



July/August 2020

Dear Parents,

We trust this finds you and your family safe and healthy. As you are probably aware based on Governor Hogan's **Stage Two** announcement and with guidance from the County Executive, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks has issued the revised guidelines for stage two 'Return to Play' and is effective as of Wednesday, June 17, 2020. This is an update to what was previously provided as teams move towards playing more games, tryouts for upcoming season, and various training sessions.

- Practice and game play will resume normal operations
 - o No longer a limit on outdoor capacity
- Players/coaches should avoid or limit contact, such as high fives, team huddles, arms around players, snacks, sharing water bottles/drinks, etc.
- Players on the sidelines should be spaced out. Players should place their bags, water, etc. at a reasonable distance apart and return to their bag during breaks. Each player should remain at their bag until they return to the field or leave. Important that coaches reinforce this throughout the training sessions.
- We recommend all coaches, players, spectators should wear a mask until they enter the field of play and follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible.
- When scheduling multiple teams on the same fields we recommend that you allow at least 30 minutes between the beginning and end of each practice.
- Tournaments/Sporting Events that were scheduled for July and August prior to COVID-19 will be allowed to proceed as scheduled after JULY 1, 2020. New or rescheduled events for July and August will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- For more information on the Best Practices guidelines please go to:
https://commerce.maryland.gov/Documents/BusinessResource/FAQs_Social%20Gatherings_final.pdf

SAC Softball and Baseball will continue to adhere to the following during this period:

- o During practices and training sessions please have players use fence post on the inside of the field as their "cone" as it allows for significant distancing. Players should place their bags, water, etc. at the cone and return to their cone during breaks. The player should remain at their bag until they return to the field or leave. Important that coaches reinforce this throughout the training sessions.
- o During games, please have players space out bags on the outside of fence.
- o **WE WILL NOT BE ENTERING/USING THE DUGOUTS, ACCESS TO THE FIELDS WILL BE THRU THE DOUBLE GATES ONLY.**
- o No sharing of water/drinks.
- o We recommend all coaches and players wear a mask until they enter the field of play.



In addition, we are working towards following CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines as well as State and County guidelines. We also recognize there is a risk, regardless of what you or we as an organization do, that someone can come down with the Covid-19 virus. Only you as a parent/guardian can make the decision on what is best for your child. Your coaches have been informed of the same.

We are all in this together and asking the following of you as the parent/guardian and your child:

- Do not send your child to a session/clinic/tournament/game if they are not feeling well.
- If you can, take your child's temperature before each practice.
- Anyone who have a fever of 100.40 (38.00C) or above or other signs of illness should not come to games, practices, training sessions etc.

The following is from the CDC:

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Youth sports organizations may consider implementing several strategies to encourage behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

➤ Staying Home when Appropriate

Educate staff and player families about when they should stay home and when they can return to activity

- Actively encourage sick staff, families, and players to stay home.
- [Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, should stay home](#) if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID19 [symptoms](#).
- Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, who have recently had a [close contact](#) with a person with COVID-19 should also [stay home and monitor their health](#).
- CDC's criteria can help inform return to work/school policies:
 - [If they have been sick with COVID-19](#)
 - [If they have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19](#)

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may **appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills



- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. We do ask that if you or a player test positive or has come in contact with someone you know has tested positive for COVID, you let your head coach or sport commissioner know ASAP.

Our guidelines at Severn Athletic Club will be as follows:

- Arrival at the park
 - The player is dropped off at their field
 - They must be wearing a face cover until they are ready to enter the ballfield
 - The player must practice 'social distance' while walking to the ballfield
 - Parents/Guardians please emphasize with your child that they need to maintain a distance from other players that might be walking to the field also. No physical contact at all including 'high fives', handshakes, hugs, etc.
 - **WE WILL NOT BE ENTERING/USING THE DUGOUTS, ACCESS TO THE FIELDS WILL BE THRU THE DOUBLE GATES ONLY.**
 - Prior to entering the ballfield, they must use a hand sanitizer.
 - Coaches will have sanitizer available and no touch thermometers
 - Players may keep the mask on while on the field, it is not required under the county guidelines
 - Players will place their equipment bag, water bottle, etc. at an empty fence pole.
- Thermometers – We will start testing each child prior to them entering the field. Any child with a temperature of 100.4 or over will not be allowed to stay.
- Each player must bring their own equipment, water, hand sanitizer if possible, etc.
 - None of the above are to be shared. Example: Should your child come without their glove; they will not be allowed to participate as there is no sharing.
- Softballs – The game involves catching, throwing, or hitting, in which multiple players may touch the same softball.



- o **From the CDC** - There is still a lot that is unknown about COVID-19 and how it spreads. Coronaviruses are thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Although the virus can survive for a short period on some surfaces, it is unlikely to be spread from domestic or international mail, products or packaging. However, it may be possible that people can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.
- Bathrooms will be available and will be cleaned and sanitized after every day.
 - o Remind your child to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds. 4
 - o **From the CDC** - Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- No seeds or gum on or near the fields.

There is a separate **Gold Coast Hurricanes (GCH)/Severn Athletic Club (SAC) Recreation/Travel Team Parent Acknowledgement COVID-19** form that each parent of a player participating on a team, attending tryout or training/condition/skills' sessions must fill out and sign prior to your child attending. Please provide this to your players coach before entering field – no exceptions.

Last but certainly not least, we at Gold Coast Hurricanes (GCH)/Severn Athletic Club (SAC) take our responsibilities extremely serious and are doing everything we know to keep your child safe not only during these trying times but all the time you entrust your child with us. If you feel uncomfortable about something you see, let us know, if you know something that can help us be safer, especially the Health Care Professionals with us, please tell us, we are all in this together and together we can get through this.

We certainly look forward to seeing you. Play Ball!

Thank you and stay healthy,

Stephen Reigle
SAC-Softball Commissioner

Deneen Kallas
SAC-Travel Team Coordinator

Kenny Magersupp
Gold Coast Hurricanes-SAC-Director