



Set forth below are the guidelines and best practices Westport Baseball and Softball ("WBS") has developed for play in 2020 with the goal of reducing the likelihood that a participant (player, umpire, coach or fan) spreads COVID-19. Parents of all registered participants, coaches and umpires, will be required to acknowledge, agree and adhere to these guidelines and best practices.

## **GENERAL GUIDANCE**

### **Screening:**

- If a player, coach or umpire feels sick, he or she should remain at home.
- Shortly prior to a player, coach or umpire leaving to travel to an organized baseball or softball activity, such participant, or in the case of a player, his or her parent or guardian, shall check such participant's temperature. If such participant's temperature exceeds 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, he or she is prohibited from attending or participating in the baseball or softball activity and should remain at home.
- Any player, coach or umpire who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or if he or she has had close contact with a person who, or if a member of the household of such player, coach or umpire, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, such individual shall not participate in or attend organized baseball or softball activities for at least 14 days past the point of exposure. Return to play by such participant will be permitted only upon delivery of a written note from a medical provider to WBS' Director of Safety.
- Players, coaches and umpires must observe all CDC guidelines regarding recommended 14-day quarantines following international travel or travel on a cruise ship or river boat.

### **Other:**

- It is strongly recommended that participants travel to practices or games only with members of their immediate household or alone, if possible.
- Players (and families at games) are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to games and practices, and should use immediately after coming in contact with any third parties or common area surfaces or objects.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Try to limit the number of family members in attendance.
- Parents/family members are encouraged to bring their own seats when attending games, but in any event, must space themselves at least 6 feet apart from non-family members in attendance. If a parent or family member sits in the bleachers, he or she must clean the area occupied and the surrounding surface area prior to leaving the field.
- WBS has ordered and will provide to coaches and umpires cloth face coverings. Prior to such provision, coaches and umpires must bring their own.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when within 6 feet from non-family members. Note that the cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing.

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a cloth or tissue, or use the inside of your elbow. Dispose used tissues in the trash, and immediately clean your hands with hand sanitizer.
- All players and coaches shall, and spectators are asked to, refrain from spitting at all times, including in the dugout, on the playing field, or in the spectator areas.

## **ON-FIELD GUIDANCE**

### **Screening:**

- A coach may enlist the assistance of another parent to help with implementing and monitoring these Guidelines
- A player's, coach's or umpire's attendance at an organized baseball or softball activity shall be deemed to be a certification by such participant or in the case of a player, by his or her parent or guardian, that to their knowledge, he or she is healthy, and that he or she does not have a temperature in excess of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A player with a fever or other illness symptoms that manifest during an organized baseball or softball activity will be removed from the activity with his or her equipment and will be asked to sit a reasonable distance from other participants until a parent or guardian takes the child from the field.
- Coaches are encouraged to wear a cloth face covering while in the dugout or on the field when they are within 6 feet of a player or a non-family member.

### **No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebration:**

- Coaches and players should take reasonable measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from huddling, handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
- Teams will line up outside the dugout and tip caps/clap before the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship.
- Players/Coaches/Umpires/Families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game, ideally within 10 minutes. Individuals shall not congregate in common areas or parking lots following an event or practice.

### **Drinks and Snacks:**

- Players, coaches and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- Individuals should take their own drink containers home after each game/practice for cleaning and sanitation, or use single-use bottles.
- There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
- Teams should not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.
- Sunflower seeds and gum will not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing fields, and spectators are asked to refrain from chewing such items in the spectator areas.

### **Dugouts/Player Placement:**

- Coaches will take reasonable measures to distance themselves and players from each other in the dugout, stands or spectator areas behind the field of play fencing so that they are at least 6 feet apart.

- Players are to remain in such designated spots when not in the field or waiting their turn to bat.

### **Player Equipment:**

- All player equipment and gear must be labeled with the player's name.
- Outside of bats and gloves, no additional player bat bags/equipment will be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be kept at least 6 feet apart from other player's equipment, including in his or her designated family space in the spectator areas.
- Players are required to have their own individual glove, batter's helmet, batting glove and bat.
- Measures will be enacted to avoid, or minimize, equipment sharing when feasible.
- Players are not allowed to touch another player's equipment at any time. A bat used by a batter must be retrieved by the batter if an out is recorded or by the on-deck batter if he reaches base, holding it by the barrel.
- If an umpire touches a player's equipment to inspect it, the equipment should be sanitized promptly thereafter
- Coaches in between an inning, prior to a catching change, will sanitize team catcher's equipment.
- Player's equipment (e.g., bags, helmets, bats, gloves, personally owned catcher's equipment etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker.

### **Baseballs and Softballs:**

- The home and away teams will have their own balls. The balls brought to the game by the team on defense will be used when that team is in the field.
- A double base will be used at first base to reduce contact between runners and fielders.
- Umpires should limit their contact with the ball.
- Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should only be retrieved by participating players and coaches. Any ball retrieved by a spectator should be immediately removed from play and sanitized.

### **First Aid, if Needed:**

- A child's parent should administer first aid, should it be needed and the parent is present. One designated adult should be assigned to administer first aid prior to the start of game if a parent of a child is unavailable.
- Coaches/umpires are allowed to perform CPR or provide first aid on any non-related player or spectator should it be required.

## **GAME OPERATIONS AND UMPIRE GUIDANCE**

### **General:**

- Only players, coaches and umpires are permitted on the field and in dugouts.
- Games will be scheduled with a time buffer to prevent overlap of participants.

- Start times will be staggered where no more than half of the complex is changing over at any given time. Games may end in draw if time expires.

### **Pre-Game Plate Meetings:**

- If possible, home plate meetings should be eliminated.
- Social distancing of 6 feet between individuals should be implemented during all pre-game plate meetings between teams and umpires.
- Plate meetings should be limited to only one coach from each team and umpires. No players should ever be a part of a home plate meeting.

### **.Umpires:**

- Home plate umpires are permitted to stand behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes.
- All umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible.
- Umpires are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.

### **Concession Stands:**

- Concession Stands are allowed to open but must follow Sector Rules for Restaurants.
- Sales of only prepackaged food and drink does not have to follow Sector Rules for Restaurants.

### **Compliance; Enforcement:**

- If a player, coach or umpire cannot adhere to these guidelines, please contact WBS' Director of Safety
- If a player refuses to follow these Guidelines following reminders from his or her coach, the coach will remove the player for the remainder of the practice or game and ask the player to sit with his or her family or in their absence, at a reasonable distance from other participants. The coach's decision is final. If, following the practice or game, a parent wishes to discuss, he or she may contact WBS' Player Agent.
- These Guidelines will be shared with coaches of opposing teams that play, and league officials who schedule games, on Westport's fields. Prior to participation, they will be asked by the Westport coach to confirm agreement and compliance with these Guidelines.
- WBS reserves the right to adopt rules to implement these Guidelines or to otherwise address safety.