

Non-Contact Sports
SAFETY GUIDELINES/RECOMMENDATIONS (ADULT SOFTBALL)
East Ridge Parks and Recreation

Effective – Tuesday, September 4th, 2020

These guidelines are based on the Tennessee Pledge, and are therefore subject to change at any time!

Teams are responsible for setting up procedures for participation including health questionnaires and other screenings as appropriate. These procedures should include:

1. **Screen coaches, athletes, and spectators for illness** upon arrival to facility each day with the following questions:
 - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days? (Note: This does not apply to medical personnel, first responders, or other individuals who encounter COVID-19 as part of their professional or caregiving duties while wearing appropriate PPE.)
 - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
 - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
 - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
2. **Temperature checks are a best practice.** Those with temperatures above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should not be permitted on premises.
3. **Direct coaches, athletes, and spectators who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms** (i.e., answer “yes” to any of the screening questions or who are running a fever) to leave the premises immediately and seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing, per Tennessee Department of Health and [CDC guidelines](#). Maintain the confidentiality of health information.
4. **All coaches, athletes, and spectators should stay home if feeling ill**, report any symptoms of illness to the coach and require notification of COVID-19 positive case in employee’s household. Athletes who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the CDC (e.g., due to age or severe underlying medical conditions) are encouraged to refrain from participating.
5. **Practice recommended social distancing** (minimum 6ft. apart) to the greatest extent possible.
6. **Limit group sizes and mixing.** Keep groups small and, to the extent possible, avoid mixing between groups.
7. **Athletes/Coaches:**
 - Should maintain at least six feet of separation from others when not on the field of play or otherwise engaged in play/activity, where feasible
 - Should wear masks/face coverings when social distancing is not possible.
 - Consider physical markings in the dugout, benches, or other shared or athlete staging areas to help remind athletes and coaches of appropriate social distancing. Consider alternate seating locations or larger staging areas for athletes or staff to increase social distancing.
 - Athletes and coaches should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing teams, coaches, umpires, and fans. Coaches should regularly review social distancing rules with athletes.
8. **Spectators** should maintain at least six feet of separation from others not from the same household, including in seating areas or bleachers, and refrain from entering athlete areas. Also, spectators should wear masks/face coverings when social distancing is not possible.
9. **Umpires and Officials** should maintain six feet of separation from others and when interacting with athletes, coaches, and spectators off the field of play. Avoid exchanging documents or equipment with athletes, coaches, or spectators as much as possible.

10. Encourage those who can to wear cloth face coverings.

- Wearing a cloth face covering may not be possible while actively participating in an athletic activity, but an effort should be made to wear a face covering between games, when in dug outs, and when not actively engaged in physical activity.
- Coaches, umpires, and officials should wear face coverings if in close proximity to others and if using a projected voice within 15 feet of others.
- Athletes should wear face coverings when not actively participating.
- Spectators should wear cloth face coverings when maintaining appropriate distance from other spectators is not possible and if using a projected voice within 15 feet of others.

11. Athletes, coaches, and spectators should wash or sanitize their hands upon arriving and leaving each day. Athletes and coaches should regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer between activity while on site.

12. Coaches and athletes should increase hygiene practices—wash hands more frequently, avoid touching face, practice good respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing. Limit spitting

13. Recommend that persons more vulnerable or at-risk for COVID-19 as identified by the [CDC](#) (e.g. due to age or severe underlying medical conditions) take extra precaution or refrain from attending or participating for the time being.

14. Where possible, it is recommended that athletes travel to the venue alone or with a member of their immediate household.

15. Drinks and snacks

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires/officials should bring their own personal beverages to all athletic activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name. If a parent or coach provides beverages for the team, utilize single-person containers and label for each athlete.
- Individuals should take their drink containers home each day for cleaning or use single-use bottles.
- Shared beverages or coolers are prohibited.
- Athletes should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed. Avoid unpackaged shared team food.
- Eating and spitting seeds, gum, other similar products is prohibited.

In addition, the following City requirements are to be followed:

PRACTICE

1. No contact permitted.
2. Practices must be scheduled with a minimum 15-minute gap. Once team practice is over, everyone must leave the facility immediately to allow the next group in behind them.
3. No teams are permitted to show up any earlier than 10 minutes before their scheduled practice times.
4. Proposed practice schedules must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Director.
5. No scrimmages are allowed.
6. Coaches are responsible for enforcement of these guidelines.

GAMES

1. **CONCESSIONS:** Spectators and players should maintain social distancing of at least six feet. Servers and handlers must wear cloth face coverings and gloves, regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces and place hand-sanitizer stations near cashier areas. Refer to and implement applicable provisions of the Tennessee Pledge Restaurant Guidelines for concession operations.
2. Only immediate household members should attend as spectators.
3. Once a team's game is finished, everyone must leave the athletic facility and report to a warm-up area immediately to allow the next teams in behind them take the field.
4. Teams not actively involved in game activity should use available warm-up areas in open green space outside the fenced in athletic facility to further social distance from event attendees.
5. **GATE ADMISSION:** In an effort to reduce the spread of germs, No admission gate will be allowed. Tournament organizers should charge Team Entry Fees to cover all costs associated with the league.
6. Coaches are responsible for communicating these guidelines to athletes and spectators.

These guidelines are designed to allow your sport to play but still take positive actions to help slow the spread the Covid-19 virus. We all must take an active role in making sure that these guidelines are followed.

**Acknowledgement of Receipt of City of East Ridge Safety Guidelines/Recommendations and
Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, limited the congregation of groups of people. The City of East Ridge Parks and Recreation Department will abide by the Tennessee Pledge and has created new protocols and put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the City cannot guarantee that you will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending any program or activity may increase your risk of contracting COVID-19, and may increase the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others.

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I acknowledge the highly contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily accept the risk that I, or members of my group or organization, may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in any way in any event, program, activity, reservation or rental taking place at a City of East Ridge Parks and Recreation facility or park, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at a City of East Ridge Parks and Recreation facility or park may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, City employees, volunteers, and other participants and their families. I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to myself or members of my group or organization, including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death, illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that they or I may experience or incur in connection with participation in any event, program, activity, reservation or rental taking place at a City of East Ridge Parks and Recreation facility. I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the City, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from any claims related to COVID-19, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of East Ridge and its employees, agents, and representatives from any claim that may arise from or in connection with my or members of my group or organization's participation in any program taking place at a City of East Ridge Parks and Recreation facility, including claims related to COVID-19. I understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the City, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any City of East Ridge Parks and Recreation program, rental, or activity.

By signing below, I acknowledge reading and understanding the above terms and conditions and the City of East Ridge's Safety Guidelines/Recommendations, and I voluntarily accept them on behalf of myself and/or the team I represent. I understand that failure of my team to follow the Safety Guidelines/Recommendation may result in my team being prohibited from using City of East Ridge fields or facilities and forfeiture of league fees paid.

Name of Team (Printed)

Head Coach Name (Printed)

Date

Head Coach Signature