

Huskies Fastpitch Club Return to Play COVID-19 Safety Procedures & Plan

The health and well-being of our athletes and coaches is our top priority. In order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 entering our environment and spreading amongst our community, we will implement the following procedures that all participants must agree to and abide by.

This plan outlines the practical application of prevention strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 for participants in the Huskies Fastpitch Club (HFC). Our core guiding principles will balance participation in competitive softball with the prevention of COVID-19 infection and spread.

Prior to Activities:

- Any player/coach that has tested positive for COVID must STAY HOME and report their confirmed case to the HFC.
- Any player/coach that has been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID must STAY HOME and report their close contact to the HFC.
- Any player/coach that is experiencing symptoms of COVID must STAY HOME and contact the HFC to report their symptoms.
- The following immediate action should be used for any of the above 3 scenarios:
 - Email the following information to **hfc.softball2020@gmail.com**
 1. Player Name
 2. Date of last contact with HFC participants
 3. Has the player tested positive for COVID? yes/no
 4. Has the player been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID? yes/no
 5. Is the player having symptoms of COVID? yes/no
- HFC strongly encourages an individual with symptoms or that has been in close contact to get tested. HFC will abide by the guidance provided below by the state of MN in terms of when a player should stay home or return to activities.
 - MDH COVID Screening Tool:
 - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/homescreen.pdf> ○
 - MDH COVID Decision Tree:
 - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf> ○
 - MDH Quarantine Guidance:
 - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf>
- Parents will be required to conduct a daily health screening at home prior to sending their child to practice or clinics, ensuring they are abiding by the guidelines above.

At the Start of Activities:

- Athletes are not to enter the building until their coach ushers them in. Coaches and athletes are

not allowed into the building any sooner than 10 minutes prior to their scheduled event. Social distancing should be maintained while entering the building.

- Parents or relatives are NOT allowed in the buildings during practice.
- Short gaps will be scheduled between practices to allow for teams to exit the building prior to the next team entering the building.
- All players and coaches must wear masks at all times. This includes entering the building, during practices, and exiting the building.
- Once in the building, players are to proceed immediately to their assigned gymnasium. Do not loiter in the hallways outside the gymnasiums before or after practices/clinics.

During Practices and Clinics:

- Non-participants (parents, volunteers, spectators) are not allowed in the facility.
 - Only participants, coaches and HFC board members who may be supervising the event are allowed in the facilities.
- Masks must be worn by players and coaches at all times.
- All participants should use hand sanitizer at the start and end of the practice/clinic. Please make sure your player has sanitizer in their sports bag.
- Players should practice social distancing (minimum of 6') as often as possible before, during and after the practice/clinic.
- Players will need to bring their own water bottle(s). Drinking fountain use will not be available and players will not be allowed to leave the gymnasium during the practice/clinic unless absolutely necessary (emergency).
- Gym capacity will be limited to 25 people per full-sized court, including coaches & players. This may be adjusted up or down based upon changes in guidelines from the state or local authorities. At McKinley this means 25 total people on each end of the full gymnasium (north and south counts).
- Bathroom usage will not be allowed unless absolutely necessary. Players should use the bathroom prior to arriving at practice.
- Players should refrain from any unnecessary contact with other players and coaches (high fives, huddles etc).
- Teams will be asked to leave the gym together so that the space can be cleared out for the next team(s) arriving. We ask that parents be on time to pick up their athlete to eliminate any loitering.
- Equipment sharing will be reduced as much as possible during practices. Players are encouraged to bring their own equipment to the practices/clinics, including any of the following items listed below:
 - Batting helmets
 - Bats
 - Catching Gear
- If the player does not have any of the equipment listed above they will have HFC equipment assigned to them (and only them) for that specific practice/clinic session. HFC equipment will be sanitized at the end of each practice by the coach. Personal equipment used by the athlete should be sanitized between practices.
- If a player becomes ill for any reason at any time, practice will end immediately, and all players will be sent home.

Facilities:

- HFC is heavily reliant on Owatonna Public School facilities to hold practices. Other gyms and private locations may be used based on availability, but we don't anticipate being able to service our club practice/clinic needs without the use of ISD761 facilities. HFC will follow all district regulations and requests with respect to practice facilities. If public facilities are not made available to outside programs like HFC then that will have an impact on the opportunities we are able to offer.
- If the district must go to Distance Learning, the facilities will be closed to everyone and practices or clinics cancelled.
- If protocols are not followed, the district reserves the right to cancel all practice/clinics for the remainder of the season for the entire HFC program. This will be handled at the club level, not an individual clinic/team level. If one group or team decides the rules aren't mandatory, it will impact us all so it is critical we have 100% compliance to our guidelines.

Impact of COVID to our players and association:

- Should anyone participating in HFC activities be diagnosed with COVID-19, have close contact with a confirmed case or show symptoms, they need to immediately contact the HFC board at **hfc.softball2020@gmail.com** and follow proper healthcare procedures as laid out by their health care professional and state guidelines.
- All coaches or players that may be impacted by a confirmed case or close contact will be contacted and required to quarantine per MDH guidelines. The school district will also be notified of any positive tests, including the date, time and facility where the person was on school district property.
- We cannot guarantee that you and/or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19 or other illnesses. A completed HFC liability waiver will be required prior to participation in any activity.

As new information becomes available from the Minnesota Department of Health, and/or District 761, HFC is committed to sharing it and making any changes required to continue our season in the safest way possible. We will be in communication with all participants' families if/when changes to our program or guidelines need to be made.

Respectfully –
The HFC Board