

## **St. Matthews Baseball Spring 2021 COVID-19 Policies and Procedures**

Please find St. Matthews Baseball's (SMB) Official Spring 2021 COVID-19 Policies and Procedures. Please review this document in full.

### **Regular Season and Tournament**

The Spring 2021 season will begin April 12, 2021 and will consist of an eight-week season of approximately 1-2 games per week, followed by an in-house tournament in the 7/8, Minor and Major Divisions to conclude the season.

The Spring 2021 season will include an All-Star trail per Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball rules, policies and procedures.

Regular season rain make-up's will be rescheduled at the Executive Director's discretion.

These Covid-19 policies and procedures shall apply to the regular season, post-season, All-Star tournament where not superseded by Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules, and/or any rain make-up games.

### **COVID-19 Preparedness and Policy**

To best ensure the safety of players, coaches, and spectators, St. Matthews Baseball has implemented the following 2021 Covid-19 policies and procedures which are effective immediately.

#### ***Parents, Players, and Spectators***

- Parents, guardians, spectators and players must be responsible for monitoring their own health. Any person with a fever, or other COVID-19 symptoms, will be asked to not visit the baseball park, or if a determination is made onsite that a visitor has COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be asked to leave.
- Parents and guardians will be asked to take players' temperature(s) before leaving the house. If the player or another family member is running a fever, or showing any other symptoms, we ask that you please stay home.
- To minimize crowds and facilitate social distancing, we ask that only parent(s) or guardian(s) (up to two) attend any practice, scrimmage or game. Please keep other immediate family members at home, unless he/she is a registered player with SMB. This would include asking siblings, grandparents, other relatives, or friends to not attend practice or games when possible.
- Seniors and those with significant health risks are asked to follow CDC guidelines and to either refrain from attending events or to take appropriate precautions.

#### ***Ballpark Safety Measures***

- St. Matthews Baseball contractors and board members will be required to wear a mask or face covering, while attending practices and games, or to practice safe social distancing from other people of at least 6 feet at all times.
- Parents/spectators must practice safe social distancing of at least 6 feet from other players, parents or spectators at all times.
- If for some reason safe social distancing cannot be achieved, parents/spectators must wear a face mask (e.g in any congested area such as the space in front of the main concession stand and between Siegel and Look Fields).

- Parents/spectators will also be asked to spread out from each other by at least 6 feet, not congregate, and bring their own chairs.
- Bleacher areas will be reserved as “dugout” space to further social distance players from one another while at-bat or in the middle of innings.
- Participants, parents and/or spectators are requested to leave SMB at the conclusion of their respective game/practice.
- SMB will increase the frequency of cleaning and sanitizing in the park, especially in high traffic areas such as restrooms, concessions, and dugouts.
- Concessions will have limited staff (2-3 people) and may have a limited menu. Workers are required to wear PPE at all times. Designated spots will be marked on the ground for standing in line to help ensure social distancing, and no side-by-side windows will be used in the stand. Plexiglass will be present in between concession staff workers and people ordering.
- Games and practices will be staggered, increasing the time between each, to help minimize overlap of teams and players waiting and to help limit or prevent congregating.

### ***Wee, Tee and Coach Pitch***

- Players in Wee, Tee and Coach Pitch Divisions (4-6) must sit with their parent(s)/guardian(s) while not on the field and must practice safe social distancing of at least 6 feet from other players, parents or spectators at all times. Dugouts will not be utilized.
- While on defense, coaches must spread players out in infield and outfield by at least 6 feet and discourage and prevent to the greatest extent possible kids “swarming” to balls hit into play.
- In addition to Weinberg Field (our normal 4-6 field), we are also working to possibly utilize Voll/Trinity High School Field for multiple games at a time while giving the 4-6 divisions, as well as their parents/spectators, a larger space to spread out and ensure safe social distancing of at least 6 feet.

### ***7 Machine, 8 Machine, 9-10 Minors and 11-12 Majors***

- Dugouts will be limited to three players at any time, with the bench marked for seating to help ensure safe social distancing.
- Bleachers and/or outside fence areas will be used as the main dugout and marked for seating or standing to help ensure safe social distancing.
- Players must hang their baseball bag, if any, on the outside fence area before and during games or practices, and store any other equipment outside the dugout, until the conclusion of a game or practice.
- Players and coaches in dugouts and/or the bleacher or outside fence areas must practice safe social distancing of at least 6 feet from other players, parents or spectators at all times or will be required to wear a face mask.
- Sharing personal player equipment will be prohibited during the season. Each player will need to bring their own glove, batting helmet (ages 7 and up), and bat.
- Team shared equipment (catcher’s gear) will be maintained by the head coach at all times and must be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- If a player has his own catching gear, please bring it each practice and/or game and it must not be shared.
- Pre-game meetings, pitching changes, and mound visits should adhere to social distancing requirements.

***Game and Practice Precautions - All Ages***

- No team or dugout coolers, or team snacks following games, are permitted. Players should have their own marked water bottle that is kept in their bat bag or with their parent/guardian.
- No chewing gum, candy, or sunflower seeds will be permitted by players or coaches.
- Pregame conferences will be limited to one coach per team and one umpire while practicing safe social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Before/After game sportsmanship rituals will be conducted in ways other than the traditional lining up and shaking hands/high fiving.
- A rules committee will review rules specific to each age group and determine if additional rules need to be implemented to further help ensure children safety.
- All policies and procedures of SMB will be subject to revision, change or modification with approval by the SMB Board of Directors.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Jeff Schaftlein  
Jeff Schaftlein, President St. Matthews Baseball

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Chris Gadansky  
Chris Gadansky, Executive Director St. Matthews Baseball

\_\_\_\_\_  
February 1, 2021  
Date