

MBSA – POLICIES REGARDING COVID 19 FOR 2020 SEASON

In an effort to inform any and all participants in MBSA practices or games, MBSA has drafted this document to inform said participants (and their related spectators) of the protocols put in place by MBSA regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Parts of the information contained in this document has also been used by “U.S.A.B.L.” and is done in concert with the NJ Department of Health reflecting the latest C.D.C. Guidelines. This document has been distributed to every player, coach and every family involved with MBSA. It is expected and assumed that all families will review this document prior to attending any practices or games. Furthermore, it is understood that this document places onus on the families to adhere to the policies herein and to properly review and check their respective families – including players – prior to attending each and every MBSA event.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for guidelines published by the New Jersey Department of Health but rather is an addition to those guidelines. All content, including text, link and information, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, MBSA makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your return to practice and game.

By participating in any practice or game with MBSA you are agreeing that this is an at-will event and, obviously, you may elect to not participate. However, IF YOU participate, these guidelines are NOT NEGOTIABLE. Rather they are requirements of every player, coach and family.

Practice and Game: All players, coaches and spectators must adhere to specifically required guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health (**NJ DOH Guidance for Sports Activities**). **It is incumbent upon all involved to stay abreast of any information that may affect what constitutes social distancing. MBSA will do its best to notify all players and families of any significant changes.** Furthermore, because MBSA teams utilize both public (MRC, Holiday Park and Sanford Park) and private fields (Legion and School Fields) for practice and game, additional requirements may be in place based on guidelines set forth by the hosting facility. Any additional guidelines shall be provided once received and must be followed by every coach, player or family member. It is strongly advised that each and every player come to the field with a mask/face covering and hand sanitizer in his/her equipment bag.

Prior to Practice or Game:

- Screen players and coaches with a temperature check and health questionnaire prior to arrival at the field. Anybody showing symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to a field for a practice or game. (**CDC symptom checklist**)

- In the event the MBSA determines that a player or immediate family member may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, the MBSA reserves the right to request that a COVID-19 test be taken.
- **Do not** come to practice or game if you or any member of your household are not feeling well or are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Do not** come to practice or game if you or any member of your household have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- **Do not** come to a practice or game if – in the last 14 days – you have visited any states on the current quarantine list. You are required to quarantine, in home, for 14 days prior to attending any practice or game.
- IF a player or coach or any member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, MBSA requires a “negative test” result and a letter by a licensed physician in order to resume activity.
- **Do not** come to practice or game if you are not comfortable with the guidelines set forth by the NJ DOH, MBSA or the facility at which you are practicing/competing.
- Adults 65 years and older or people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions are strongly encouraged not to attend practice or game at this time.

Guidelines During Practice or Game:

- **Healthy Practices:** All players coaches, and spectators should practice “good hygiene” by regularly washing their hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Players and coaches should avoid all but the essential contact necessary during practice or game.
- **Social-distancing:** Players, coaches, umpires and spectators should maintain 6-feet of distance whenever possible.
- **Face-coverings:**
 - **Coaches/Spectators:** Encouraged to wear face-coverings at all times when 6-feet of distancing is not possible.
 - **Players:** Should not wear face-coverings when actively participating in vigorous activity during practice or game. Players are encouraged to wear face-coverings when not engaging in vigorous activity or are in close-contact areas where distancing is not feasible (ie. in dugouts). Players are permitted to wear a face-covering any time if the player or their parent/guardian/caretaker deem it necessary.
 - **Umpires:** Encouraged to wear face-covering whenever applicable and possible. “Plate” umpires calling pitches will be encouraged to wear surgical masks over the lower half of their standard protective facemask. [as per USABL]
 - **General/All:** Face-coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- **Drinks & Snacks:** All players, coaches, spectators and umpires should bring their own food or beverages that are clearly labeled with their name. There should not be any shared food or beverages.

- Sunflower seeds, gum, chewing tobacco etc., are not be allowed in dugouts or on the field. All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times.
- **Player Equipment:** Players should use their own equipment whenever possible. The sharing of bats, gloves and batting gloves is forbidden by MBSA.
- **Baseballs/Softballs:** Each team should use their own balls while in the field during game.

EXPOSURE

1. Anyone who comes in direct contact with or lives in the same household of someone who has tested positive for COVID is subject to a 2-week quarantine (14 days from contact). It matters not whether they test positive themselves. We'll refer to that as a first level contact.
2. Anyone who comes into contact with one who has been exposed to or resides in the same household as someone who has tested positive BUT has tested negative themselves is immediately prohibited from participation in any team activity. In order to avoid a full 2-week quarantine they must have a full COVID test - not a rapid test. If the full test provides a negative result, body temperature must be monitored. If they remain without fever for 3 consecutive days, they may resume activities. This we'd refer to as a 2nd level contact and is the grey area that is not as clearly addressed in the town's regulations.

This is likely the most common situation we will find ourselves in and covers the following circumstance: A player attends a game and it is later discovered that someone in his household was positive at the time of that game. Everyone on that team has had a 2nd level contact and must be receive a negative lab test (not rapid) to resume activity. MBSA must be provided with documentation showing the negative result. Please know that all submissions to MBSA will remain confidential.

So long as the opposing team remained properly socially distanced, they are not required to be tested, but they will be notified that there was a 2nd level contact on the opposing team. It is for each family on the opposing team to determine how they wish to proceed

3. In the event of a 2nd level exposure, managers must contact each of the team's families to determine whether all are comfortable with this mildly accelerated approach or whether a full, two week cessation of activities is preferred.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

1. Anybody who has travelled to one of the states on the CDC list of "hot" states may not participate in team activities for 2 weeks (14 days) upon their return. This is the case whether they remained isolated from human contact during their journey or not. This is obviously difficult for us to police, however if pictures appear on social media or other evidence is presented to the league that a member has returned and not waited the full 2-weeks the ramifications will be serious.

Relevant Links:

CDC Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

NJ DEPT of Health Self Check: <https://self.covid19.nj.gov/>

NJ DEPT of Health Information: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>