



COOPERSTOWN YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL Where Baseball Begins

2021 SAFETY PLAN

Cooperstown Youth Baseball and Softball
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OVERVIEW

The goal of Cooperstown Youth Baseball and Softball (CYB) for our season remains the same as always: provide a **fun and safe experience** to all families that participate in our program.

However, as you have experienced since the spring of 2020, things are still different than a “normal” season.

To have a successful season we need to/have to execute this **SAFETY PLAN** together.

This will be a team effort to execute, and will involve everyone - the board, coaches, players, parents, and fans. The safety and care for our program, community and future generation of ballplayers depends on us doing the right (and respectful) thing for the well-being of others.

MANDATORY GUIDELINES

Every individual involved in the 2021 season including, but not limited to coaches, players, volunteers, umpires and spectators, must abide by these mandatory guidelines while participating in all CYB activities.

- If you or a member of your household are sick, please stay home.
- If you or a member of your household becomes sick with COVID-19, notify your head coach and the president of Cooperstown Youth Baseball immediately.
- If a player has been asked to quarantine from potential exposure at school then they should not participate in any CYB activities until that quarantine period has ended. Please notify your head coach and the president of Cooperstown Youth Baseball immediately, if a classroom exposure affected your child(ren).
- Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health. **3**
- Ensure 6 ft. distance between individuals at all times, whether indoors or outdoors, unless safety or core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. It is the expectation of CYB that all individuals will wear face coverings. Coaches, trainers, and/or other individuals who are not directly engaged in activity are also required to wear face coverings. **1**

- Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and nose. **2**
- Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use and may not be shared. Please consult the CDC guidance for additional information on cloth face coverings and other types of PPE, as well as instructions on use and cleaning. **2**
- No more than 2 spectators per player will be allowed at practices and/or games. **1**
- Frequently wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching surfaces (gate latches, dugout fencing, etc.)
- No spitting, eating of sunflower seeds, or chewing of gum on the premises.
- Follow appropriate respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (i.e. cough and sneeze into your arm/elbow) **2**
- When parking on the premises, please use best efforts to park with one parking place in between another vehicle.

COACHES GUIDELINES

Only coaches approved and verified by the CYB board are permitted to be on the field during a practice and/or game. Though the interest in helping is appreciated, all other individuals including parents/guardians, siblings and others that want to volunteer but have not been approved must remain at appropriate spectator locations.

In addition to the **MANDATORY GUIDELINES**, coaches must:

- Have a limit of only (3) approved coaches per team at select divisions.
- Wear a mask at all times: before, during and after practices and/or games while in the presence of participants and their families, regardless of physical distance. **2**
- Clean/disinfect any shared team equipment (i.e. catcher's gear) before and after each practice/game). Divisions that require catcher's gear will be assigned two sets per team. The coach is responsible for assigning **ONLY** two players use of the equipment for each practice and/or game (players must only use the set assigned to them during the duration of the activity).

- Strongly discourage the use of shared bats/helmets. If shared, ensure that the ballplayers use hand sanitizer frequently and that the helmet is wiped down with a disinfect wipe before its next use.
- Clean/disinfect high touch surfaces before and after games/practices.
- Be responsible for the game ball (hold/manage supply during the game). This will be the responsibility of the home team coach.
- Create physical distance between players when explaining drills or the rules of the game. **3**
- Arrange players at least six feet apart in all directions, to the greatest extent possible, particularly during field exercises, drills, and other practice activities. **2**

PLAYER GUIDELINES

All CYB ballplayers must adhere to these guidelines at all times during practices and/or games.

In addition to the **MANDATORY GUIDELINES**, players must:

- Wear PPE when not on the field (i.e. in the dugout area, along the fence(s), near all spectators, etc.).
- Use their own glove and batting gloves only. No exceptions. The sharing of gloves is not acceptable. If using a catchers glove, the player is required to wear a batting glove on their glove hand.
- Use their own bat and helmet. If you do not have a bat and/or helmet, please ensure that it has been cleaned/disinfected before it is used.
 - Please let CYB know if you do not have your own helmet. Every effort will be made to provide one on loan for the 2021 season to each player in need at the Tee Ball, Rookie, Minors, Majors and Softball divisions.
- Bring their own beverage/snack(s) and do not share with others.
- Retrieve ALL foul balls. Spectators will not be allowed to touch/retrieve any baseball.
- No unnecessary physical contact is allowed, such as high fives, handshakes, fist bumps, or hugs. **3**

- Not use catcher's equipment unless catching responsibilities have been assigned to them during practice and/or a game. Once assigned to a player, it is only to be used by that individual during the duration of the activity.

UMPIRE GUIDELINES

Hired umpires will be used during MAJORS Baseball and Softball games only. Coaches will umpire during MINORS games.

In addition to the **MANDATORY GUIDELINES**, umpires must:

- Call the game from behind the pitcher's mound on the grass. Base umpires (if utilized) will keep an appropriate social distance in set-up positions.
- Not handle baseballs. Coaches from the home team will be responsible for game balls.
- Past balls and all foul balls will be retrieved by players.
- Pre-game player's equipment check is visual only.

SPECTATOR GUIDELINES

In addition to encouraging your ballplayer, it is important to cheer on your child's team. Just as important is the model of sportsmanship to the other team, as well as respecting other spectators during the current environment.

In addition to the **MANDATORY GUIDELINES**, spectators must:

- No more than 2 spectators per player.
- Bring their own seats and sit along the outfield fencing in a safe social distance from others. Spectators can always watch practices and/or games from their vehicle.
- Not retrieve foul balls. The players will be responsible for retrieving any baseball or softball that goes into a spectator area.

- Maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals and/or family/household units at all times and all spectators must wear face coverings when they are in common areas and situations where six feet of distancing is not able to be maintained, so long as they are over the age of two and medically able to tolerate such covering. **2**
- Among all spectators, CYB cannot exceed the gathering limit that is currently in place for the region. **2**
- Limit the use of carpools or van pools. When riding in an automobile to a sports event, encourage players to ride to the sports event with persons living in their same household. **3**
- (OPTIONAL) Provide name and contact information so they can be logged and contacted for contact tracing, if necessary. **2**

EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

These guidelines must be followed at all times in both practice and/or games.

- Shared use of equipment recommendation from New York State:
 - Limited ability to:
 - (1) avoid touching of shared equipment,
 - (2) clean and disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals, or
 - (3) not use shared equipment at all. **1**
 - CYB requests that every player use their own helmet and bat. If a player does not have one or either of these items, every effort will be made to provide one to the ballplayer and/or the equipment used must be disinfected after each use.
- Fielding and batting gloves should not be shared in any scenario.
- Equipment bags are to be placed outside of the dugout and separated by at least six feet from each other.
- Warm-up baseballs and softballs between innings must be the same ball each inning OR if unsure, it must be disinfected before use.

- Divisions that require catcher's gear will be assigned two sets per team. The coach is responsible for assigning ONLY two players use of the equipment for each practice and/or game (players must only use the set assigned to them during the duration of the activity). At the conclusion of the practice and/or game, coaches must clean/disinfect all catcher's equipment items.

DUGOUT GUIDELINES

These guidelines must be followed at all times in both practice and/or games.

In addition to the **MANDATORY GUIDELINES**, those in the dugout(s) must adhere to the following:

- Only (1) coach inside the dugout at a time.
- A maximum of (2) players inside the dugout at a time.
- Instead of using the dugout during game situations, players will be assigned places along the fence (at Beanie) or down the foul line (on the Hartwick Field).
- Fencing, benches, gate latches and field rakes must be cleaned/disinfected after each practice and/or game using a Lysol/water mix that will be provided in a spray bottle.

CLUBHOUSE GUIDELINES

CONCESSIONS:

- Concessions will be closed for the duration of the 2021 season.

EQUIPMENT STORAGE:

- Coaches are not authorized to access the building for any equipment or other non-essential need. If there is an equipment need, please notify the CYB president via email.

RESTROOMS:

- Restrooms are for emergency use only.
- The outside door(s) must remain open during practice and/or games when NOT in use.
- One occupant at a time, unless it is a parent with a small child from the same household.
- Proper hygiene after bathroom use is a given (always).

- If waiting to use a restroom, please wait at least 10 feet from the door to allow the occupant to exit in a safe manner.

RESOURCES

1. NYS: [Reopening New York: Sports and Recreation Guidelines](#)
2. NYS: Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation during the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency
3. CDC: [Youth Sports Program FAQs](#)
4. Little League

Please note that where guidance in this document differs from other guidance documents issued by CYB, the more recent guidance shall apply.