

POST COVID-19 USSSA Baseball & Fastpitch Return to Play

Recommended Best Practices for the Field-of-Play:

1. Please follow all local and state guidelines for facilities and events.
2. The managers meeting at home plate should be limited to one coach from each team plus the umpires. No players or assistant coaches allowed to join. The umpire will conduct the meeting at home plate and we ask that coaches stay 6 ft back from the plate for the meeting.
3. Teams should spread out as much as possible. Dugouts will be extended down their respective foul areas as needed (and as long as player safety is not compromised) to aid with social distancing. Attempt to limit bench personnel to essential team personnel.
4. We ask that all players keep their bats and gear in their own respective bags. Additionally, we ask that no players share equipment.
5. Teams will be asked that coaches keep the minimal amount of people in the dugout areas. Bat boys/girls or score keepers will not be allowed as well as the need for extra coaches in the dugout. We ask that you practice social distancing.
6. Upon arriving at a dugout for the first time, teams are to disinfect hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, etc.). All teams need to pick up all garbage in the dugouts and other items after each game. Tournament and facility staff will do their best to keep dugouts sanitized. We ask that teams assist with this if possible.
7. Players will be allowed to wear personal protective items, such as masks and gloves, as long as these items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants.
8. Players must bring their own water bottles or coolers and must have their names on it. No team water coolers or other shared items will be allowed.
9. Parents are encouraged to supply their players with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared playing equipment and cleaning hands between innings/quarters/periods.
10. The defensive team is required to provide all baseballs used in their half inning in order to limit the contact with the ball to players of the same team. The umpire will not handle any balls but will be responsible for verifying that all balls are USSSA approved. OBSA will supply 3 baseballs per team per event. When a ball goes out of play, it needs to be returned to the defensive team and should be sanitized before going back into play. These will be supplied at tournament check-in.
11. One team representative is to check-in with the JP Sports director at the tent prior to their first game, which is when they will receive their baseballs.
12. No handshakes between teams after games. In a name of sportsmanship, please tip your cap to the opposing team after the game.
13. Award ceremonies will not take place. One coach from the team who wins awards will go to the tournament director and pick up that team's awards. The coach will oversee handing out the awards as he/she sees best, and team pictures will also be at the discretion of the team.
14. A single umpire will be used and will call the game from behind the pitching mound. They will have the option of wearing personal protective items as well.
15. Directors will have the ability to adjust the playing formats and increase the amount of time between games, to minimize overlap and traffic flow where needed.
16. Umpires to start the year will be behind the pitcher's mound. We will be running each game with only one umpire to keep another body off the field of play. This practice will be used until we have the full go ahead from the state and local governments.

Facility Safety

1. The bleachers behind home plate and next to dugouts will be off limits to spectators. Please start seating at the bases going toward the outfield and around the outfield fence.
2. Spectators are required to bring their own seating to the event and will need to practice social distancing. Spectators should also maintain social distancing of six feet between families and spread out around the field and in the common areas.
3. Tents and awnings will be allowed.
4. All spectators, coaches and players are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes for disinfecting hands and other equipment regularly.

5. The use of sunflower seeds, gum and anything else that is spit from a mouth to the ground is prohibited. This goes for coaches, players and spectators.
6. All persons in the facilities must adhere to the guidelines from the CDC, state and local authorities regarding travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders.
7. Any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be prohibited from entering the facilities.
8. Spectators are welcome to wear personal protective items.
9. We ask all teams and spectators not to congregate at any times. This includes before and after games inside the facility as well in the parking lots.
10. Any lines for restrooms, concession stands, or others are also discouraged. If there must be a line, a distance of six feet apart shall be in effect at all times.
11. Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Be sure to wash hands after using the restrooms.

All event attendees (employees, players, coaches, fans) must comply to the entirety of this health statement before entering CIS event

I have not tested positive for COVID-19, had a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, body ache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or been around anyone with these symptoms (with the exception of medical personnel and first responders), in the last 14 days. I am not currently under a state, county, city or other stay-at-home order. I understand that it is my responsibility to protect myself from contracting COVID-19 or other infectious diseases while at this event. By entering the event, I am indicating that I, (1) am in good health, (2) am responsible for protecting myself from COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, and (3) accept all responsibility and agree to hold harmless event operator, complex owners and sanctioning bodies from any damages that occur as a result of my attendance at the event.

Help us keep the ballpark a safe environment for all!