



**Catholic Youth Organization**  
*A Division of*  
**Catholic Charities Community Services**  
1011 First Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> FL  
New York, NY 10022  
Phone: 212-371-1000  
[www.cyony.org](http://www.cyony.org)

## **CYO BASEBALL & SOFTBALL**

### **Guidelines & Protocols**

CYO offers the below procedures in order to help ensure the safest possible re-introduction of baseball and softball within the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of the Archdiocese of New York, a division of Catholic Charities Community Services for all regular season & post-season play.

All participants (including coaches, umpires and players) must be notified of the below prior to the start of the season and will be required to expressly agree to endeavor to comply with the same to the best of their ability. [Parish coordinators and team coaches are responsible to have parents of all participants electronically sign the “COVID CODE OF CONDUCT RELATING TO RECREATIONAL/CLUB SPORTS form.”

The NYSDOH has determined that baseball is a moderate risk sport (greatest ability to maintain physical distance and/or be performed individually; greatest ability to (1) avoid touching of shared equipment, (2) clean and disinfect any equipment between uses by different individuals, or (3) not use shared equipment at all).

The following guidelines are to ensure parish and/or school programs participating in CYO baseball/softball (practices and/or competitions) are meeting the standards of safety for everyone involved as well as meet our new public health obligation.

### **Guidelines & Protocols**

- 1) Coaches, players and umpires must adhere to physical six-foot distancing except when the ball is in play.
  - Base coaches must stay six feet away from the baserunner and defensive player
  - It is recommended that each Home team mark off a designated area outside the team’s dugout/bench area in foul territory for players so that six-foot distancing can be maintained. These areas should be considered out-of-play (i.e., foul balls cannot be caught for an out in these areas)
- 2) Contact by players must be avoided on the field of play whenever possible.
- 3) Coaches and umpires must wear face coverings at all times and players must wear face coverings at all times, including when actively participating in the field of play, if physically able to do so, based on guidance from a medical provider or determined by parent/guardian.
  - Participants will be expected to provide their own face coverings.
  - Any coach, umpire or player without a face covering will not be permitted to participate
- 4) No more than two spectators per player are permitted to attend games.
- 5) All spectators must adhere to six-foot physical distances with non-household members. Those observed not adhering to distancing requirements will be asked to comply or leave the premises.



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All spectators must wear a face covering while on the premises. Those not wearing a face covering will be asked to comply or leave the premises.

- Umpires, coaches and parish coordinators (or assigned representatives) reserve the right to suspend the applicable game if spectators continue to fail to adhere to required physical distancing.
- 6) Coaches, players and umpires must conduct symptom self-assessments (self-evaluation) prior to arriving at each event, including the taking of temperature, and anyone experiencing symptoms (fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, etc.) must stay home:
    - Any participant that is exhibiting symptoms, as determined in the reasonable judgment of the coaches, umpires or parish coordinators (or assigned representatives), will be prohibited from participating and asked to leave the premises. If any such Participant is unable to leave (e.g., for lack of a ride, etc.), they will be quarantined from the remainder of the participants in a reasonable manner, under adult supervision, until they are able to leave.
  - 7) Players are recommended to travel alone to a venue or field or only with members of their immediate household.
  - 8) Players, coaches and umpires will be encouraged to use sanitizing wipes, cleansers, etc., between innings on their hands, game balls and other applicable equipment.
  - 9) Shared drinking stations, team water coolers, spitting, eating sunflower seeds and gum chewing is prohibited.
  - 10) There shall be no more than 1 coach and 3 players in any enclosed dugout at any time during the game – additional participants will be required to remain in foul territory in a socially distant manner, under coach/adult supervision at all times.
  - 11) Equipment and belongings should be used only by the individual owner or operator including, but not limited to water bottles, gloves, bats, hats, helmets, catcher's equipment and other on- and off-field gear. Catcher's equipment must be sanitized before another player can use it.
  - 12) Players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans.
  - 13) Game balls must be designated to each team for use while that team is playing defense. Each pitcher will have their own designated ball. Balls must be taken out of play after 2 innings, and replaced with a sanitized ball.
  - 14) A foul ball into the stands may only be retrieved by a current player. If the ball is touched by a fan, the ball must be sanitized before returning to play.



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- 15) Umpires and coaches must avoid exchanging documents (including lineup cards) or equipment with players, other coaches, or spectators.
- 16) The home plate umpire may call balls and strikes from a position between the pitcher and 2nd base (6 feet behind the pitcher) or from no less than 6 feet behind the catcher.
- 17) Each Coach is responsible for the conduct of their team/party in the compliance with these policies during practice and competition. In the event the conduct of their team/party is not complying, they should address immediately. It is recommended, that each team designate their own team safety officer, to ensure compliance with the foregoing.
- 18) Each Home team should supply hand sanitizer and wipes for player and spectator use.

### Guiding Resources

- NYSDOH guidance ([Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation](#))
- CDC, Considerations for youth sports:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- NYSPHSAA Return to Interscholastic Athletics: <http://nysphsaa.org/COVID-19-Info>
- New York Forward: <https://forward.ny.gov/>
- NYSDOH facility ([Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#))

*All information in the above letter is based on current and anticipated conditions and is subject to change depending on real time conditions and governmental guidance/mandates.*

*This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to replace, change or supplement any of the state issued guidance. Participants should always follow and refer to the state issued Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation (August 15, 2020) and the Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools (August 26, 2020) as well as federal, state and local health guidance for any specific questions. This information may change depending on current situations.*