



Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association (PWYBA) provides hundreds of families the opportunity to learn and play the amazing game of baseball every year. This year, the coronavirus pandemic has affected daily life in countless ways, and has required us to adapt our lives to minimize the spread of this virus. In this regard, PWYBA is providing the following guidelines for safely playing the game of baseball this summer in our current environment.

These guidelines are based on resources and direct guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and MBL/MYAS 2020 Back to the Diamond Safety Guidelines. We expect that if these guidelines are followed by all coaches, players, parents, and spectators throughout the season, we will have a fun and safe season of youth baseball.

### **Before Coming to the Field**

- Ensure your player understands social distancing, and why it is important.
- Take the temperature of any player, coach, or volunteer who will be participating in a practice or game.
- If someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19, or suspects they may have COVID-19, notify your coach **immediately**. The coach must relay this information to the PWYBA league director.
- **DO NOT** come to the field if anyone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, has **ANY symptoms** of COVID-19, or if you have been directly exposed to a person with COVID-19 symptoms, until asymptomatic for 14 days and/or cleared by a medical professional.

- If your player has been told by any other organized program or activity that they may have been exposed to COVID-19, the player should remain away from baseball activities for 14 days, per MDH guidance.

### **Social Distancing**

- When possible, all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires, and spectators should practice social distancing of 6 feet from individuals not residing within their household.
- During practices and games, participants must maintain 6 feet of separation on the bench or in the dugout. Participants not able to be on the bench or in the dugout should be lined down the foul line or behind the backstop with 6 feet of separation. Teams may bring additional seating (e.g., folding

chairs) to facilitate the extended bench/dugout.

- Face masks are not required for any player, coach, or volunteer, but may be worn if desired.

### **On-Field Guidance**

- Full team practices are permitted. However, practices must be conducted in “pods” of no more than 25 people, including players, coaches, and volunteers.
- Practices will be staggered 15 minutes apart to allow time for one team to exit the field before the next team accesses the field. Teams should not arrive early for practice.
- Practice balls should be sanitized after every practice.
- During games, where possible, each team provides their own balls when they are the fielding

team, and sanitizes balls each inning.

- Social distancing should be maintained at all pre-game plate meetings between coaches and umpires.
- Equipment should not be shared unless necessary. If equipment is shared, disinfection should occur as described below.
- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but essential contact necessary to play the game. No handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, etc.
- Batting team should not take the field until the entire fielding team is off the field.
- As a sign of good sportsmanship after a game, teams may line up in front of their dugout or bench and tip their cap to the opposing team.
- Players, coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks and food, and no sharing is permitted.
- No sunflower seeds, chewing gum, or spitting is permitted.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of a practice or game.
- No post-game or post-practice team snacks or shared team coolers or water supply.
- Umpires will call games from behind the pitcher's mound

### **Disinfection Protocol**

- Shared equipment, such as catcher's gear and team bats, should be disinfected after each use.
- Hands should be sanitized often with hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol – particularly at arrival and after using shared equipment (balls, bats, etc.).
- If a player sneezes or coughs into their hands, or otherwise touches their nose or mouth with their hands, they should use hand sanitizer immediately.

### **Concessions and Bathrooms**

- No concessions will be available to start the season, and no building bathrooms will be available.
- When portable bathrooms are on-site, they will be available for use.

### **Parents and Spectators**

- Parents/guardians and spectators must maintain 6 feet of distance from any other non-household member.
- Parents/guardians and spectators should not attend practices, with the exception of the age-specific guidance below. Kids should be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot.

### **Additional Age-Specific Guidance:**

- Each K-2 team must have one or two non-coach parents/guardians at every practice or game to ensure compliance with these guidelines, particularly equipment disinfection and social distancing compliance. These non-coach parents/guardians can be rotated throughout the season. Other age groups may consider this as well.
- Catcher's equipment will not be provided for players in K-2 leagues to minimize equipment sharing. A player positioned safely away from the batter until a ball is hit may be used as a substitute for the catcher position.
- K-2 parents are permitted at practice as needed to minimize burden on coaches to comply with these guidelines. Teams at other age levels may consider this as well.

### **Resources**

- [MN Stay Safe During Athletic Activity and Sports](#)
- [MDH: COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#)
- [CDC: How to Protect Yourself & Others \(PDF\)](#)
- [MBL/MYAS 2020 Back to the Diamond Safety Guidelines](#)