

West Cobb Girls Softball Return to Play Guidelines and Protocols



West Cobb Girls Softball and Cobb County want to provide a safe place for you and your family to enjoy the game of softball. WCGS has developed a set of park guidelines and protocols along with a set of recommendations for a safe return to play. It will ultimately be up to each coach, player, and family to understand and follow these guidelines and protocols to maintain the safest playing environment possible. These guidelines and protocols are subject to change throughout the season as information regarding COVID-19 becomes readily available to provide the safest environment for all our players and families.

ATTENDANCE AND SELF-MONITORING:

Who should NOT attend WCGS events:

- Anyone with symptoms of fever (above 100.4F), cough, worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19.
- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days should not attend.
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend activities with permission from a medical professional.

Self-Monitoring:

- Wash hands with soap and water prior to leaving the house
- Have hand sanitizer to use when soap and water is not readily available
- Those at high risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending any WCGS events.
- Those at highest risk should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups could include those over 65, individuals with serious underlying medical conditions, or those residing or living in a nursing home or long-term facility.

SAFETY:

Player Safety:

- Each team will assemble (and have with them at all times) a kit supplied with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer to clean hands/equipment between innings.
- Softballs will be rotated or disinfected when out of play and at the end of practices or games.
- Umpires will be instructed to limit their contact with the ball, and players will retrieve foul balls and passed balls when possible.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play will be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. Any ball retrieved by a spectator will be disinfected prior to being put back into play.
- Players, coaches, and parents are not required to wear face coverings. However, it is recommended that face coverings be worn in close contact areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain or if directed by a medical professional.
- Players may wear a face covering on the field during game play if they so desire or are directed by a medical professional.
- Players should bring their own glove, bat, helmet, face mask, hand sanitizer, and water bottle. All equipment should be labeled with the player's name.
- If a player is in need of an individual helmet to use for the season, the head coach will get with the WCGS equipment manager in order to check out a helmet for that particular player to use for that season.
- Player equipment will be placed in individual designated player space- this may be inside or outside the dugout based on space limitations.
- The use of team-shared equipment (e.g. catcher's equipment) should be limited whenever possible and should be sanitized after each use.
- Parents should bring their own hand sanitizer, water bottle, folding chairs, and face coverings as needed.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that their player's equipment (e.g. helmets, gloves, bats, bags, etc) is cleaned and disinfected after each game or practice.

Practices and Game Protocols:

- All players and coaches are asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines while in the dugout and participating in various team activities during practices or games. Bleachers may be needed to space out players to help maintain safe distance guidelines - Bleachers would then be limited to players only.
- Parents and family members must not enter the player areas before, during, or after practices/games including the fields.
- Parents and spectators should bring a chair. Each family unit should space themselves 6 ft. from another family unit.

- Implement a schedule that spaces out practices and games in order for each team to clean and sanitize the dugouts and high touch areas before the next team arrives.
- Only 1 team allowed in the fenced in area for warm ups at a time.
- Only 1 team allowed per batting cage to ensure proper social distancing before games.
- Line-ups will be photographed and exchanged via text.
- Each team limited to 2 coaches in the dugout. Other coaches and parent volunteers will monitor players not in the dugout to ensure social distancing.
- Plate meetings will consist of one coach from each team and game umpires. No players will be allowed to be a part of the plate meeting.

Additional Safety Protocols:

- Players and Coaches will be instructed to take measures to prevent all but essential contact necessary to play the game.
- Players and Coaches are requested to refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, group celebrations, etc.
- There will be no use of shared beverages, snacks, or food. An end of game snack policy with appropriate precautions will be forthcoming and shared with all Head Coaches and Team Moms.
- No eating of food will be allowed in the dugouts.
- Eating sunflower seeds is prohibited.
- Parents and Coaches will ensure chewing gum is disposed of in the appropriate trash receptacles.
- Players, coaches, and umpires are expected to bring or purchase their own personal drinks.
- Drinks and water bottles should remain with one's personal belongings.

West Cobb Girls Softball cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed to Coronavirus during your visit. The CDC advises that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from Coronavirus. Guests should evaluate their own risk in determining whether to attend. People who show no symptoms can spread Coronavirus if they are infected, any interaction with the general public poses an elevated risk of being exposed to Coronavirus. By coming to the park, you acknowledge and agree that you assume these inherent risks associated with attendance.