



Ashland Youth Baseball & Softball Guidelines

Safer at Home Plate

We are excited to open our season with extra precautions to ensure the safety of our players, coaches, and fans. Please review the guidelines below carefully and discuss them with players.

Fields & Facilities

- ① All coaches, umpires, and fans must adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear face masks while at the fields. Players will also be required to adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear masks. See player-specific guidelines below.
- ① Snack shack facilities will be open on a limited basis depending on volunteers and capacity. No pizza/hot dogs, only packaged food and beverages. No kids permitted to work in snack shack.
- ① Number of players will be limited in the dugouts. Team areas will be constructed with temporary fencing from home plate to beyond 1st/3rd base.
- ① Each player will have their own space within the team area to keep equipment distanced. It is recommended each player bring their own chair.
- ① No players or coaches may enter the team area until all other players and equipment from previous games or practices have left the area and the benches are sanitized.
- ① No spectators will be allowed in team areas.
- ① AYBS will have hand sanitizer and/or wipes available at entrance and exit to all team areas.
- ① No spitting of seeds will be permitted at the facilities, including team areas and playing fields.
- ① No gatherings in the parking lots or common areas before, during, or following events.
- ① **If any player, coach, or fan (or anyone in their households):**
 - **is experiencing symptoms, and/or awaiting a Covid test result**, they should not attend games or practices.
 - has been in contact or considered a “close contact” with a Covid-positive individual must quarantine according to the Ashland Public School policy before attending games or practices.
- ① High-touch areas will be frequently sanitized.
- ① Restroom facilities will be deep cleaned once per week, and disinfectant spray will be available for occupants to spray before and after each use.
- ① Practice and game start times will be staggered to minimize the flow of people at the fields at a given time.
- ① No team snacks or water will be allowed - players must bring their own.

Players

- ① All parents of players signed a COVID-19 release waiver during registration.
- ① Players should not attend ANY AYBS event (i.e. – practice, game, etc.) if they are feeling sick or exhibiting any symptoms of illness.
- ① All players must bring their own water bottle, glove, batting gloves, bat, and helmet. Equipment should be clearly labeled in **large font** and will not be shared among players.
- ① Catchers are encouraged to bring their own catcher’s gear. If players do not have catcher’s gear, they can use AYBS gear that will be sanitized before each game. AYBS will provide adequate sets

of gear per team, however this may limit how many players can be designated as catchers for each game.

- ① Players must maintain social distancing when not on the field.
- ① AYBS masks will be provided for all players. AYBS masks (or other suitable masks) must be worn. Gaiters are no longer allowed.
- ① No handshakes or high fives before or after the games.

Coaches

- ① Coaches must maintain social distancing and wear face masks at all times.
- ① Coaches must refrain from high fives or handshakes with players, coaches, umpires, and opposing teams.
- ① Practices will be designed to have limited players as far away as possible.

Umpires

- ① Umpires are always required to wear face masks.
- ① Pre-game plate meetings will be conducted in accordance with social distance guidelines.
- ① Umpires will minimize their contact with the game balls when at all possible.

Fans

- ① Fans should not attend AYBS events if they are feeling ill or have an elevated temperature.
- ① Fans should remain in their cars until their game starts.
- ① Fans will not be allowed to sit or stand behind home plate, designated team areas, or along the fences on each baseline.
- ① There will be space available behind the outfield fence where fans may stand or bring their own chairs but must maintain social distancing from other families.
- ① Families are responsible for ensuring their children and any guests are aware of and following the guidelines.
- ① As always, pets are not allowed at any of our fields.

AYBS COVID Contacts

Stephen Clark: president@aybsonline.org

Jim Cashin: softballvp@aybsonline.org

Dave Forster: baseballvp@aybsonline.org

Matt Ford: srbaseballvp@aybsonline.org

These guidelines are subject to change based on up to date guidance. If you have any questions related to AYBS's response and return to play plan, please reach out directly. Additionally, if your player exhibits any COVID-related symptoms, tests positive, or is in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please notify AYBS immediately.