York County Oldtimers Baseball League

COVID-19 Action Plan and Guidelines for 2020 Season

The York County Oldtimers Baseball League (YCOBL) is currently making preparations for its 30th Anniversary season, with the intention of having our customary 10-game schedule that begins on Sunday, September 13 and concludes on or around Sunday, November 8. As we make these preparations, however, we are fully aware that a “normal” season – or a season at all, for that matter – may not be possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing mitigation efforts put in place by federal, state, and local officials. So, while we are hoping to play a full season with as little disruption as possible, the YCOBL is issuing the following guidelines and recommendations to its players, officials, and spectators.

* First and foremost, all federal, state, and local mandates must be followed, including but not limited to mandatory restrictions on outdoor gathering sizes.
* All players are required to sign the updated registration waiver, indicating that there is inherent risk in playing organized baseball that includes not only potential bodily injury but also illness, and that players will not hold the league, its officials, its participants, or the owners/lessors of premises responsible for any such injuries or illnesses.
* The league requests that any players feeling ill, residing with an ill individual, or who have recently traveled to designated hot spots, self-quarantine and DO NOT attend games.
* While it is understood that the game of baseball requires close contact at times, the league will ask players and spectators to follow existing CDC-recommended social distancing guidelines by staying at least six feet apart as much as possible before, during, and after games.
* Players may sit in designated dugout areas during games. However, in order to maintain social distancing guidelines, players are encouraged to bring their own chairs and/or use areas outside of the dugout for sitting or storing their personal items and equipment.
* Handshakes, fist bumps, high-fives, etc., will be discouraged both among teammates and with opponents. The traditional post-game handshake line will not be permitted.
* The league will ask all players and spectators to follow Department of Health and CDC protocols by wearing a mask to and from playing fields. Players will not be required to wear masks while on the diamond but may do so if they wish.
* There will be a zero tolerance policy for any player or spectator making negative comments or shaming individuals relating to their choice to wear masks or other personal protective equipment.
* Players will be encouraged to bring their own personal baseball gear and protective equipment in order to limit contact. League-provided equipment (helmets, bats, catchers gear) will continue to be provided for players who do not have their own, but those using it do so at their own risk. League officials will wipe down all shared league equipment before, after, and between games.
* The league will provide hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes in both dugouts and in the spectator areas at all fields. Participants are also encouraged to bring and use their own personal disinfectant items.
* The use of chewing tobacco, sunflower seeds, and like items will be prohibited in order to limit spitting on and around playing areas.
* Players will be asked to dispose of their own trash items. Managers and league officials will be responsible for making sure no trash items remain in dugouts or public areas.
* Managers of each team are charged with the responsibility of communicating these guidelines to their respective teams and to make persons aware when guidelines are not being followed.

Our goal in 2020 is to continue playing the sport that we love while also making every effort to keep participants and spectators safe. This requires the cooperation of ALL players, managers, and league officials. We ask everyone to use their best judgment and let common sense prevail. If you feel sick, stay home. If you do not feel safe playing baseball at this time, do not play. And most importantly, respect others at all times. Be safe, stay healthy, and look out for each other.

Scott Meckley

YCOBL Commissioner