

# USA SOFTBALL OF HAWAII/OAHU JUNIOR OLYMPICS

## RULES OF PARTICIPATION\*

### General Guidelines

1. **Masks/facial coverings are to be worn at all times during all softball events**, including participants who have received the requisite number of doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine. No exceptions allowed. Teams are encouraged to have additional masks available. Masks with valves or other respiratory openings are not permitted. Face shields may not be used in lieu of a mask/facial covering.
2. **Spectators (limited to immediate household members) may attend practices, scrimmages, and games, but only from the area beyond the outfield.** The field, backstop, dugouts, and adjacent bleachers are only for registered players, coaches, and umpires. There may be no more than 10 spectators in any given group.
3. Each team must designate a team health manager to serve as a liaison to OJO's Health Officer to report possible COVID-19 exposure within their team. The head coach may not serve concurrently as the team health manager. Please refer to OJO's COVID-19 Mandatory Reporting Policy (<https://www.usasoftballhawaii.org/covid-19info>) for additional details.
4. Teams will be limited to having no more than 8 registered coaches, including the team health manager and scorekeeper, at each game.

### COVID-19 Screening

1. Each team will be assigned a Wellness Tracker account ([www.wellnesstracker.com](http://www.wellnesstracker.com)). The use of Wellness Tracker is mandatory for all OJO-sanctioned events. It must be completed by all participants (coaches, players, and umpires) prior to any practice, scrimmage, or game.
2. The Head Coach or team health manager is responsible for ensuring completion of their team's Wellness Tracker prior to any OJO-sanctioned event. On game days, it must be completed two hours before scheduled start time. OJO staff will verify successful completion prior to the start of the game. Players, coaches, or umpires who do not complete Wellness Tracker will not be allowed to participate (no exceptions).
3. All participants must conduct a daily symptom assessment (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing two or more COVID-19 related symptoms identified by the Centers for Disease Control (including coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever over 100.4 degrees, chills, headaches, sore throat, runny nose, and/or new loss of taste of smell), must stay home.
4. Coaches must immediately inform OJO Health Officer Andrew Garrett ([andrew@usasoftballhawaii.org](mailto:andrew@usasoftballhawaii.org)/808-354-1108) if they have been notified that someone on their team (or an immediate household member of that team member) has tested positive for COVID-19. OJO will contact the Department of Health (DOH) to investigate the situation. That team's activities will be suspended until DOH's investigation is complete.

### Social Contact before, during and after games

1. There will be a "no-touch" policy to be observed at all levels of play. This includes all physical contact (huddles, high-fives and handshakes) and extends to customary game-related activities, such as post-game handshakes between members of opposing teams. Verbal communications such as "good game" should be sufficient.

2. All participants are expected to maintain physical distancing before, during and after the game, to the extent possible.
3. There will be no socializing in groups before or after the game.
4. Teams shall arrive no earlier than **1 hour before** your scheduled game time.
5. Parents shall leave immediately after dropping off their children.

### **Dugouts**

1. Please follow social distancing rules in the dugout to the extent possible. Dugouts will be expanded to adjacent bleachers (if available) to provide additional space. In addition, teams may bring their own chairs for players to space out appropriately during the game.
2. Teams are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing their dugouts after each game. Teams are highly encouraged to have hand sanitizer or wipes available for frequent use by the team.
3. When one team leaves the dugout, the next team will need to wait until all players and coaches have cleared the area before entering.
4. There will be no seeds, gum chewing or food allowed in the dugouts.
5. Sharing of water bottles and other personal equipment is prohibited.

### **Game Play**

1. The pregame conference is limited to one coach from each team and the umpires.
2. Each team must provide one new ball to the plate umpire during the pregame conference.
3. Plate umpires may be positioned deeper than usual behind the catcher to call balls and strikes. Base umpires shall practice physical distancing to the extent possible. Umpires may choose to call balls and strikes from behind the pitching circle.
4. During a charged defensive conference, the defensive team must physically distance outside of the pitching circle.
5. Players may not leave the dugout to congratulate teammates.
6. Coaches must maintain at least 6 feet of distance from an umpire when discussing a ruling on the field.
7. There will be no post-game team meetings at the site. After the game is over, teams will have 15 minutes to clean/sanitize the dugouts and another 15 minutes to vacate the park (30 minutes total), unless it has another game scheduled immediately afterward (e.g. second game of doubleheader).
8. There shall be no potlucks or social gatherings after the game.

*\*Rules are subject to change based on evolving state and/or county government mandates*

**Revised 5/20/21**