

## Noblesville Youth Baseball – Spring 2020 Safety Plan

Noblesville Youth Baseball (NYB) has been working with school, county, and state health officials regarding COVID-19 to understand best practices for public health and safety during this time. The Governor of Indiana has mandated social distancing and closures during this time. Governor Holcomb outlined reopening noncontact sport activities in the state of Indiana beginning with allowing practices of less than 100 people starting May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Competition and groups of up to 250 people are to be allowed starting June 14<sup>th</sup>. School facilities, including the facilities owned by NYB, can open July 1<sup>st</sup>. Groups over 250 may gather, still following CDC social distancing guidelines, beginning July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Until the Governor of Indiana releases new directives reducing these mandates, the following precautionary measures are being taken by NYB so that we can offer the necessary safety, capacity, and social distancing required. These guidelines were developed with the assistance of the Hamilton County Indiana Health Department.

### General:

- The following divisions will not be offered this spring due to the COVID-19 guidelines and the inability to provide safe proper instruction to these children while following social distancing. All participants previously registered will be contacted with their refund options.
  - 3/4 Tee Ball
  - 5yo Coach Pitch
  - Kindergarten Coach Pitch
  - First Grade Coach Pitch
- NYB Recreational Baseball will move the Spring Season to begin with the remaining divisions starting practices the week of 6/8 and games the week of 7/6. The following divisions will be playing this season:
  - Second Grade
  - Third Grade
  - Fourth Grade
  - Fifth/Sixth Grade
- NYB Recreational Baseball timing and divisions for the Fall Season are TBD.
- Guests 65 and older, and those with known high-risk medical conditions, at the advice of the Hamilton County Indiana Health Department, should not attend events at NYB Field of Dreams this season.

### Recreational Baseball Players, Parents, and Guests:

- Players will not be penalized for missing any practice or game due to illness in themselves or a family member.
- All participants (coaches and players) should self-assess for any symptoms of COVID-19 before travelling to the fields.

- Each player must have a temperature check prior to team events. Any fever above 100°F shall restrict the player from participating in any NYB affiliated event.
- Parents/guardians shall further be responsible to keep a player home upon any additional indication/symptoms of being ill.
- All players will be required to have a COVID-19 waiver signed by a parent/guardian on file prior to play.
- It is recommended that players wear a face covering when not actively participating on the field.
- Players must use their own individual water container.
- Players must use only their own equipment (bat, helmet, glove). Shared equipment (e.g. catcher's gear) is discouraged, but if shared, must be wiped down with disinfectant following each use.
  - Best practice is for each player to bring their own batting helmet. For those players without helmets, one can be issued to them for use during the season, to be returned to NYB at the conclusion of the season.
- Dugouts will be expanded to include the bleacher area (and down the fence line if needed) to allow for appropriate social distancing among players not on the field. Bleachers will not be available for spectator use.
- NO TOUCH RULE – No high fives, handshakes, fist bumps, etc.
- NO SEEDS, GUM OR OTHER ITEMS MAY BE CHEWED OR SPIT.
- Spectators must maintain social distancing and are encouraged to wear a face covering and use hand sanitizer during their time at the Field of Dreams. (Refer to Reopen Indiana guidelines.).
- Bleachers will be roped off and will not be available for spectator use. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs.
- It is recommended that coaches, parents, and guests wear a face covering at all times.
- Sportsmanship – There will be a zero-tolerance policy for players, coaches and spectators during the program.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be near each dugout at the Field of Dreams, the concession stand, and the restrooms.
- Disinfectant will be stocked in each dugout. Coaches will need to apply to high traffic areas on the fence and the bench in between games.

Miller Travel Ball Players, Parents, and Guests, in addition to the guidelines above:

- Travel baseball being played at the NYB Field of Dreams is required to follow the school, county, and state guidelines.
- In addition, Miller travel teams will follow the guidelines provided by the Travel Council.

NYB Employees, in addition to the guidelines above:

- High touch areas in restrooms will be disinfected by NYB staff, per guidelines from the Hamilton County Health Department.
- All employees will be required to complete a health assessment, including a temperature reading, upon reporting to work at the Field of Dreams.

- NYB Concession staff will follow increased sanitization protocols, in consultation with the Hamilton County Health Department.

Noblesville Youth Baseball will continually monitor updates and information on COVID-19 provided by the CDC, State of Indiana, Hamilton County Health Department, and Noblesville Schools which could result in changes to our currently tentative re-opening date of our facilities, programs, and activities.

Our goal is to limit exposure and maintain a safe, healthy environment for our participants, guests, and staff. Please keep in mind that we are a volunteer, non-profit organization. We rely heavily on the cooperation of our parents, volunteer coaches, and volunteer board members. We must work together to keep our players and guests safe.