

PROTOCOLS FOR GAME PLAY

Date: **June 5, 2020**

To: **ALL TEAMS, COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS & FANS**

We are pleased to announce that per the Texas Governor's new executive order, a Path Forward for a return to **YOUTH SPORTS GAME PLAY** was recently authorized!

This is pursuant to Governor Abbott's New Executive Order. (*Social Distancing for spectators will still be recommended; see details below.*)

PROTOCOLS GAME PLAY:

1. **COACHES/PLAYERS/PARENTS/FANS MUST READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO THE PROTOCOLS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD SERIES. FURTHERMORE, WE RECOMMEND THOSE IN ATTENDANCE FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDED CDC GUIDELINES.**
2. **PARENTS AND FANS (SPECTATORS).** Each field will have designated areas where Parents and Fans, are restricted from entering. Parents and fans are recommended to ensure social distancing is maintained. (*Family units may sit together.*)
 - a. **NO PARENTS OR FANS ARE ALLOWED INSIDE ANY WARM-UP AREA, DUGOUT, OR ON THE FIELD OF PLAY. These areas are restricted to Coaches and Players only.**
 - b. There will be **NO** grouping of the team outside of the field of play for typical "post-game" meetings, or shared snacks, etc.
 - c. Teams are strongly encouraged to leave immediately after their game and sportsmanship greeting has concluded to allow for the next teams to have ample warm-up time on the game field.
 - d. Signs will be posted reminding Parents and Fans of Social Distancing recommendations.
 - e. Parents should supervise and facilitate the arrival and departure of their player. If the parent or parents remain to watch the game, they are asked to practice social distancing guidelines and remain 6 feet apart and spread out in the common area around the outside of the ballfield. Bleachers may be pursuant to suggested social distancing guidelines. (*A family unit may sit together.*)
 - f. Siblings should **NOT** be brought to the ballfields if it can be avoided. We realize there are a lot of single parent homes and that this is not possible for many. If you need to bring a sibling with you, please feel free to do so; just make sure they stay with you, under your control and ensure they practice the same social distancing as recommended that all spectators follow. If staying at the ballfields, ensure the social distancing recommendations are followed. **NO BIKES, SKATEBOARDS,** etc. for siblings to use. Siblings must stay with the family unit and follow the social distancing recommendations at this time.
3. **GAME PLAY.**

- a. **Home Plate Meeting.** It shall consist of the umpires and the head coach (1) from each team.
- b. **Coaches.** Max of 4 coaches per team.

i. **Offense: Normal Base**

Coach Positions, one (1) at 1B and one (1) at 3B.

- a. Two (2) additional coaches may be outside the dugout.
- c. **Umpires.** Two (2) umpires for all ages. Normal positions on the field of play.
- d. **Rules.** Normal baseball rules apply. AAYBA uses NFHS rules.
- e. **Protest/Appeals.** Any rules protest or appeals request must be made by first seeking time out from the umpire and using the recommended social distancing guidelines. Any protest or appeal **MUST** be handled in a calm professional manner and must follow tournament rule guidelines. This is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy. Coaches that cannot abide by this protocol will be immediately ejected and asked to leave the ballpark and are subject to tournament rules regarding ejections.
- f. **No Post Game Handshake/High Fives between teams.** Instead players and coaches will line up “Home Plate to First Base” (for teams on the 1B side) & “Third Base to Second Base” (for teams on the 3B side) to extend their good sportsmanship greetings to each other.
- g. **Teams need to leave immediately after game play/sportsmanship greeting has been completed.** This requirement is made to ensure all teams have adequate warm-up time and to avoid potential clustering.
- h. **Game Start Times.** Games will be scheduled with a **30-minute** break to allow for teams to exit and enter dugout areas without potential clustering, and to allow for adequate pre-game warm-ups.
- i. **Teams Arriving for Games.** Teams arriving must wait just outside of the dugout area, or in the designated Warm-Up Areas.
- j. **Pre-Game Warm-Ups.** Zero pre-game warm-ups may take place in the designated common areas. Warm-ups are RESTRICTED to: **1) Designated Warm-Up Areas, 2) On the Game Field (outfield only).**
- k. **Dugouts. USE OF DUGOUTS FOR GAME PLAY.** Teams are permitted to use the dugouts.
- d. **AWARDS.** Award ceremonies will be modified to include the following:
 - a. Players will line up their perspective baselines.

- b. If individual awards are to be presented (1st on 2nd place awards), they will be distributed by the head coach (not by tournament staff).
 - c. If 1st and 2nd place team awards are to be presented, tournament staff shall give to the head coach.
- e. **DUGOUT CLEANLINESS.** Teams are required to clean their dugouts PRIOR to departing after their game.
- f. **WATER COOLERS.** The tournament will **NOT** be providing water jugs in the dugouts. Coaches and Players are responsible for their own water/PowerAde, Gatorade, etc.
- g. **TOURNAMENT STAFF & UMPIRE STAFF SCREENING.**
- a. Tournament Staff will be monitored by FMYSA for temperature and symptoms, as per CDC guidelines.
 - b. Tournament Staff will be present in each grouping of fields. (Larger Facilities will have multiple tournament staff dispersed around the complex.)
 - c. Umpires will be monitored by MTUA (UIC's) for temperature and symptoms, as per CDC guidelines.
- h. **COACHES/PARENTS/FANS SCREENING.**
- a. Coaches shall monitor their teams and request that ALL PARENTS/FANS self-monitor pursuant to CDC guidelines.
 - b. Parents/Fans shall self-monitor pursuant to CDC guidelines.
 - c. We encourage parents, players and coaches to practice good personal hygiene.
 - d. We also encourage you to bring and use your own hand-sanitizer, disinfectants, etc.
- i. **FMYSA/AAYBA will have tournament staff on site to monitor game play protocol.**
- j. **THANK YOU!** We are doing all we can to SAFELY PROVIDE BASEBALL this summer to our World Series teams (Players, Coaches and Parents/Fans) because we believe that these activities are important for the children we serve. **We also believe and trust that our coaches, players and parents/fans will not attend if sick and will abide by CDC Guidelines and will also abide by the additional safety protocol and social distancing recommendations as set forth in this document.**

FMYSA has been working diligently with the AAYBA, the Town of Flower Mound, the City of Highland Village, and both Parks Departments, the TOFM Government, Denton County, our State Representative Tan Parker & the Governors Office to do everything possible to provide a SAFE RETURN for Game Play and your cooperation is paramount to the success of this World Series event.