

USA SOFTBALL

Of Rhode Island

2020 Back to the Ballpark Guidelines GAMES/TOURNAMENTS

The following are **MINIMUM** guidelines & Recommendations for the safe return of youth softball. The purpose of this information is to provide as best as possible, a safe environment at the ballpark and to comply with local government mandates.

Parents/Coaches/Players/Umpires/Spectators/Staff:

Screening: All players, staff, coaches, volunteers, and spectators should be screened for symptoms related to COVID-19 prior to the beginning of each activity. A screening tool is available, in English and Spanish, to aid with proper screening at <https://health.ri.gov/covid/for/business/> Any person exhibiting signs of illness and any person who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RIDOH guidelines at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>.

1) Host/Directors Responsibilities:

- a. Submit this plan and obtain a permit from the city/town.
 - i. If the city/town has further guidelines or their own restrictions that they want to implement, add them to this plan.
- b. Before scheduling a game, please check with your league and city/town to determine whether fields are open for use.
- c. **Before scheduling a game, or participating in a scrimmage/round robin, make sure that all coaches and parents read these guidelines, and sign the USA Softball waiver form. Waiver forms need to be collected before a team will be allowed to participate**
- d. Game times must be spaced to provide the time needed to sanitize, teams to arrive and leave, teams to move from one field to another, and to keep the numbers at the complex at any one time down to two teams per field.
 - i. **Example: 12 team Tournament using 3 fields (Saturday + Sunday)**

1st game - 8:00

2nd game – 9:45

Break

3rd game - 12:45

4th game – 2:30

- e. Concession stands will remain closed, should someone want to sell drinks, candy, etc., they will need to have someone go to each field and take orders, then deliver what was ordered to fields. Key is that there be no traffic in/around concession stands.
- f. Meet with your board of directors to determine if enough personnel will be available to accomplish everything that needs to be done.
- g. Have available sanitizer for cleaning of dugouts, bleachers, and bathrooms.
- h. Dugouts, bleachers, and bathrooms must be sanitized before and after each game.
- i. Fields must have fences marked with ribbons indicating where players can stand, there only 3 players are allowed in the dugout, and they must keep a six feet distance between one another. Bleachers if available are to be used by players and coaches only, keeping at a six feet distance from one another.
- j. **Spectator/Parents area must be clearly marked outside of the outfield fence**
- k. All tournaments will be set up with each team playing two games on Saturday, and two games on Sunday. There will be no bracket play, however there will be a champion and runner-up.
- l. **Games will be no new inning will begin after 80 minutes**
- m. Teams that fail to follow the guidelines for social distancing and wearing of masks will be given one warning from the director, if they continue not to comply, a forfeit will be declared by the director.
- n. **Plan and communication:** Youth and adult sports organizations are encouraged to provide participants with their COVID-19 plan.

2) Teams/Coaches/Players:

- a. Coaches have parents read these guidelines.
- b. Coaches obtain a signed waiver form from each parent/guardian and return it to the director prior to arriving for your team's first game.
- c. Coaches must ensure that players have their own drinks since no team coolers are allowed.
- d. Screening: Coaches must ensure that all players, assistant coaches, and team spectators are screened for symptoms related to COVID-19 prior to the beginning of each activity. A screening tool is available, in English and Spanish, to aid with proper screening at <https://health.ri.gov/covid/for/business/> Any person exhibiting signs of illness and any person who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RIDOH guidelines at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>.
- e. Face coverings:
 - i. Everyone must wear a face covering in accordance with RIDOH regulations. While engaged in active play of sports or strenuous activities, a face covering is not required.
 - ii. Face coverings shall not be required of those who are unable to comply for health or developmental reasons, including young children who may not be able to effectively wear a mask.
 - iii. The head coach must ensure that when not on the playing field players and coaches are wearing face masks.
- f. Coaches need to direct players where to go to as they arrive, and during the game.
- g. Need to have hand sanitizer with them to use before and after games.
- h. Players need to bring their own drinks, no team coolers are allowed
- i. **A combined total of 30 which includes players, coaches, and spectators, are allowed for each team.**
- j. There will be no shared equipment helmets, bats, gloves, catches gear, etc. All equipment needs to be sanitized prior to each double header.
- k. Head coach needs to ensure that all coaches and players arrive with a cloth facemask
- l. Sanitized softballs will be obtained from the director prior to each team's first game. These are the only softballs that will be allowed in the game. A softball hit out of play must be sanitized before it can be put back in play.
- m. Coaches need to ensure that players remain 6 feet apart when in the dugout, or at their assigned area
- n. No handshakes or high fives are allowed at the completion of a game.

- . After the completion of a game set, teams must leave the park immediately in order to give the staff the time needed to prepare for the next set of teams coming in, do not congregate with players/parents.

3) Umpire Responsibility:

(the following must be adhered to or the umpire cannot officiate)

- a. Must arrive at the field **30** minutes prior to game start time.
 - b. Must read guidelines for the game/round robin.
- 4)** Must obtain and sign waiver form from the director at check in and return it to the director prior to officiating the first game.
- 5)** Umpires need to be screened for symptoms related to COVID-19 prior to the beginning of each activity. A screening tool is available, in English and Spanish, to aid with proper screening at <https://health.ri.gov/covid/for/business/> Any person exhibiting signs of illness and any person who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RIDOH guidelines at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>.
- a. Umpires are not allowed in the dugouts.
 - b. Must practice social distancing and remain 6 feet away at all times unless on the field of play and are engaged in active play.
 - c. Face coverings:
 - i. Must bring their own face covering.
 1. Everyone must wear a face covering in accordance with RIDOH regulations. While engaged in active play of sports or strenuous activities, a face covering is not required.
 2. Face coverings shall not be required of those who are unable to comply for health or developmental reasons, including young children who may not be able to effectively wear a mask.
 - d. Need to have hand sanitizer with them to use before and after games.
Umpires are not to touch a softball, players and coaches are the only ones allowed to touch a softball. With that said, umpires do not need a ball bag, balls that are not in play will be held by the teams.
 - e. Must leave the field immediately at the completion of the game, do not congregate with fellow umpires, players, coaches, or spectators.
 - f. No handshakes or high fives are allowed at the completion of a game.

- 6) Parents/Spectators:** Parents and team spectators need to be screened for symptoms related to COVID-19 prior to the beginning of each activity. A screening tool is available, in English and Spanish, to aid with proper screening at <https://health.ri.gov/covid/for/business/> Any person exhibiting signs of illness and any person who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RIDOH guidelines at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>.
- a. Parents are responsible for cloth face masks for their children, and themselves.
 - b. When arriving at the field, parents can either drop players off and stay in their vehicles, or park, then proceed to the designated area for spectators keeping a six feet distance from one another.
 - c. **Spectators/Parents area will be outside of the outfield fence, no one is allowed behind the backstop or in the bleachers. Spectators/parents are required to wear a facemask and practice social distancing keeping a six ft. distance from one another.**
 - d. **Spectators/Parents will be limited to a maximum of one per player. If one of the parents is also a coach, an additional spectator can be added for that player. Bottom line, only 30 people per team including coaches, players, and parents are allowed at a game**

Resources: Additional resources can be found in CDC's youth sports guidance and at the Aspen Institute's "Return to Play COVID-19 Risk