

FIAA 2020 Spring Season – COVID-19 Safety Plan

1. All local & state health official guidelines must be followed for any activity to take place.
2. Notify all participants and volunteers of the following changes being implemented in accordance with local & state guidelines. Local leagues must be chartered & insured before the start of any practices or games.
3. Special “COVID-19” release waivers from BABE RUTH must be completed by all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires and/or regular spectators of program activities.
4. Make necessary changes at the park to meet all guideline changes provided by the local & state officials. Review suggested Babe Ruth League Guidelines on social distancing for game activities.
5. Establish a point of contact for any person wishing to advise a League Official of guidelines not being followed, and steps for the league to notify the person(s) or team that is involved.
6. No handshaking/celebrations: Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
7. Only six (6) players MAXIMUM in the dugout at one time, while also following 6’ social distancing guidelines at all times. Remaining players & coaches will be positioned down the left & right field lines (off playing field & outside of fence – if possible) away from throws that might come to 1st and 3rd base. Players will be seated or stand no less than 6’ apart and must have at least one (1) Coach to watch over players in this area at all times.
8. Players should limit any sharing of playing equipment, bats, gloves, fielder’s mask, catcher’s gear, helmets, water bottles etc. Baseballs and Softballs should be cleaned whenever possible and an adequate supply should be on hand.
9. PPE is optional but recommended for players and fans. This will not be required for players due to heat and potential sports asthma for players to participate. Face masks will be available for purchase at cost for those who want the extra protection.
10. Cleaning supplies, as well as hand sanitizer, should be available in the dugout area. Also, hand sanitizer stations should be set up in locations around the park.
11. Parents should be advised to have backup supplies in the player’s equipment bag for use when needed and their own marked water bottle or sports drink. No team or dugout coolers are permitted.
12. Cleaning and sanitation of common areas like dugouts, bathrooms, concession stands or similar areas between games or activities. Teams should be advised to clean out and wipe down dugout or other field areas that they were in prior to leaving the playing field.
13. Fans will be asked to distance between families’ tents/chairs. The bleachers will be open with signage requiring social distancing guidelines at all times.
14. Game schedules to allow for fields to not all be in use at the same time if they are in close distance to one another. Allow for greater gaps in between games to help limit the number of people at the park at one time.
15. Any player/coaches, or person not feeling well, should not attend games or practices.
16. Review new procedures with all Team Managers prior to the first activity or game at the park.
17. Managers & Coaches should help to educate players on the hygiene/handwashing/touching of the face suggested guidelines.

18. Any team or player awards are presented wrapped up and given to the Team Manager or team point person. There should not be any on field presentations.
19. Provide proper signage throughout the park on guidelines provided by local and state health officials. Contact Babe Ruth League HQ's for help in having signs made at a reduced cost.
20. Pregame conference will be limited to one (1) Coach per team and one (1) Umpire. Social distancing of 6' is required. Umpires will call game from behind the pitcher instead of the catcher.
21. The use of candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds is not permitted by players, coaches, umpires or spectators.
22. Batting lineup changes should be limited to communicating from a distance that maintains the 6' social distancing guidelines at all times.
23. These guidelines are to enhance your local & state health guidelines should those guidelines be at a lower standard, or not as detailed for the sports of Baseball & Softball.

ADDITIONAL CLAY COUNTY GUIDELINES IMPOSED:

Phase in play to begin with a practice or training period before returning to games – refer to your association's bylaws for planning for a season

Continue to limit the size of groups practicing and number of groups practicing at the same time

Limit the number of players in dugouts; use bleachers or tents to expand player areas to be able to social distance

Run drills and practices in keeping a minimum 6-foot distance between players as much as possible.

Batting cages and soft toss nets to be used with a single pitcher and a batter

Discourage huddling in a closed circle – use a spread huddle

Provide a 30-minute break between practices or games to allow for limiting the size of groups at a field at any one time

When returning to games, schedule in a way to reduce crowd sizes in your parks to allow for proper social distancing

Restrict parents' access to the field areas

Social distance on bleachers, provide a maximum number of users based on bleacher size

Promote spectators sitting in individual chairs set up along the fence lines, spacing 6+ feet apart

Players should supply their own water bottles, sports drinks etc. Shared water coolers discouraged, water fountains will be turned off

Shared equipment (balls, gloves, bats, pads, helmets, benches) should be disinfected after each practice or game

Provide each team with hand sanitizer to be administered at regular intervals

Bathrooms to be open with doors open to provide air flow and at minimum daily cleaning

Concession stands - refer to CDC guidelines on food handling, consider selling prepackaged goods only. All surfaces to be disinfected hourly. All workers to wear masks and gloves.