

MAPLEWOOD INDEPENDENT YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

COVID-19 PHASE II GUIDELINE

(Guidelines are subject to change at any time)

OUTDOOR SPORTS AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES:

- Organizations, businesses, schools and government entities that operate outdoor sports facilities, such as athletic fields, courts and other playing surfaces, outdoor pools, and sailing and boating facilities will be permitted to reopen their premises and facilities to adult sports and supervised youth sport leagues, summer sports camps, and other athletic activities provided that the safety measures outlined below are implemented by facility operators and activity organizers.

ACTIVITIES:

- Outdoor athletic facilities shall be open and available for organized youth and adult sports activities
- Inter-team games, scrimmages, and tournaments shall not be permitted for any organized sports activities.
- Contact sports (e.g., basketball, football, baseball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, hockey and other sports where ordinary play puts players in direct contact or close proximity) must limit activities exclusively to no-contact drills and practices.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

Social Distancing:

- All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces
- Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing
- Provide signage for safe social distancing

Hygiene Protocols:

- Require face coverings or masks for all employees and customers
- Provide hand-washing capabilities throughout the workplace
- Ensure frequent hand washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so
- Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout work site

Staffing and Operations:

- Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols
- Employees who are displaying COVID-19-like symptoms do not report to work
- Establish a plan for employees getting ill from COVID-19 at work, and a return-to work plan

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to the business
- When an active employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed
- Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to said workplace

Social Distancing Detail:

- Programs must separate participants into **groups of no more than 10**, including coaches and staff. Larger playing areas and surfaces, such as athletic fields, may be used by more than one group of 10 at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation can be maintained. To ensure group separation, groups must be **spaced at least 20 feet apart** while sharing a playing surface or field.
- Designated groups of no more than 10 including coaches must be maintained throughout the practice phase.
- Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II and activities must be limited to no-contact drills and training exercises. Contact sports are those where ordinary play puts players into contact or close proximity to one another, and include, without limitation baseball.

Activity Detail:

- Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible. Visitors, spectators, volunteers, and staff must wear face coverings. Operators are encouraged to mark off spectator/chaperone viewing sites to allow for social distancing.
- Spectators/chaperones must practice social distancing including wearing face covering
- Access to equipment storage and office space should be limited to employees only. First aid kits should be available at the playing area or court rather than in an office, where possible.
- Facility managers must set, post, and monitor occupancy limits for bathrooms based on the ability to maintain six-foot social distancing.
- Limited sports activity is allowed for players; players must maintain 6 feet of distance at all times and there should be no contact between players. *If maintaining physical distance is difficult or impossible because of the nature of the sport, coaches should limit players to workouts, aerobic conditioning, individual skill work, and drills.*
- Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II. Contact sports are those where ordinary play puts players into contact or close proximity to one another, and include, without limitation baseball.
- Referees, umpires, and other officials are not required for practices and cannot be present in Phase II.
- Participants and coaches/instructors/counselors must be kept in the same small group (cohorts) with dedicated coaches or other staff
- Spectators must be limited to ensure social distancing on the sidelines or other observation areas. *Spectators of youth sports and youth summer sports camp should be limited to one adult chaperone per athlete.* If social distancing is not possible in the athletic facility spectators may be asked to wait outside the facility until practice is completed. *All spectators must wear face coverings*
- Coaches must be responsible for maintaining social distance among players, coaches, staff, and spectators. Youth chaperones should be encouraged to help their own child maintain distance before and after practice. Youth chaperones must wear face coverings.
- Athletes **should be discouraged** from high fives, fist bumps or other social contact during practice

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Facility Operator Guidance:

- If any equipment is provided by the operator, operators must minimize equipment sharing, and clean and disinfect shared equipment at the end of a practice session using a product from the list of disinfectants meeting EPA criteria for use against the novel coronavirus.
- All facilities must supply employees with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes).
- Operators must post visible signage throughout the site to remind employees and visitors of hygiene and safety protocols.

Activity Organizer Guidance:

- Organizers must ensure that participants use their own personal equipment if not provided by the organizer or facility operator.
- It is required that that every player has his or her own equipment including helmet, bat, gloves, water bottle, and *chair. The sharing of equipment is prohibited. (*Chairs only required for games played when we reach Phase III)
- Organizers must ensure that participants use their own personal equipment if not provided by the organizer or facility operator. Personal equipment may not

be shared and must be dedicated to an individual player throughout the season. Personal equipment includes all gear that is worn by players (e.g., gloves, helmets, masks, skates, footwear, pads, etc.).

- No shared food or drink may be provided during any activities for participants or spectators (e.g., concession stands or team snacks). No use of public water bubblers, fountains or bottle fillers if present on site. Participants and spectators should only drink from their own containers. Organizers must provide individual, dedicated water bottles for children if they do not have their own.
- Participants and coaches must achieve proper hand hygiene at the beginning and end of all activities, either through handwashing with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Organizers should ensure that athletes arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice: *no recreational play or loitering is allowed*, and locker rooms must remain closed. *Teams completing practice should not stay to watch other practices before or after their practice session*
- No participant, fans, chaperones, or coaches allowed in dugouts for practices.
- All equipment bags should be spread-out outside of dugouts
- No batting practice with catcher.
- All players must maintain 6 feet of distance or practice drill is not acceptable

STAFFING AND OPERATIONS

**Operator
Guidance:**

- Operators must ensure that hand sanitizer or hand washing stations are available in indoor facilities for use by players, staff and coaches.
- All high touch surface areas must be sanitized at the end of each activity.
- Operators should log persons (name and phone number or name and email address) who remain on site for a sustained period of time to facilitate contact tracing, including staff, participants, and spectators.
- Operators must post notice to employees, workers, and participants of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in government guidelines.

**Organizer
Guidance:**

- To participate or attend, organizers should ensure that participants, volunteers, coaches, and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days
- If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform organizers and must be removed from the activity and instructed to return home.
- Organizers of activities are responsible for following all guidelines and creating a safe environment for participants.
- Organizers must educate all participants and spectators on the applicable protocols for the relevant activity, protocols for entering/leaving the facility, and any other hygiene requirements.
- Organizers in coordination with operators must ensure that hand sanitizer is available to all players.

Face Coverings:

- Participants may remove face coverings while participating in practice and drills, provided they are able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from all other person's present.
- *Face coverings should otherwise be worn by coaches, volunteers, other staff, officials, youth chaperones, and spectators in accordance with MA guidelines to prevent against the transmission of COVID-19 throughout the duration of the activity.*

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

**Operator
Guidance:**

- Restrooms facilities shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with Centers for Disease Control guidance and best practices linked here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/eea-covid-19-cleaning-of-restrooms-best-practices-5-18-20/download>
- Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.
- Conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, bathrooms).
- In event of a positive case, shut down site for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance

**Organizer
Guidance:**

- Organizers should assess the cleanliness and disinfection protocols being employed at the facility they are using for athletic activity. If cleanliness is low, or any other concerns arise organizer should immediately stop any ongoing athletic activity until such time as operator can show that conditions have been brought up to the standards outlined in this guidance.
- Organizers should understand the cleaning and disinfection protocols employed at the facility they are using and should raise any issues to the operator or local board of health

LOCAL GUIDELINES

**Local League
Guidelines**

- **Personal Responsibilities:** We are asking that if anyone is sick or not feeling well, coaches, players, parents, or spectators, to please stay home. Parents, please check your child's temperature prior to bringing them to practice and games. If your child has a temperature greater than 100.3, please stay home.
- **Social Distancing:** We ask everyone to please adhere to the social distancing guidelines of at least 6' between individual at all times.
- **Waivers:** Every player registered within MIYBL is required to have a waiver filled out and signed by a parent in order to participate this season. This is an absolute requirement which has been set forth by our parent league, Babe Ruth Cal Ripken Baseball. There will be no exclusions.
- **Equipment:** It is required that that every player has his or her own equipment including helmet, bat, gloves, and water bottle. The sharing of equipment is prohibited.
- **Masks:** Face masks are requirement for coaches, manager for practices for phase II or until otherwise changed.
- No high fives or fist bumps or contact between players and coaches is allowed at any time.
- Gum and sunflower seeds are prohibited.
- Players must provide their own drinks.
- Any shared team equipment such as catcher's equipment and baseballs will be sanitized by league coaches as required by our governing body's guidelines. However, we will make every effort not to have shared equipment where possible.

LOCAL FACILITY CHANGES

Facility Changes:

- **Spectator Areas:** In an effort to follow social distancing guidelines, we have made the following changes at both of our facilities. We are asking that all family members and spectators not to use the bleachers as viewing areas. In turn, we have designated "**Spectator Areas**" outside of the outfield fence. All fences are lined with yellow plastic safety tubing which we have always used in the past. We ask that everyone please respect these areas and maintain safe social distancing