

2021 COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Hermantown Summer Softball Association

This plan is based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health:

[“COVID-19 Organized Sports Practice and Games Guidance for Youth and Adults”](#) Dated 3/14/21.

The Hermantown Summer Softball Association is committed to providing a safe and healthy experience for all our players, coaches, and fans. To ensure we have a safe and healthy program, HSSA has developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Coaches, players, parents/guardians, and spectators are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our programs and communities, and that requires full cooperation among our participants and supporters. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of all persons in our program.

The COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is administered by the HSSA Board, who maintains the overall authority and responsibility for the plan. However, coaches, players, and families are equally responsible for supporting, implementing, complying with and providing recommendations to further improve all aspects of this COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. HSSA Coaches have our full support in enforcing the provisions of this plan.

Our players and coaches are our most important assets. HSSA is serious about safety and health and protecting our participants. Participant involvement is essential in developing and implementing a successful COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

HSSA's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan follows the guidance developed by the state of Minnesota, available at the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>), which is based upon Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for COVID-19 and Minnesota's relevant and current executive orders. It addresses:

- ensuring sick participants stay home and prompt identification and isolation of sick persons;
- social distancing – participants and household groups must be at least six-feet apart;
- participant hygiene and source controls, including face coverings;
- cleaning and disinfection protocol;
- drop-off, pick-up and spectator practices and protocol; and
- contact tracing, communications and training practices and protocol.

Screening Practices

All participants and spectators are responsible for screening prior to each practice/game by answering the following questions. If the answer is yes to any of these questions, they must quarantine away from all events and facilities until the quarantine period expires.

- Has anyone in the household tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Is anyone in the household experiencing symptoms and waiting for a COVID-19 test?

- Does anyone in the household have symptoms of COVID-19? Is the player currently under quarantine due to close contact to a positive case?

Physical Distancing Protocol

- All participants and spectators will maintain at least 6 feet between participants when they are not playing (on the bench, in the dugout, on the sideline, etc.).
- All participants and spectators will maintain **NO LESS THAN 6 feet** between spectators or household groups.
- **It is strongly recommended that spectators remain at least 12 feet away from the closest participant—meaning, at least 12 feet from the field, the bench, or the court, whichever is closest.**
- Players must keep bags/belongings at least 6' apart.
- NO sharing of water bottles. NO food, gum, or other consumables. NO exceptions.
- Practice protocols:
 - No drills that include large lines of players. Maintain 6' distance.
 - Instructions, team talks, and closing of practice maintain 6' distance.
 - NO high fives, handshakes, hugs, etc.
 - Players in dugouts must be 6' apart, which means the team "bench" will extend far outside the dugout.
 - Spectators should remain 12' distance from players and coaches during practices and games.

Participant Hygiene and Source Controls, Including Face Coverings

- Individual sports performed outside that allow people to maintain distance from others are lower risk for transmission. However, social distancing cannot be maintained at all times during play, therefore, players must wear face coverings at all times.
- The Minnesota mask mandate dictates that all of our coaches wear masks at all times.
- Spectators must wear masks at all times unless their household group is 7+ feet from any other household groups.
- Players will use hand sanitizer before practices/games, at every break, and after practices/games.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided by HSSA but players/families are encouraged to send some with their player.
- All in attendance should avoid touching their face and face mask at all times.

Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol

- Equipment Policy
 - NO sharing of equipment (ie. gloves, helmets, bats, masks, etc.)
 - All players must supply their own equipment including helmet, bat, and catcher's gear if they have it. If players don't have a helmet or bat, the coach will assign them one to use for the year and their name will be put on it. Equipment loaned from HSSA must be returned at the last game/practice.
 - Two sets of catchers gear will be assigned per team 10U and up. Coaches will assign two players that will do all of the catching this season. Catcher's gear cannot be shared.
 - Rookies will not use players to catch this season. A coach or volunteer will stand behind the plate to return balls.

- Bathrooms connected to the concession stand will remain closed for the season. Portable toilets are available for use. Please sanitize hands.
- Balls will be sprayed after each practice/game.
- U10 and up must provide two wrapped balls for each game. HSSA will provide them.

Drop-Off, Pick-Up and Spectator Practices and Protocol

- We are working to build time between games and practices to allow for transitions that do not cross teams.
- You should not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to a game (warm ups may be limited due to this, follow coaches instructions for arrival time) or practice.
- Spectators should not move into the area until the spectators from a previous game have vacated.
- Spectators must maintain more than 6 feet between household groups. Maintain 12 feet distance from players (including dugouts).
- Spectators must wear a mask at all times.

Contact Tracing, Communications, and Training Practices Protocol

- This preparedness plan will be communicated to all coaches who will review the plan with the team and families prior to their first practice.
- Contact tracing will be challenging and will likely result in an entire team needing to quarantine should a team member attend a practice or game while contagious. This highlights the critical importance of screening and STAYING HOME if anyone has symptoms or has been instructed to quarantine due to a close contact.

Thank you for your support in keeping our players, coaches, and families healthy and safe! Please remember to be patient and understanding if a coach or board member contacts you to inform you of a need to quarantine a player or a team. Safety is our priority.