

Social Distancing Guidelines for GAA Baseball/Softball

(these guidelines may be different at other parks and may change slightly at Grassland Park as government guidelines change)

1. No more than 5 people in a dugout at any given time on fields 1-4 and no more than 4 people in a dugout for fields 5-9 at any given time. During game play, all players will hang their gear on the inside of the outfield fence in foul territory towards the end of the double gates. All players must wear a helmet while along the fence. There will be at least 1 coach standing with players and monitoring the game. If coaches prefer to place their players that are not in the dugout outside of the field of play then they may do so however social distancing guidelines must be followed. If coaches have their players in the outfield foul area, the preference would be to have a coach or parent volunteers as follows for safety reasons:
 - 6u – 1 coach/parent volunteer for every 3 players on the outfield fence
 - 8u – 1 coach/parent volunteer for every 4 players on the outfield fence
 - 10u – 1 coach/parent volunteer for every 6 players on the outfield fence
 - 12u – 1 coach/parent volunteer for every 8 players on the outfield fence
 - 14u and older - 1 coach/parent volunteer for every 8 players on the outfield fence
2. If a fair ball goes into the area of the players in the outfield and the ball touches a player, coach/volunteer, equipment, or anything happens to interfere with the ball or defensive player, a dead ball will be called and all runners will advance 1 base.
3. In games with 2 umpires, balls and strikes will be called by the field umpire and he/she shall stand 6' behind the pitcher. There will be an umpire behind home plate however he/she will be standing at least 6' behind the batter and catcher.
4. Each team will provide 2 game balls that only their team will touch while on defense. At no time is the umpire or someone from the other team allowed to touch the baseball. If a new game ball is needed by a team then the coach of that team will provide one.
5. Players from opposite teams are not allowed to touch each other during the game unless it's a natural move during game play.
6. There will be no hand shake lines after the game however teams may do other things to congratulate each other as long as both teams are practicing social distancing.
7. When a game is over, a new team may enter the field as long as they are adhering to social distancing guidelines.
8. Parents can use the bleachers as long as families are adhering to social distancing guidelines. Families are encouraged to bring their own chairs to adhere to social distancing guidelines.
9. Players and coaches are not allowed to share drinks or food during practices or games. Each player is highly encouraged to bring their own drink bottle and to make sure it is properly labeled with their name. The water fountain will be turned off.
10. All coaches will be issued 2 sets of catchers' gear for the season.
11. If a player, coach, or umpire wishes to wear a mask then they may do so.