



COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

UPDATED 9/17/2020

Due to the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, the Pete Kokinis Baseball League is instituting some additional mandatory rules and guidelines for the 2020 fall season. These rules are to instill an environment of safety and compliance with local towns and health districts. We are being proactive to stay in line with rules local towns may require, and hope to share these with all parties as soon as possible. For your team to play this season, all coaches must review and agree to these rules.

1. **WAIVERS:** All coaches and players must sign our regular waiver and the separate COVID-19 waiver, or they are not allowed to practice or play.
2. **SELF-ASSESS:** All players, coaches, and spectators are required to self-assess before games. If you are sick for ANY reason, you are not allowed at a game.
3. **SOCIAL DISTANCING:** Baseball by nature socially distanced for the most part, but some restrictions for player and coach safety must be put into place.
 - a. Dugouts/Benches: At fields where there are closed dugouts or team benches, we are restricting the bench to Coaches, and, if the team is batting, the on-deck batter and the next two batters in the lineup, who must sit at least 6 feet apart. At some fields, the dugouts will be closed completely.
 - b. Players must bring their own folding chair, and sit a minimum of 6 feet apart from other players when not in the game or actively playing
 - c. When at a field with stadium seating, players can sit in the stands at a minimum of 6 feet from other players and spectators
 - d. Team meetings, before or after games, must be held in the outfield with appropriate spacing between participants
 - e. No team meetings in between innings
4. **NO SHARING OF EQUIPMENT:**
 - a. All players must have their own equipment, helmets, bats, gloves, catcher's gear, batting gloves, bat weights, rosin bags, towels, etc. prior to the start of the game.
 - b. No team equipment bags. Everyone must bring their own gear and leave with it.
 - c. No team drinks or snacks. Everyone must bring their own.
5. **SANITAZATION:**
 - a. All players should have their own hand sanitizer, and we ask they use it AFTER EVERY INNING, especially after touching the baseball.
 - b. The use of candy, chewing gum, and/or sunflower seeds is not permitted by players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
 - c. The team in the field will provide baseballs to the pitcher as needed. The umpires are instructed not to handle baseballs.
 - d. SCOREBOOK & PENCIL: The designated scorekeeper (coach or player) will handle the scorebook for each team. Do not share this job. If this is adhered to, there is no need to sanitize the scorebook.
 - e. Coaches are asked to bring wipes with them, and wipe down common areas quickly prior to and after each game. This is a State rule. It does not have to be in depth, but be sure to hit common spots, handrails, gate handles, etc.

- f. **BASEBALLS:** Coaches are asked to sanitize used baseballs after each game or practice. Give them a spry of Lysol or similar. This is a health district and State guideline.
- 6. **UMPIRES:** For the safety of the Umpires and catchers, home plate umpires will be positioned behind the pitcher, and call balls and strikes from there. This rule is from the Umpire Boards.
- 7. **MASKS:**
 - a. **Players:** We recommend masks for anyone that wants to wear one while playing. While in the field, masks are not required. **IF YOU ARE NOT IN THE GAME, PLEASE WEAR A MASK.**
 - b. **Coaches:** If in or around the dugout area, if you cannot maintain social distancing, wear a mask. Base Coaches must wear masks. Coaches visiting the mound must wear masks.
- 8. **HANDSHAKES/CELEBRATIONS:** No team handshakes at home plate after games or in pre-game umpire meetings. High Fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations are prohibited. Observe social distancing at the pre-game umpire meeting.
- 9. **FANS:** Spectators are allowed, but we ask coaches to discourage large crowds at games. Families that live together may sit in close contact, but groups must socially distance at least 6 feet apart in their own seats. At fields with seating, fans should sit a minimum of every other row and give 6 feet to either side.
- 10. **SOCIAL GATHERING OUTSIDE OF FIELDS:** Please follow any current social distancing guidelines at set forth by the State or Local authorities.
- 11. **CONDUCT:** If people are in deliberate violation of these rules, they will be suspended for the 2020 season.

For everyone's safety, we are dependent on everyone to adhere to these rules. We write them with common-sense in mind, and we are here to help you be organized and successful. We do not have all the answers as the landscape is consistently shifting. We will adjust these rules as State and Local authorities dictate.