This requirement applies to coaches, players, spectators, umpires, and all others. Exceptions apply to those with a medical condition and those under 5 years of age.
  - Facial covering/masks shall be worn whenever social distancing of 6' cannot be maintained and when circulating to areas where interactions, intended or unintended, are likely, such as entering/exiting the facility, restrooms, walking through assembly areas, concessions, or other queuing areas.
  - Coaching Staff & Umpires shall wear face coverings while on the field of play.
  - Face coverings will be worn in dugouts.
  - Team huddles must allow for safe distancing.
  - No handshaking/celebrations: Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
  - Each individual shall bring their own snacks, beverages, water bottles for personal consumption. No group water or Gatorade buckets shall be used. The use of candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds is not permitted by players, coaches, umpires.
- Safety plans shall include:
  - Adequate social distance provisions for inclement weather (i.e. lightning – return to cars, etc.).
  - Injuries/911 call procedures.
  - A response/disinfection plan for an individual at the facility who is ill with symptoms of COVID-19. This shall include notification of health officials and the HCPRD Athletics Office.

## **PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FANS/SPECTATORS**

- Wear a face covering/mask whenever social distancing of 6' cannot be maintained particularly when moving or circulating to the restrooms etc.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to remain in vehicles or drop off children when possible. If choosing to watch, limiting one parent/guardian per child is encouraged as well as keeping family group sizes to 9 or less.
- If a parent/guardian(s) chooses to watch, he/she must:
  - Stay off the field/sideline.
  - Maintain social distancing and not intermingle with other groups.

## **CONCESSION STANDS**

- Concession stands may operate at full capacity, including packaged and hot food services.
- Concession Stand operators must wear face covering/masks when preparing food and servicing customers
- It is encouraged to use cashless tender, when possible.

## **MONITORING/COMPLIANCE/CDC REFERENCES**

- Plans shall indicate how groups will monitor practice sessions for compliance. Non-compliance or other issues should be reported to Hillsborough County Athletics: [prk-fields@HCFLGov.net](mailto:prk-fields@HCFLGov.net)
- Consequences for lack of compliance may include a suspension from play and/or loss of facility privileges or use.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/playing-sports.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports-faq.html>

In accordance with Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department.

