

## **Safety Guidelines for the 2020 Season**

**Note: These guidelines are subject to change depending on government mandates**

- (1) **Self-Quarantine** – players, coaches, parents and spectators that show symptoms associated with a viral infection (cough, fever, chills, shortness of breath, etc.) should not attend any practices or games for 72 hours.
  - a. If a player coach or spectator feels sick during a game or practice they should leave immediately.
  - b. If a player leaves a game due to illness, that spot will be skipped in the batting order, **no** out will be recorded
- (2) **Social Distancing** – all players, coaches, staff, and spectators should practice social distancing
  - a. The dugout shall be extended from first base to home plate and from 3<sup>rd</sup> base to home plate.
    - i. No spectators are allowed in this area. If a field has bleachers in this area, those bleachers can be extended to be inclusive of the dugout for the respective teams.
    - ii. Players are further encouraged to bring lawn chairs to designate their “area” in the dugout, should bleachers and benches not be available to the players.
  - b. Fans shall maintain social distancing and be able to observe the game **beyond first or third base** (in foul territory) or into the outfield as the field/play allows.
    - i. Fans are encouraged to bring their own seat/lawn chair to all games.
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaches should stay at least 6 feet away from baselines
  - d. No bat boys/girls will be allowed.
- (3) **Food and Beverages**
  - a. Players may have small snacks (food) with them, but it must be kept in their personal bag and in their designated socially distanced dugout area.
    - i. Under no circumstances may this food be shared with other players or coaches.
    - ii. Sunflower seeds and gum, prohibited.
  - b. All players are responsible for their own water bottle/sports drink.
    - i. No communal or team water coolers/jugs will be allowed
    - ii. Players should not share water bottles
- (4) **Player Equipment**
  - a. Player bat bags and equipment will be spaced out with appropriate social distancing to ensure the same.
  - b. Players are encouraged to wipe down and disinfect all gear after each game and practice.
- (5) **Limit Team/Shared Equipment**
  - a. Use of team equipment should be limited and avoided when possible. If shared equipment is required, the equipment should be wiped down and disinfected before each use. This would include batting helmets, bats, and catcher’s gear.
  - b. Foul balls should not be handled by spectators. Either a coach or specific player should be designated to secure any and all foul balls and disinfect them before they are returned to play.
  - c. It is encouraged and recommended that teams bring hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to all games/practices to be available as needed.
- (6) **No Handshakes/Celebrations**
  - a. There will be no post-game congratulatory handshakes, high 5s, or other contact between teams or within the team itself.
  - b. Instead of a handshake after the game, teams will spread out in front of their dugout and tip their caps towards their opponents dugout
  - c. A coach should have no physical contact with an opposing player.
- (7) **Hygiene**
  - a. Players and coaches are encouraged to practice proper hygiene. Players and coaches should wash hands with soap and water frequently. They should use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
  - b. Players and coaches should abstain from touching their faces and cover all sneezes and coughs with a tissue when possible.
  - c. All uniforms should be laundered daily after each use.
  - d. Home teams are required to wipe down high touch surfaces in both dugouts before and after each game
    - i. Visiting team should exit the dugout as soon as possible after the game to allow for this.
  - e. Players are discouraged from spitting.
  - f. Pitchers and players are not allowed to “go to their mouth” to lick or wet fingers at any time during the game.

## Rule Modifications for the 2020 Season

### (1) Game Balls

- a. Each team provides at least 2 games balls (1 new and at least 1 playable) for use when on defense
- b. Teams will mark the ball to know it theirs
- c. Umpires will not handle baseballs, they will be thrown in from the dugouts
- d. Balls should be sanitized when taken out of game
- e. Foul balls should be returned to the appropriate dugout and sanitized

### (2) Umpires

- a. Umpires should call balls & strikes from 6 feet behind the pitcher
  - i. As an option, umpires can work behind the plate if all coaches and umpires agree in advance.
- b. Umpires are encouraged to wear masks to avoid spray when making calls
- c. Pre-game meeting
  - i. No Handshakes
  - ii. Maintain social distancing
  - iii. Umpires should be paid in cash or a check made out to cash
- d. Umpires are not to handle baseballs, they will be thrown in from the dugouts
- e. If a coach requests a clarification on a call
  - i. Coach stays in dugout (or coaches box)
  - ii. Umpire comes to him to discuss the call, maintaining social distancing
- f. Umpires should not shake hands with anyone before or after the game

### (3) Scheduling

- a. No Massive rescheduling required, we know it will be almost impossible to play all the games originally scheduled.
- b. Season will runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>
  - i. If you can't start June 1<sup>st</sup> then start as soon as you can
  - ii. If you have to end prior to Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, end when you have to
- c. Play games scheduled for June and July as scheduled
- d. Reschedule as many previously cancelled games as you can fit into your schedule
- e. In order to be considered for a league championship you must play at least 10 games in your division.
- f. Games out of your division (i.e. A/B/C) no not count in standings and therefore should not be reported on the website
- g. As an option, in an effort to get more games in, teams may play a 5 inning (1 3/4 hour time limit) double header
  - i. Must be agreed upon by both coaches and Umpires **prior to arriving at the field**
  - ii. Umpires will receive full play for each game

### (4) Pitching restrictions

- a. Pitch limits as spelled out in the WSYBL rule 2.16 will be used
- b. When verifying pitch counts, every ½ inning, scorekeepers should maintain social distancing

I agree to follow the terms and guidelines set forth by the WSYBL for all games played under the WSYBL umbrella to the best of my ability and do agree that my team and or organizations participation in the league is totally voluntary.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

President / Head Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President / Assistant Coach: \_\_\_\_\_