

PTAA COVID-19 Safety Guidelines - Baseball/Softball Operating Procedures 3.0

April 3rd, 2021

The PTAA Board has tailored our guidelines and operating procedures to meet our needs and circumstances. These adjustments were guided by what is practical and acceptable based on CDC's current guidance as of April 3rd, 2021. These considerations are meant to supplement – not replace – any state or local safety laws, rules, and regulations with which youth sports organizations must comply.

Waivers

All participants or their parents must sign the "PTAA WAIVER/RELEASE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INCLUDING COVID-19."

Guiding Principles to Keep in Mind

The risk of COVID-19 spread increases in youth sports settings as follows:

- ◆ *Lowest Risk*: Performing skill-building drills or conditioning at home, alone or with family members.
- ◆ *Increasing Risk*: Team-based practice.
- ◆ *More Risk*: Within-team competition.
- ◆ *Even More Risk*: Full competition between teams from the same local geographic area.
- ◆ *Highest Risk*: Full competition between teams from different geographic areas.

Behaviors to Reduce Spread

- ◆ Before coming to the park, assess each individual for symptoms such as fever (>100.4°F), vomiting, diarrhea, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, headaches; stay home if you are sick or display any of these signs or symptoms.
- ◆ Stay home if individual has tested positive or has been in contact in the past 10 days with someone suspected of or positive for COVID-19. If individual tests negative they can return to play within 5 days.
- ◆ Perform frequent hand hygiene with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- ◆ Wear cloth face coverings when social distancing of 6 ft cannot be maintained to protect others. *Face coverings are not intended to protect the wearer, but rather to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 from the person wearing the mask (who may not have any symptoms of disease). Face coverings may be challenging for players (especially younger players) to wear while playing sports. Face coverings should be worn by coaches, youth sports staff, officials, parents, and spectators as much as possible. Wearing cloth face coverings is most important when physical distancing is difficult.*

Maintain Social Distancing

- ◆ Each diamond is managed to not exceed gatherings of 90.
- ◆ Games and practices scheduled with 15-min buffer between to prevent overlap of participants. Stagger start times so no more than half of the complex is changing over at a time. Games may be played to completion. New teams should not enter until previous teams exit.
- ◆ Only coaches and players are permitted in the dugout and on the field.
- ◆ Player-to-player contact shall be limited to game play only.
- ◆ Batting team may have the three batters on deck in the dugout, utilizing 6 ft distancing. The remaining players should be outside the dugout, keeping 6 ft distancing.
- ◆ Parents are asked to limit the number of spectators to essential/immediate family and vulnerable populations should stay home.
- ◆ End of game sportsman celebrations will be conducted in touchless manner.

Maintain a Healthy Environment

- ◆ Spitting, seeds, gum, or other similar products are prohibited.
- ◆ Sharing of players' personal items/equipment are prohibited.
- ◆ Game balls will be cleaned before and after every game and practice.
- ◆ Teams will clean all hard surface areas when arriving and exiting dugouts. (i.e. benches, bat racks, etc.).
- ◆ Restrooms will be cleaned daily by the township.

Noncompliance

- ◆ Noncompliance with the COVID-19 Safety Guidelines and Operating Procedures may result in a player's/coach's termination from PTAA's Baseball/Softball Program.
- ◆ Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Public Health

- ◆ If a member of PTAA develops a COVID-19 infection, confidentially report case to the PTAA President ptaa.president@playptaa.com for the purpose of Public Health contact tracing and mitigation efforts.

Any questions/comments or any health/safety concerns please email ptaa@playptaa.com.