



2020 Return to Play Guidelines

Additional Guidance for Managers and Coaches

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Additional Manager/Coach Guidelines for 2020 Season

Guidance for running a safe practice

1. Coaches must arrive and be on the field at least 5-10 minutes ahead of planned start time to help manage players getting their equipment placed in the correct spots and to make sure kids socially distance.
2. Coaches must keep track of attendance for each practice.
3. For *practices only*, players are to place their equipment just inside the fence using the entirety of the 1st and 3rd base lines. Space out players at least 6-10 feet apart along the fence. No player is to come in contact with another player's equipment.
4. Assign one coach to get the kids started with warm-ups as soon as they get their equipment situated to avoid the kids from congregating.
5. We strongly recommend that you have enough coaches for each practice to split the kids into separate groups of four or five. For Sedgwick, you could ideally run one group working in the infield, 1 group in the outfield and 1 group in the batting cages.
6. Please refrain from lining the players up in the outfield or infield and hitting fly balls/grounders to them, as this presents to easy an opportunity to break social distancing. When hitting ground or fly balls, players should be spaced out across the field.
7. In an email to parents before you conduct your first practice, managers/coaches should provide very specific guidance as to where the players should be dropped off, where they should set up equipment, and make sure that they drop their gear in the appropriate spot.
8. Managers should instruct parents to make sure they are on time to pick up players from practice, so players aren't hanging around as other teams arrive.
9. Have a detailed practice plan prepared before practice so that you can keep the players active and moving so as to limit their time hanging around each other where social distancing might not occur.
10. We strongly recommend against utilizing catchers during batting practice on the field. Instead, use an L-screen at Sedgwick or the backstop to serve as a catcher.
11. Remind all players to bring their own water bottles. There will be no sharing of water bottles or food.

Guidance for games

1. Coaches and safety coordinators must arrive 5-10 minutes before requested arrival time for each game.
2. Coaches must send out an email as to where players should be dropped off for warmups if they intend to hold warmups anywhere other than their assigned game field. Pregame warm ups should follow the same approach as practice to ensure proper distancing between players.
3. Coaches must keep track of attendance for each game.
4. Coaches should assign each player a spot in their designated "dugout" area as they arrive to place their equipment and to use for the game. Managers also should consider setting up an assignment system ahead of time based on uniform numbers so that there is continuity from game to game.
5. Warm ups must occur in the outfield grass of the field on which teams are scheduled to play. If playing at Sedgwick, warm ups should take place in the soccer field area north of Sedgwick A field or along East Avenue if these locations are not being used by others. **For games at Sedgwick, players cannot warm up in the grassy area between the two fields or in the area next to the batting cages between B Field and the Babe Ruth field.**
6. At Sedgwick, coaches should not send more than 3 players at a time out to the batting cage during warmups to limit the number of players waiting around the cage. Players waiting to hit should sit and wait in assigned area to maintain proper spacing.
7. All coaches must have masks on their person at all times (they can be worn or in the coach's pocket), in the event they cannot maintain proper social distance for a period of time during the game or in case a player gets injured and they need to attend to the player immediately.
8. Coaches must wear masks for mound visits, when they are serving as umpire, and for all meetings with umpires.
9. Coaches should not hang up a lineup on the dugout, as this likely will create opportunities where distancing is no longer maintained.
10. One coach must remain in the dugout area at all times to help manage the batting order, relay their positions for each inning, to help the safety coordinator and help make sure kids get on and off the field in a timely fashion, properly distanced from each other.
11. Only in exceptional and rare circumstances should coaches utilize more than two catchers per game. Catcher also should play the position for consecutive innings. **Equipment must be sanitized before changing catchers.**
12. Each team will provide games balls that their team will use on defense. When your team comes off the field, the ball should be handed to the coach for use the following inning when on defense.
13. No fist bumps, high fives, shaking hands or hugging before, during or after the game.
14. Remind all players to bring their own water bottles to games. There will be no sharing of water bottles or food.

How to come on and off the field

1. Managers/coaches should instruct players to jog off the field and go straight to your assigned equipment/seating area.
2. We will not maintain a specific protocol as to how you should direct players to come off the field, but please identify a program for your players that will ensure that they properly space before coming off the field.
3. Have a coach and safety coordinator responsible for watching the players as they come off the field to make sure that they stay socially distanced until they reach their seating area.

Safety coordinator responsibilities

1. Managers must assign four parents from the team who will serve as safety coordinators. These four positions must be identified and communicated to the VP of each division by **Friday July 24**. These positions will count as a parent's volunteer commitment. **Teams cannot play the game if there isn't a safety coordinator present for each team.**
 - a. There should only be one safety coordinator for each game, so the manager must coordinate the schedule with their safety coordinators. We strongly recommend that you provide the four coordinators with a game schedule and obtain their commitment as to the games they will cover. Please also encourage these four coordinators to work together to discuss best practices for the position and in the event one needs to switch a game with another.
 - b. The safety coordinator must sit in the area of the players, socially distanced and with a mask on while the players are in their assigned areas. The coordinator does not need to wear a mask when the players are on defense in the field.
 - c. Responsibilities of the safety coordinator include:
 - i. Making sure players remain socially distanced while in their assigned area.
 - ii. Clean game balls at the direction of the coach, which may occur from time to time.
 - iii. Sanitize catcher's mask and gear between player usage using the bleach spray bottle and rag.
 - iv. Distribute hand sanitizer to the team every inning they come off the field. We strongly recommend that, at a minimum, the pitcher and catcher use hand sanitizer when they come off the field after the inning.

- v. With the bleach spray, sanitize regularly-touched parts of the facilities (e.g., gate handles, poles just inside the gate entry that players are likely to touch) every 2 innings while the players are in the field. Also spray and wipe down any gates that players touch.

In the event of a rain delay

If rain delays the game, players and coaches are to head immediately to their respective cars. Players should be directed to their parents, who in turn should go to their own car. Managers should stay in touch with players through the Team Manager application, which allows messaging between team members.