

MYAA SafePlay Guidelines

The Millcreek Youth Athletic Association is excited to finally usher in baseball & softball to the players and families of our extended community. Our organization recognizes that the structured environment and social interaction of our youth is important not only for a gradual entry into a more normal lifestyle, but for the psychological confidence and mental well-being of our kids to hopefully bring optimism and a sense of their childhood back into their lives.

However, given these challenging times, we are very mindful of the precautionary measures that need to be observed in order to make a return to youth baseball/softball a socially safe activity.

With guidance from the Millcreek Township School district, Millcreek Township Parks and Rec. Department, the Center for Disease Control, PA state and local health department directives, various state guidelines previously published nationally for a safe return to youth sports activities, and our own common-sense action (objectives), we have outlined a list of **SafePlay Guidelines** to be followed during MYAA events that we think will allow the game to be played in a responsibly safe environment while affecting the play of the game very minimally.

It is up to every participating family to respect, promote and follow these guidelines while attending all MYAA events.

THANK-YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION!

- 1) Team rosters will be limited to 12 kids per team to maximize good social distancing.
- 2) In order to keep exposure to a minimum, all game times will be curfewed at the following drop-dead time limits:
 - Baseball: Tee-Ball & Bantam = 1:15 // Rookie/Minor/Major = 2:00 // Junior = 2:00
 - Softball: Tee-Ball = 1:00 // 8U = 1:30 // 10U & 12U = 1:45 // 14U & 16U = 2:00
- 3) All payers will be infrared scanned for their temperature before participating in an MYAA event, including practices. Any player that shows visible signs of illness or a temperature of **100.4 degrees or higher** will be sent home. In addition, coaches and athletic staff must screen and monitor athletes for symptoms during games and practices.
- 4) All players, coaches and umpires maintain 6 ft social distancing at all times.
- 5) Coaches and umpires must wear face coverings at all times.
Players must wear face coverings at all times except when actively participating in the field of play.
- 6) Teams can allow 3 players in the dug outs at a time.
All other players will spread 6 ft out behind the dug outs and down the fence lines.
- 7) There will be no infield/outfield warm-ups between half innings.
- 8) Compliant game balls must be designated to each team for use while that team is playing defense.
- 9) A coach or team parent rep. will sanitize the balls after every half inning and bat handles after every use.
- 10) It is strongly recommended (but not required) that each player have their own personal equipment including a batting helmet, batting gloves, fielding glove and bat. Any shared equipment should be sanitized by the players parent or guardian before being shared.
- 11) All coach-pitch leagues will not use a player at the catcher's position.
- 12) Shared drinking stations, team water coolers, spitting, eating sunflower seeds and gum chewing is prohibited.
- 13) Players (especially pitchers) should avoid licking their fingers.
- 14) Players should refrain from high fives, fist bumps, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans before, during and after games.

- 15) A “tip of the cap” can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line. Additionally, teams are not to huddle or convene as a group after the game.
- 16) The home plate umpire has the option to position themselves behind the catcher or behind the pitcher with proper social distance positioning observed. Umpires must wear a protective mask and avoid exchanging documents or equipment with players, coaches, or spectators. Base coaches will act as umpires for 1st & 3rd base.
- 17) There will be no offensive or defensive player/coach conferences, and coaches will not be allowed on the field to disagree or argue an umpires call.
- 18) All spectators must adhere to six-foot physical distancing and sit no closer than 10-feet from any player, or as designated by boundary markings at each field. Parents and/or spectators will **NOT** be permitted to enter the dugout areas, the field of play or any other designated restricted area at any time.
NOTE: All facility bleachers will be **closed** to spectators to maintain proper social distancing. It is recommended that fans bring their own lawn chairs and sit beyond the designated restricted areas of the playing field.
- 19) All concession stands will NOT be open this summer. Bathrooms and Porta Potties WILL be open and cleaned on a regular basis.
- 20) Parents should monitor their children for symptoms prior to any sporting event. Parents should assess levels of risk based on individual athletes on the team who may be at a higher risk for severe illness. Any individuals that show signs of illness or bad allergies should refrain from attending games. Players that noticeably fall ill during the course of an MYAA event will be sent home.
- 21) All payers, parents and coaches must adhere to these guidelines for the precautionary safety of everyone involved. If a coach, player or parent is found breaking these guidelines you will be asked to leave the premises.

And always be mindful to practice a lifestyle that includes the Common Five Hygiene practices for avoiding all viruses:

- 1) Hand Washing
- 2) Social Distancing
- 3) Face Covering
- 4) Cleaning & Disinfecting
- 5) Health Monitoring

In Addition . . .

- ◆ It is highly encouraged that all non-essential visitors, spectators, and volunteers should be limited when possible, including activities with external groups or organizations. Parents should refrain from attending practices, or volunteering to assist with coaching.
- ◆ Additionally, all spectators of MYAA events must comply with the current Pennsylvania guidance regarding the wearing of face masks in public. As of the date of the issuance of this document, the Pennsylvania guidance requires that face coverings (masks or face shields) be worn outdoors if the person is unable to consistently maintain a distance of six (6) feet from individuals who are not members of their household.
- ◆ In the event that an athlete, coach, or official falls ill, MYAA will contact both teams participating upon confirmation of the illness. In the event of a participant being positive for COVID-19 we will contact the Erie County Health Department as well as all families in our program.

- ◆ While we do not anticipate playing multiple games (“doubleheaders”), in the event that there is, we will schedule a 1-hour window in between games to allow for volunteers to clean benches and dugout areas. This will also allow for spectators to leave the facility before the next scheduled games without worrying about contact with additional people.
 - ◆ Signs reminding guests of proper health precautions will be posted in various areas of facilities that MYAA uses.
 - ◆ For more information and Frequently Asked Questions regarding COVID-19 and a recommendation for best hygiene practices and how to detect symptoms of the virus, please visit:
 - The Center for Disease Control website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)
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