

Lawrence Parks & Recreation Baseball/Softball Guidelines

The following protocols & recommendations will be in place for youth baseball and softball games for the 2020 summer season. The purpose of this information is to provide as best as possible, a safe environment at the Sports Complexes and to comply with local government mandates

SAFETY PROTOCOLS:

1. Dugouts – The teams will be allowed to use dugouts for equipment storage. No more than 3 players and a coach will be allowed in the dugout at a time. The bleachers will be an extension of the dugout for the remaining players socially distanced 6ft apart.
 - Ice Field will have players in the dugout and the rest lined up against the fence in foul territory socially distanced 6ft apart.
 - Parents will be encouraged to bring their own chairs and sit down the lines and beyond the outfield fences.
 - i. Limited bleacher seating will be available on Ice Field. Parents are asked to adhere to socially distancing when sitting on the Ice Field Bleachers.
2. Warmups – teams must maintain the 6 ft social distancing guidelines before, during & after warmups.
3. No team huddles. Communication with the team needs to follow social distancing guidelines
4. At the conclusion of the game, no handshakes. Instead, teams should line up on the first and third baselines and give a tip of the cap to their opponents. This act of sportsmanship should be initiated by the coaches & umpires.
 - Teams should clear the field and dugout areas at the conclusion of the game, so the next games can start on time.
 - Any post game meetings with players can be done in the parking lots
5. Practices – Teams will be asked to clear the field in a timely matter at the conclusion of practice in order for the next team to start on time.
 - If a team is practicing before you, your team will go to the opposite dugout and begin practice once the other team has cleared the field.
6. Bathrooms will be open and cleaned before the 1st games of the day/night.
7. During weather delays all players and parents will need to go to their cars. The head coach or a representative for each team may remain in the complex to alert their team when it's safe to return to the field.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The wearing of face covering is encouraged for spectators at the Sports Complex. Players, coaches and staff may wear face coverings if they choose. Face coverings may be homemade, or store bought.
2. Participants should wash/sanitize their hands and equipment after each game.
3. Teams are encouraged to provide and display hand sanitizer for their team for use before, during and after the game.
4. Social distancing is recommended whenever possible. Teams are encouraged not to gather as a group within close proximity of one another for pre or post game meetings.
5. Once your games have concluded, please leave the Sports Complex. Do not remain to watch other games.
6. We strongly encourage those individuals who are at high risk (Senior Citizens and those with underlying medical requirements) to avoid the ballpark.
7. All participants, fans and staff are encouraged to look for any signs of illness and do not come to the Sports Complex if you are showing any symptoms of Covid 19.

RULE CHANGES:

1. Pre-game meeting with umpires should be held with 6 ft social distancing guidelines
2. To assist with social distancing guidelines with catchers, umpires on player pitch games will be located behind the pitcher's mound to call balls/strikes. They will rotate to "normal" position when the ball is put in play.
3. Coaches will operate pitching machines as normal. Proper hand sanitization is recommended.
4. Base coaches are allowed as normal. Social distancing rules apply
5. Offensive conferences are allowed per normal rules. Social distancing rules apply
6. Coaches will be allowed to meet with their pitcher for a conference per normal rules. Social distancing rules apply.
7. In the event of an injury – only the coach or parent may attend to the player unless medical attention is required.
8. Coaches may request a time out to talk to an umpire. Social distancing rules apply.
9. Uniform rules will be relaxed this season. Teams are encouraged to have the same color jersey with a number.