

RESPONSIBLE RESTART FOR “PHASE 2” BASEBALL

MANDATORY GUIDELINES

Arrival

- All players, spectators, and coaches must adhere to six-foot physical distancing while at the Field.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home. *
- No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.
- These requirements must be shared prior to the first practice with all players, coaches, spectators, officials, and Board members prior to their arrival at the Field.
- Players are strongly recommended to travel to the Field alone & with a member of their immediate household.

Practice

- Coaches and players must adhere to physical six-foot distancing except when the ball is in play.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.
- No shared equipment – helmets, bats, gloves are to be used only by the owner
- Coaches should wear face coverings at all times.
- Athletes should wear face coverings at all times while not actively participating in the field of play or cannot maintain safe social distances.
- Face coverings are strongly recommended for any spectators.
- For each practice session, it is recommended that coaches divide players into groups of no more than ten (10) and establish rotating shifts when possible.
- Athletes should bring individual water containers labeled with their last names.
- Athletes should bring individual chairs; as there will be no use of field dugouts.
- Face coverings are required for individuals traveling to and from the venue.
- Equipment and personal items should have proper separation, at six foot “separation zones” established by the Coaches and should not be shared.
- Scheduling for practices will be via shared Google calendar and staggered 30 mins. between end and the start of practices for different teams.

Athletes

- Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices off the field of play and shall not congregate with other players.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home. *
- Must not share water or equipment. Belongings should be used only by the individual owner including, but not limited to water bottles, gloves, bats, hats, and other on- and off-field gear. All water bottles or containers shall be labeled with the players last name.

**Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.*

RESPONSIBLE RESTART FOR “PHASE 2” BASEBALL

- No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, coaches, umpires, and fans.
- Should wear face coverings at all times when not actively participating in the field of play or cannot maintain safe social distances.
- Hand sanitizing, in the absence of soap and water at the Field, is required to be available for athletes during the practice. The Coaches shall supply sufficient hand sanitizer and it is recommended that each athlete bring their own.
- Equipment and personal items shall have proper separation and should not be shared.
- Spitting, eating seeds, gum, or other similar products is prohibited.

Spectators

- Must adhere to six-foot social distancing and practice safe social distancing guidelines.
- This includes in and around bleachers for anyone not in the same family.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home. *
- Must not enter player areas (on the field of play or bench areas).
- Must keep six-feet or more distance from the dugouts and areas of players.
- Strongly recommended to wear face coverings at all times.

Coaches

- Must adhere to six-foot social distancing and practice safe social distancing guidelines.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- No touch rule – coaches should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, coaches, umpires, and fans.
- Must ensure that players are following COVID-19-related prevention measures included herein.
- Must wear face coverings at all times.
- Coaches should ensure the players are adhering to social distancing off the field of play and other seating areas and wearing face coverings while not actively participating on the field of play or cannot maintain safe social distances.
- Ensure equipment and personal items have proper separation and should not be shared. Water bottles shall be labeled with coaches last name.
- Spitting, eating seeds, gum, or other similar products is prohibited.

Leaving the Field

- Individuals should not congregate in common areas or parking lot following the event or practice.
- Everyone must adhere to social distancing practices when interacting with players, coaches, and spectators off the field of play.
- Individuals should not exchange items.
- Team meetings should occur virtually or over the phone rather than in a team huddle.
- Players are strongly recommended to travel to the Field alone & with a member of their immediate household.

**Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.*

RETURN to PLAY GUIDELINES

Before you leave home:

Check your child's temperature.

Sanitize baseball equipment.

Players must bring a face mask, hand sanitizer, personal water bottles labeled with players name and personal chair.

Arrival at the field:

Drop off at the designated area, Pick up at the designated area.

Players and Parents must be wearing their face masks.

ONLY players and coaches will be allowed on the field.

Players or parents shall not congregate before or after practice.

Carpooling is not allowed.

Practice:

Players will be assigned to a section of the field.

Social distancing requirements are in effect for all aspects of the practice.

Small groups of 10 or less will practice social distancing during practice.

Departure from the Field:

Follow pick up line instructions.

Be patient and respectful.

Follow up:

If your child presents with any illness or COVID-19 specific symptoms, please report to the Head Coach, so that players on their team, coaches, officials and parents may be notified.

If there has been any known exposure to your family, please keep your child at home for two weeks and report the incident your Head Coach.

If your child is unable to attend practice, you must notify the Head Coach.

Additional recommendations:

- All participants should stay at home if they are feeling sick or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and equipment and do not share equipment, water bottles or towels.
- Face masks are required for staff, coaches, officials and designated adults serving as hygiene support for all practices and activities. Athletes shall wear a face mask when not on the playing field and cannot practice social distancing requirements.
- Upon returning home from practice, have players shower and wipe down all gear and equipment.

I have read the Hopedale Youth Baseball Association return to play guidelines' and will adhere to the policies outlined above. I hereby give permission for _____ to return to baseball participation. I indemnify and hold harmless, The Town of Hopedale, Hopedale Youth Baseball Association, any individual working as an officer, coach, athletic trainer or official or in any capacity for this organization, for any and all injuries, damages, causes of actions or claims for personal injuries or property damage, arising from my child's participation in this program, or any leagues, teams or tournaments associated with Hopedale Youth Baseball Association.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

William J. C. Capt 6-23-20
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