**VBALL/Beck Fields Covid-19 Protocol**

**Appendix L of the Safety Manual and Operating Handbook**

**Date: June 10, 2020**

**Arrival to Field**

**Mandatory**

* **Participants, spectators, and volunteers must adhere to six-foot physical distancing while at the fields.**
* Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
* No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.
* Game balls must be designated to each team for use while that them is playing defense.
* These requirements must be shared prior to the games/practices with all players, coaches, spectators, officials, and volunteers.

**Recommended Best Practices**

* Lineups should be entered online or by spoken word and recorded by officials/umpires without exchanging any physical documents with coaches or players
* Athletes are strongly recommended to travel to the fields alone or with a member of their immediate household.

**Practice**

**Mandatory**

* **Coaches and players must adhere to physical six-foot distancing except when the ball is in play.**
* Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
* No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.

**Recommended Best Practices**

* Coaches should wear face coverings at all times.
* Athletes should wear face coverings at all times while not actively participating in the field of play.
* Face coverings are strongly recommended for any spectators.
* For each practice session, it is recommended that coaches divide players into groups and establish rotating shifts when possible.
* Athletes should bring individual water containers.
* Virtual meetings should be considered when possible.
* Athletes are strongly recommended to travel to the fields alone or with a member(s) of their immediate household, if possible. Face coverings are strongly recommended for individuals traveling to and from the fields when riding with someone outside of your immediate household.
* Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between users.

**Athletes**

**Mandatory**

* **Must adhere to physical six-foot distancing off the field of play.**
* Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
* Must not share water or equipment. Belongings should be used by the individual owner or operator including, but not limited to water bottles, gloves, bats, hats, and other on- and off-field gear.
* No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans. A “tip the cap” can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.

**Recommended Best Practices**

* Should wear face coverings at all times when not actively participating in the field of play.
* Hand washing or hand sanitizing, in the absence of soap and water, are strongly recommended for athletes during the games.
* Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between users.
* Consider prohibiting spitting, eating seeds, gum, or other similar products.

**Spectators**

**Mandatory**

* **Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices.**
* Must conduct daily symptom assessments. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
* Must not enter player areas (on the field of play or bench areas).
* Must keep six-feet or more distance from the backstop.

**Recommended Best Practices**

* Strongly recommended to wear face coverings at all times.
* Hand washing or hand sanitizing, in the absence of soap and water, are strongly recommended during the games.

**Coaches**

**Mandatory**

* **Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices.**
* Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
* No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans. A “tip the cap” can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.
* Must ensure that players are following COVID-19-related prevention measures included herein.

**Recommended Best Practices**

* Should wear face coverings at all times.
* Coaches should ensure the players are adhering to social distancing in dugouts and other seating areas and wearing face coverings while not actively participating on the field of play.
* Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between users.
* Consider prohibiting spitting, eating seeds, gum, or other similar products.

**Umpires/Officials**

**Mandatory**

* **Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices when interacting with players, coaches, and spectators off the field of play.**
* Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
* Umpires should adhere to social distancing practices when interacting with players, coaches, and spectators off the field of play.
* Must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with players, coaches, or spectators.

**Recommended Best Practices**

* Should wear face coverings at all times.
* Umpires calling balls and strikes should allow adequate distance behind the catcher while still able to perform their duty.

**Leaving the Fields**

**Mandatory**

* Individuals should not congregate in common areas or parking lot following the games or practices.
* Individuals should not exchange items.

**Recommended Best Practices**

* Team meetings should occur virtually or over the phone rather than in a team huddle
* Athletes are strongly recommended to travel to the fields alone or with a member(s) of their immediate household, if possible. Face coverings are strongly recommended for individuals traveling to and from the fields when riding with someone outside of your immediate household.
* Team meals should only occur in compliance with the guidelines issued for restaurants in the state of Michigan.

**Confirmed Cases**

**Mandatory**

* Immediately isolate ad seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
* Contact the local health department about suspected cases or exposures.