

PORTAGE PARK BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC

YOUTH BASEBALL AND ADULT SOFTBALL

The Portage Park Baseball Association (PPBA) is fully committed to supporting and following the City of Chicago’s Phase 4 Be Safe Industry Guidelines for Parks and Outdoor Attractions. To this end, PPBA has established the following Safe Return to Practice & Play Guidelines which have been issued to the PPBA Community to be implemented for all practices and games. These Guidelines are made part of, and do not replace, the 2020 rules for baseball and softball and may be supplemented from time to time.

**All PPBA coaches, players, umpires, volunteers, families and members of the PPBA Community are expected to comply with these Guidelines**. **Failure to comply with these Guidelines may result, at the PPBA Board’s discretion, in disciplinary action including, but not limited to prohibiting individual(s) from participating in PPBA activities.**

ALL PARTICIPANTS - WAIVER

All Participants (players, coaches, and PPBA umpires) are not required to sign a PPBA Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Form as upon registration this was already done. These guidelines are an extension of that waiver. Acceptance is by voluntary participation in the park, practices, games and any other PPBA community activities.

ALL PARTICIPANTS - HEALTH

1. All Participants and all members of the PPBA Community (including parents/guardians and spectators) should have their temperature checked at home prior to attending practice or games.

2. Anyone experiencing COVID19 symptoms are recommended to contact their primary physician for further evaluation and follow all CDC COVID19 guidelines.

3. Coaches should ask parents and/or players if they are currently exhibiting COVID19 symptoms and if anyone in their household has been diagnosed with the virus since the last team gathering.

4. Coaches should notify league commissioner of any Participant with fever or noticeable COVID 19 symptoms and should isolate them immediately.

5. All Participants should adhere to 6 foot social distancing practices except when actively participating in field.

6. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A FACE COVERING WITHIN REACH AT ALL TIMES.

7. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS EXCEPT WHEN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE FIELD OF PLAY.

8. All Participants should wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before participating. All Participants should bring their own hand sanitizer and sanitize regularly.

9. All participants should bring their own source of water and should not share. No team snacks allowed.

10. No spitting or eating seeds, gum, other similar products in the field or in the dugouts.

PRACTICE & GAME - REQUIREMENTS & LIMITATIONS

1. COACHES SHOULD MONITOR THEIR TEAMS TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING, FACE COVERING AND THESE GUIDELINES ARE IMPLEMENTED DURING PRACTICES & GAMES.

2. Teams may practice and play games as a full team. Allowable limit of 50 Participants including coaches, players and umpires (but excluding spectators).

3. COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP AN ATTENDANCE LOG OF ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR EVERY PRACTICE AND GAME.

4. All practices and games are required to be scheduled in advance and assigned by official PPBA league commissioner. No impromptu practices for teams shall be allowed on any of the baseball diamonds.

5. Practices should be staggered and scheduled with a minimum of 15-20 minutes between practices to minimize contact with other teams.

6. Game Time Completion: Until further notice all games are limited to a strict 2-hour limit. T-ball and 8-ball are restricted to a 1-1/2 hour limit. At games end, coaches need to instruct players to gather all their belongings and exit the dugout to have their postgame meeting at a location that is not on or near the field in order to make room for the next team to prepare for the next games start.

7. Game Time Arrival: Participants should not arrive to the fields more than 15 minutes before assigned game time.

8. Coaches should conclude practice promptly at their end time to allow for all Participants and members of the PPBA Community to leave area before next team arrives.

9. Participants should not congregate in common areas or parking lot following practices and games.

10. All practices should be contactless between Participants.

11. No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, celebrations, and other physical contact with coaches, teammates & opposing team. A “tip the cap” can be used following the practice or game in lieu of a handshake line or all-hands huddle.

12. Full Teams should not gather in the dugouts. Coaches can utilize dugouts so long as 6 foot social distancing measures can be achieved and maintained.

13. To practice social distance guidelines players are permitted to sit/stand in area behind or near dugouts. Players can bring own chairs and set up outside of dugout.

SPECTATORS – BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

1. Parents/guardians or other members of the PPBA Community are discouraged from attending practices. Anyone who attends should maintain

a. 6 foot social distance from others outside own household, and

b. 30 feet of social distance from team practice.

2. Spectators attending games should adhere to 6 foot social distancing guidelines from other spectators outside own household.

3. Spectators are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times and are required to wear face coverings in accordance with the City of Chicago guidelines.

4. Spectators are not permitted in the areas behind home plate, around the dugouts or in seating located in close proximity to dugouts or other designated areas.

5. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs and seating.

6. Spectators should sit or stand in the outfield out-of-play foul territory located beyond 1st and 3rd base.

EQUIPMENT – BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

1. Participant’s equipment should be separated by at least 6 feet from other Participants’ equipment in the area outside of the dugout along their side of the field.

2. Participants should use only their own equipment as much as practical.

3. Shared team equipment should be wiped down between uses (excluding softballs & baseballs).

4. Home teams will provide 2 baseballs, one for the home team and one for the visiting team.

PPBA UMPIRES – GUIDELINES

1. PPBA UMPIRES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS EXCEPT WHEN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE FIELD OF PLAY.

2. PPBA UMPIRES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A FACE COVERING WITHIN REACH AT ALL TIMES.

3. PPBA Umpires should observe 6 foot social distance guidelines from all Participants including during pre-game meeting with coaches.