

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



Operating During COVID-19 Emergency

Updated August 4, 2020



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Checking Your Families' Health and Out of State Travel

Self-Monitoring Health of Players and Families

Parents should check their temperature before leaving to attend a practice or game. They should also check their player's temperature as well as anyone else who will be coming with them to the practice or game. If anyone presents a fever, they should notify the team's manager and stay home.

A player with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:

- a. Active COVID-19 infection
- b. Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
- c. Fever
- d. Cough

Coming in Direct Contact with a Person who Tests Positive for COVID-19

If you come in direct contact with a person who is known to have tested positive for COVID-19 you need to not participate in any HTRBA activities for 14-days.

Self-Isolation After Out-of-State Travel

In accordance with travel restrictions set forth by the State of New Jersey, anyone traveling to a state that falls under the COVID-19 Travel Advisory should self-isolate and not participate in any HTRBA activities for 14 days.

As of August 11, 2020, those states are:

- Alabama (*added 6/24/20*)
- Arkansas (*added 6/24/20*)
- Arizona (*added 6/24/20*)
- California (*added 6/30/20*)
- Florida (*added 6/24/20*)
- Georgia (*added 6/30/20*)
- Hawaii (*added 8/11/20*)
- Idaho (*added 6/30/20*)
- Iowa (*added 6/30/20*)
- Illinois (*added 7/28/20*)
- Indiana (*added 7/21/20*)
- Kansas (*added 7/7/20*)
- Kentucky (*added 7/28/20*)
- Louisiana (*added 6/30/20*)
- Maryland (*added 7/21/20*)
- Minnesota (*re-added 7/28/20*)
- Mississippi (*added 6/30/20*)
- Missouri (*added 7/21/20*)
- Montana (*added 7/21/20*)
- Nebraska (*added 7/21/20*)
- Nevada (*added 6/30/20*)
- North Carolina (*added 6/24/20*)
- North Dakota (*added 7/21/20*)

- Oklahoma (*added 7/7/20*)
- Puerto Rico (*added 7/28/20*)
- South Carolina (*added 6/24/20*)
- South Dakota (*added 8/11/20*)
- Tennessee (*added 6/30/20*)
- Texas (*added 6/24/20*)
- Utah (*added 6/24/20*)
- Virginia (*added 7/21/20*)
- Virgin Islands (*added 8/11/20*)
- Wisconsin (*added 7/14/20*)

Note: Alaska, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Washington were removed 8/11/20. Delaware and the District of Columbia were removed on 8/4/20.

Use of Facilities

Disinfecting

1. Common areas will be disinfected after every use. When an EPA-approved disinfectant cannot be used an alternate disinfectant that includes bleach will be used.
2. Equipment must be disinfected before and after use.
3. If surfaces are visibly soiled or dirty, they should be cleaned with a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
4. Disinfectant cleaning projects will be store securely away from children.

Practices

Facilities will be closed to teams for practicing during the week. The league cannot properly disinfect the facilities every day after every time they are used. Our focus will be on having games at our facilities.

Indoor Cage

The indoor cage will be closed to practices and pregame warmups.

Bathrooms

1. Only the outdoor bathroom will be open during games and disinfected throughout the day.
2. The handicapped bathroom inside the A Field press box will be used on an as needed basis and can be opened by any board member.
3. Only one person will be allowed in the bathroom at one time.
4. People waiting in line for the bathroom should ensure social distancing with people other than their immediate family.
 - a. Stay six feet away from individuals outside their household
 - b. Wear a cloth face covering
 - c. Avoid direct hand or other contact with the players, managers, and coaches during play.

Concession Stand and Press boxes

The concession stand and press boxes will be remained closed.

Games will not be announced.

Practices

Practices should be conducted at any of the baseball fields available in town.

General Guidelines

1. Practices should be limited to 1 ½ hours to limit exposures of players and spectators to people outside their immediate homes.
2. All coaches are required to wear masks when running practices.
3. Before every practice coaches should ask each of the players the following questions (can be done as team if everyone stays six feet apart):
 - a. Has anyone had a fever today?
 - b. Has anyone had a cough today?
 - c. Is anyone feeling sick or achy?
 - d. Has anyone in their house been sick lately?
4. Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing between players as much as possible.
 - a. Additional spacing between players while playing catch.
 - b. Changing drills so that players remained spaced out.
 - c. Running more than one drill at a time.
 - d. No congregating of players while waiting to bat.
 - e. Disinfect shared equipment before and after each practice such as catcher's equipment.

Players

2. Players need to use their own basic baseball equipment.
 - a. Basic baseball equipment includes gloves, helmets, and bats.
 - b. If they do not have their own basic equipment, or if they forget anything at home, they cannot participate in any drill that requires the missing equipment.
3. A player with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
 - a. Active COVID-19 infection
 - b. Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
 - c. Fever
 - d. Cough
4. Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume. No shared fountains or coolers.
5. Players do not need to wear a face covering while on the field, however they should wear one in these situations.
 - a. Arriving at and leaving from the facility.
 - b. Waiting for practice to start.

Spectators

1. Spectators should ensure social distancing with people other than their immediate family.
 - a. Stay six feet away from individuals outside their household
 - b. Wear a cloth face covering
 - c. Avoid direct hand or other contact with the players, managers, and coaches during play.
2. A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
 - a. Active COVID-19 infection

- b. Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
 - c. Fever
 - d. Cough
- 3. Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
- 4. Those at higher risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a game and should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups include:
 - a. Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromise, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease.
 - b. Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
 - c. Those over 65

Game Day Operations

Scheduling

1. No more than two games will be scheduled to occur at the facility at the same time.
2. Games will be spaced out to allow as much time as possible for teams to finish their game and leave the facility before any other teams show up to play their game.
3. 2-hour drop-dead time.

Players

1. Players do not need to wear a face covering while on the field, however they should wear one in these situations.
 - a. Arriving at and leaving from the facility.
 - b. Waiting for warmups or the game to start.

Pregame Arrival and Warmups

1. A player with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
 - a. Active COVID-19 infection
 - b. Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
 - c. Fever
 - d. Cough
2. Before every practice coaches should ask each of the players the following questions (can be done as team if everyone stays six feet apart):
 - a. Has anyone had a fever today?
 - b. Has anyone had a cough today?
 - c. Is anyone feeling sick or achy?
 - d. Has anyone in their house been sick lately?
3. Players should not show up to the fields more than 40 minutes before game time.
 - a. Anyone that arrives earlier than 40 minutes must remain in their car.
4. Warm-ups should be limited as much as is reasonable and be no more than 30 minutes.
 - a. Players should have a catcher before each game.
 - b. Pitchers should be allowed to warm up with a catcher before each game.
 - c. Congregating players in the outfield to field grounders or pop-ups is prohibited.
 - d. Batting practice is prohibited.
5. Teams will be responsible for lining their own fields.

Spectators

1. A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
 - a. Active COVID-19 infection
 - b. Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
 - c. Fever
 - d. Cough
2. Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible as the bleachers will be used by the players waiting to be put into the field or bat.

Baseballs

1. Each team will be provided game balls that their team is to use during their defensive half inning and rotated through every two innings or a change in pitcher.
 - a. Baseballs can be reused if disinfected after their rotation.
2. Umpires should not handle the baseball.
3. Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players and coaches. No spectators should retrieve the ball.
 - a. If a spectator retrieves the ball, that ball can no longer be used in the game.

Food/Snacks during the Game

Only water or another drink brought for the player will be allowed to be consumed during the game. Any food must be consumed before or after the game.

Sunflower seeds, gum, etc. are prohibited before, during, or after a game while at the facilities.

Playing a Game

1. Coaches
 - a. Coaches must always wear face coverings.
 - b. One coach will be allowed in the dugout to keep score and facilitate players going up to bat, coming back to bleachers after batting or playing in the field.
 - c. Only two coaches will be allowed on the field while the game is being played. Examples of this include:
 - i. Majors and AAA: 1st and 3rd base coaches
 - ii. A and AA: One coach pitching to players and a second behind the catcher collecting baseballs.
 - iii. Tee Ball: One coach pitching or setting up the tee and a second coach in the field directing defensive players.
 - d. **No coaches will be allowed on the field to disagree or argue a call. Coaches must call the umpire to their dug out with all questions and remain 6ft away. For the safety of all we will not allow aggressive arguing with any umpire.**
 - e. Coaches must refrain from celebratory physical contact and discourage players from doing the same.
2. Players waiting to be in the game
 - a. The use of dug outs is prohibited.
 - b. Players will sit in the bleachers maintaining social distancing guidelines.
 - c. The use of facemask is strongly recommended for players to wear while sitting on the bleachers.
 - d. A parent or coach will supervise the players sitting on the bleachers.
 - e. All player equipment will be placed against the fence in front of the bleachers and six feet apart.
3. Umpires
 - a. Umpires need to wear masks.
 - b. Umpires will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher.

- c. **No coaches will be allowed on the field to disagree or argue a call. Coaches must call the umpire to their dug out with all questions and remain 6ft away. For the safety of all we will not allow aggressive arguing with any umpire.**
- 4. End of the Game
 - a. There can be no handshakes or fist bumps before or after the games. Please tip your hat to the opponents after the game from your dug outs.
 - b. There will be no post game meetings between the coaches and players. Any follow up can be done via email.
 - c. Players and their families are expected to be cleaned up and leave the facilities immediate at the end of the game.
 - d. Trash must be discarded in a waste receptacle.

Response to a Positive COVID-19 Test

In the event that a player or coach tests positive for COVID-19 or comes in direct contact with an outside person who tests positive for COVID-19, the league will take the following steps.

1. The activities for that team affected by a positive COVID-19 test will be suspended immediately.
2. The league will contact the Hamilton Township Health officials for guidance and follow all of their recommendations.