



Revised May 27,2020

Tournament COVID-19 Guidelines Minimum Standards

Texas Guidelines for Youth Sports

May 31, 2020 - Baseball Practices

Effective May 31, 2020, youth sports may begin holding practices without spectators other than one parent or guardian per participant, as needed.

June 15,2020 – Baseball Games

Those sports may begin holding games or similar competitions, with or without spectators, on or after June 15, 2020. *Spectators should maintain at least 6 feet social distancing from individuals not within the spectator's group.*

The DYB tournament guidelines are our minimum acceptable procedures for the safety of all participants, parents and fans. All health and safety recommendations of the CDC and the local, county and state governments will be adhered to in all tournament play.

Youth Baseball Players and COVID-19

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While the risk of serious illness or loss of life is greatest in those 65 years of age or older with pre-existing health conditions, persons in every age group can become infected with COVID-19 and some may become seriously ill or even die.

With rare exceptions, COVID-19 is not claiming the lives of our children. A child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread that infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

COVID-19 is spread from person to person through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking, and even just breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed. Due to this easy manner of transmission, an infant, child or young person who is infected with COVID-19 can spread the infection to others they come in close contact with, such as members of their household, coaches and players. Infected persons with mild or even no symptoms can spread COVID-19.

Due to these risks, sports organizations such as DYB are adopting and implementing return to play protective measures to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission.

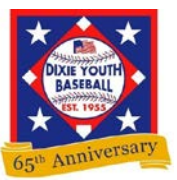
However, such protective measures that we can expect from adults are, for a variety of reasons, simply not possible for children and youth to practice in sporting activities.

All of these factors mean that while certain precautions against the spread of COVID-19 can and will be applied to youth baseball, the infection control measures that can be put in place in these settings will differ from those that are suitable for other social, business and commercial settings.

Parents should monitor the health of their children and not send them to participate in baseball practices or games if they exhibit any symptom of COVID-19. They should seek COVID-19 testing promptly and report results to their team and DYB officials given the implications for other children, families, and staff. Individuals aged 65 or older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. Parents should protect any vulnerable persons who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with individuals who participate in youth baseball. **Risks to Seniors:** Parents or guardians should be aware of the enhanced risks of players being in direct contact or anyone 65 or older for 14 days after participating in a practice or game.

State and Local COVID-19 Guidelines: In addition to these minimum guidelines, you must follow all state and local guidelines as regards COVID-19 and youth sports.

- **Waiver / Release:** The DYB Minor COVID waiver/release form must be signed by all parents. The DYB Adult Waiver/Release form must be signed by all tournament staff, and team coaches, umpires, and volunteers. ([Click Here for DYB Minor COVID-19 Waiver/Medical Release](#)).
- **If COVID Symptoms Exhibited:** If a player or staff member exhibits symptoms during an event, they should immediately be separated and sent home or to a health care facility depending on the severity of the symptoms. They should not be allowed to return to activity until they have met the CDC criteria for discontinuing home isolation. Players, staff, parents, and spectators should be instructed in communications to stay home or at the motel when they are showing signs of COVID-19, have a temperature, or have had close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- DYB will issue a pre-tournament notice sent to all teams, players/parents. The notice will 1) encourage all event attendees to practice social distancing; 2) explain that any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will



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be prohibited from attending the event/venue of play; and 3) make clear that all posted and published local- and state-regulated guidelines shall be followed.

Guidelines for DYB Tournament Host Facilities

- **Daily Screening** - Screen all host staff, concession workers, umpires and DYB officials each day for any signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection.
- **Social Distancing:** All players, coaches, volunteers, staff, and spectators should practice social distancing of 6 feet and are encouraged to wear cloth face covering. Hosts shall follow city, county and state requirements for crowd gatherings and concession stands.
- **Signage:** COVID warning signage must be conspicuously posted at entry, exit, and in bathrooms warning of COVID-19 risks and what steps can be taken to reduce such risks such as social distancing, use of face coverings, and frequent hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer. [\(Click here for Sample COVID-19 Signage Links\)](#). Provide notice to all parents and guardians of the enhanced risks of participants being in direct contact with anyone age 65 or older for 14 days after participating in a sport event or practice.
- **Entrance/Exits** - Spectators should enter and exit at separate locations where possible.
- **Spectator Seating:** Spectators should be seated/standing outside of the playing field along the right and left field lines beyond 1st and 3rd bases and around the outfield fence. No fence will be permitted in the area of the backstop. Tents should be restricted to family members only.
- **Facility Washing / Hand Sanitizer Stations:** The tournament host should provide hand washing and/or hand sanitizer stations throughout the facility and near dugouts.
- **Facility Sanitation:** The tournament host will regularly clean and sanitize all common areas including dugouts, other seating, water fountains, restrooms, concession stands and similar areas between games. The tournament host will also provide cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer near all dugouts.

Concession Stands:

- All concession workers should wear a cloth face covering and gloves.
- Host should mark off 6 ft. spacing for patron lines.
- Concession workers should limit close contact with other workers by maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet, when possible.
- Minimize handling cash, credit cards, and mobile devices, where possible.
- Practice routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, such as workstations, cash registers, touch screens, door handles, tables, and countertops, following the directions on the cleaning product's label.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used, but not as a substitute for cleaning hands with soap and water.
- Key times to clean hands in general include:
 - Before, during, and after preparing food
 - Before eating food
 - After using the toilet
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Additional times to clean hands on the job include:
 - Before and after work shifts
 - Before and after work breaks
 - After touching frequently touched surfaces
 - After interacting with a customer who is visibly ill
 - After putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings
 - After touching objects that have been handled by customers, such as utensils, cups, and trash
 - After touching dirty surfaces like floors, walls and soiled carriers and equipment
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.



Guidelines for Dugouts/Field-of-Play

1. **Pre-game Conference** - The managers meeting at home plate should be limited to one coach from each team plus the umpires while maintaining social distancing.
2. **Dugout and Player Seating:** Only two (2) players MAXIMUM in the dugout at one time, while also following 6 ft. social distancing guidelines at all times. Remaining players and coaches will be seated outside playing field adjacent to their dugouts. Players should not be placed inside fences in foul ball areas. Players will be seated or will stand no less than 6 ft. apart and must have at least one (1) adult coach to watch over the players in this area at all times.
3. **No Contact: No Handshake Policy:** A strict no contact policy will be observed for customary game-related activities such as pre-game coaches' handshakes, umpire-coach-player introductions, and post-game handshakes between members of opposing teams. Instead, officials, players, and coaches should use verbal queues such as tipping their cap or saying "good game", without shaking hands, high-fiving, or fist-bumping. No group gatherings including prayers with both teams on the field.
4. **Personal Hygiene:** Players and adult coaches and tournament volunteers and officials should practice proper hygiene, wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), abstain from touching their face (mouth, nose or eyes), refrain from spitting, and cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw tissue in the trash. In addition, players and adult coaches and officials should carry their own hand sanitizer.
5. **Player's Equipment Sanitation –**
 - **Player Equipment:** Player provided equipment should be kept in a bag and should be spaced to encourage social distancing. Players should bring their own disinfectant wipes to wipe down their own equipment between use.
 - **Shared Equipment:** The use of shared equipment provided by the team such as bats, gloves, fielder's mask, catchers gear, and helmets should be limited to the greatest extent possible and should be disinfected between each use.
 - **Personal Protection Equipment** - Allow players to wear personal protection equipment items if they choose, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game.
6. **Dugout Sanitation –**
 - Require teams to clean their dugout of all trash and other items after each game, and to wipe down (clean) hard surfaces such as benches, bat racks, etc.
 - Upon arriving at a dugout for at the beginning of each game, teams are to disinfect hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, etc.).
7. **Team Coolers Not Allowed** – No team (or host) water/ice coolers will be allowed in the dugouts.
8. **Water Bottles:** No team or dugout coolers should be provided. Parents should provide separate marked water bottles or sports drink not to exceed 64 oz. for their child. Players shall not share water bottles.
9. **Food/Snacks** - Ban the use of sunflower seeds or food in the dugouts.
10. **Team Awards** – There will be on on-field presentation of team awards. All awards will be given to the Team Manager or his designee after leaving the ball fields.

