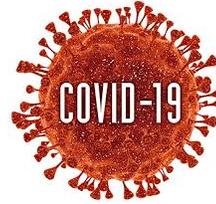




Non-Profit and Volunteers



# EVAA COVID-19 OPERATIONS PLAN

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## EVAA Plan Overview

The Eastview Athletic Association “strives to provide a quality athletic experience to kids of all ages and capabilities with a focus on sportsmanship.” To that end, each program supports that mission by offering youth sport experiences that emphasize teamwork, character, respect and integrity for all girls and boys in Apple Valley.

The COVID-19 pandemic stalled spring programming as our community banded together to flatten the curve. Now, our community and our sports organization better understand safety measures that can be taken to continue to protect our kids and our families. We believe that we can safely reopen our sports and provide an outlet for our youth to exercise, gather (safely) with team members and reap the benefits that youth sports offer.

The EVAA Board of Directors, with sports program directors, have created the following plan to bring our youth back to sports safely and serve as an example for youth sports throughout our community and neighboring communities.

In all instances, EVAA and our programs will following federal and state guidance, which includes (but is not limited to):

- Minnesota’s Stay Safe Plan for Organized Youth Sports: (<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>)
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs: (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>)
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports: (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>)
- Statewide guidance for specific sports (distributed by state organizations such as [Minnesota Softball](#), [Minnesota Baseball League](#), [Minnesota Youth Soccer Association](#), [Youth Lacrosse of Minnesota](#), etc.)

EVAA recognizes that all guidance coming from federal, state and local officials is fluid and likely to change on a regular basis. To ensure programs have the latest information and EVAA is in compliance with all guidelines, EVAA has created a COVID-19 task force. The task force meets regularly to discuss issues related to COVID-19 and includes representation from the board and programs. All meetings are open to any program director who has a question or issue needing addressed quickly. City of Apple Valley and ISD 196 partners are also welcome to attend and bring concerns or questions. This task force is responsible for EVAA’s compliance to the guidance and communicating with programs as guidance and rules shift.

Note that each sport will be required to submit a sport-specific plan to EVAA prior to opening the season that provides details on how they will adhere to these guidelines for their specific sport. The attached sport-specific plans will be used as a baseline for additional sports who wish to begin activity. We recognize that each individual sport may need to make additional guidelines to keep their players safe; we support those additional guidelines as long as they meet the minimum requirements outlined in the greater EVAA plan presented here.

## Signs of Illness Recommendations

Our families, participants, coaches and volunteers will be informed of and encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, coughing, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.

All persons who are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will be strongly encouraged to stay at home and to refrain from attending or participating in EVAA activities.

If a participant, coach, volunteer or member of their immediate household tests positive for COVID-19, the participant, coach, volunteer and the members of their household will be required to refrain from participation in any EVAA activities for the appropriate quarantine timeframe.

## Good Hygiene Measures

Coaches and volunteers will work with participants to encourage good hygiene measures as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>.

EVAA coaches and volunteers will communicate regularly about the importance of washing hands, covering coughs or sneezes, and not touching facial areas. Additionally:

- Participants, their families and volunteers will be instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water prior to taking part in EVAA activities. In situations where restroom facilities do not exist (open fields, etc.), families will be asked to wash their hands at home before arriving.
- Families will be required to provide individual hand sanitizer for their player. Wherever possible, coaches and volunteers will also have hand sanitizer available for players.

Coaches and participants will be strongly encouraged to wear masks or face coverings that cover their nose and mouth. Guidance from the CDC on face coverings will be provided (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>).

In the event masks or face coverings are required by the State of Minnesota, local governmental entities or a sport's statewide governing body, they will be required by EVAA.

## Equipment and Facility Sanitization

Outdoor facilities used by EVAA to conduct practices and games are largely City facilities. Our coaches and volunteers will be instructed to sanitize (with sprays or wipes) high-touch areas during practice and games. Additionally, EVAA will report back to the City if facilities need additional sanitizing or cleaning procedures.

Indoor facilities are secured through ISD 196, the City of Apple Valley and neighboring communities and school districts. All indoor sports that require locker room space will abide by the rules and guidelines set forth by the facility owner, which may include mask guidelines, locker room capacity, enter/exit strategies, and more. Whenever possible, all players will be requested to arrive as prepared as possible to shorten the amount of time in the locker room. Coaches will identify how many players can be in the locker room at one time to ensure social distancing and will consider using markers to denote six feet

between players. Finally, coaches will sanitize high touch areas prior to anyone entering a locker room and again after the last player has left the locker room after practices and games.

Many of our sports require individual and shared equipment. All equipment will be sanitized both during the practices and games and thoroughly cleaned after each practice and/or game.

In addition, EVAA will:

- Require that all player equipment (water bottles, lacrosse sticks, bats, gloves, helmets, facemasks, etc.) should be individually owned and not shared between players. For families where this requirement poses a financial challenge, programs will provide scholarships.
- Team equipment (flags, cones, nets, balls, catcher gear, bases, etc.) will be sanitized at regular intervals throughout practices and games. Coaches will be provided with sanitizing solutions for equipment by individual programs.

## Social Distancing Measures

Social distancing measures will following statewide guidance, including:

- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>

In addition, any sport-specific social distancing measures will be adhered to by individual programs.

EVAA programs will follow statewide guidance that currently includes:

- A limited number of attendees (coaches, volunteers, players and fans), based upon state and local guidance
- Modified drop off and pick up procedures for parents; wherever possible, set up a one way in, one way out scenario
- Restructure practices and drills to enforce social distancing measures, including the use of pods wherever state guidance allows.

## Accommodating Inclement Weather

Seasonal weather in Minnesota can force fans and players off outdoor fields to wait out a storm. In those instances, all players will be asked to return to their own vehicles or take cover in an indoor location that can accommodate social distancing of 6 feet between players.

If there is a threat of rain, thunderstorms, or other inclement weather during an outdoor practice or competition, parents are encouraged to remain at the fields in case players and coaches need to be called off the field. Coaches will act in the best interest of player safety, ensuring that players are not just safe from weather conditions, but also potential for COVID exposure.

## Communications and Training

Plans only work if they are communicated early and often. EVAA will support all sports programs within its organization and communicate expectations and plans with the community through the following approaches:

- Email messaging to EVAA families regardless of sport preference
- Email messaging directly to program participants

- Coach listening sessions and training to ensure all volunteer coaches understand the requirements and guidelines and are committed to upholding them
- Virtual team meetings, led by coaches, to gather players and their families, review the requirements and guidelines BEFORE the season starts
- Consistent updates and reminders to participating families

## Compliance and Enforcement

EVAA is committed to continuous improvement, trying new ideas and adjusting quickly based on results. In that spirit, we will be learning each and every time a team takes a field for practice or a game. And those learnings will be used to adapt as needed to ensure the safety of our kids. We would welcome a compliance contact with the City of Apple Valley or continued communication with the Parks and Recreation Department as we navigate through this situation.

We will express with our families and coaches that we have a zero tolerance policy with regards to these guidelines. Our coaches will be empowered to remind parents of the guidelines and remove them from practices or games if they are not adhering to the restrictions. We will operate a near-zero tolerance approach with our players. We must remember that we are working with kids who may need reminders on the policies; however, if we find a player blatantly disregarding the guidelines, we will seek to suspend the player until the situation is remedied. Continued disregard of the rules may result in removing a player for the remainder of the current season. Reports of any violations can be directed to the Director of the respective program. Contact information is available on both websites.

Of note is that, once games are allowed to resume, our teams may be playing on fields and against teams outside of Apple Valley. It is our opinion and recommendation that all of our guidelines regarding our fans' use of social distancing and PPE continues in other communities. Our teams will be required to abide by our association-set guidelines regardless of where they are playing. Coaches will be asked to reach out to opposing coaches to identify if they have any set rules which may differ from EVAA's to ensure we are in compliance while traveling to other jurisdictions.

## Allowing for Opt Outs

We recognize that some parents or players may not be comfortable returning to sports in 2020. We respect each family's decision and are committed to welcoming those players back to our organizations and teams when they are comfortable to return.

## Traveling Baseball Plan – Spring 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic stalled baseball's 2020 spring programming as our community banded together to flatten the curve. Now, our community and our sports organization better understand safety measures that can be taken to continue to protect our kids and our families. We believe that we can safely reopen our sport and provide an outlet for our youth to exercise, gather (safely) with team members and reap the benefits that youth sports offer.

EVAA Traveling Baseball agrees to abide by the EVAA guidance created and has added the following plan for how to bring our youth back to the fields safely and serve as an example for youth sports throughout our community and neighboring communities.

Note that in all instances, EVAA Traveling Baseball will follow state recommendations and mandates regarding youth sports. A coalition, which includes representatives from our statewide organization (Minnesota Baseball League) is formulating recommendations and regulations that will serve as a baseline for our plans moving forward.

Back to the field resources can be found in the following documentation:

- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>
- <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>
- Minnesota Baseball League: <https://www.mbl.bz/>

## What We've Done to Date

EVAA Traveling Baseball immediately paused our program as stay-at-home orders were implemented. That pause did not stop our planning or organization from continuing to operate and plan a safe and educational season for our players.

Specifically, **EVAA Traveling Baseball** has:

- Delayed tryouts, and team formation until it is safe to resume baseball activities.
- Continue to meet with EVAA board and steering committee members focusing on safety standards and best practices with the goal of getting back to the field
- Created tournament committees to safely explore options for both hosting and playing in our traditional summer baseball tournaments.
- Continue to work with both Metro Baseball League, and the Gopher State Baseball League finalizing a plan to get back to the diamond for safe play. <https://www.mbl.bz/articles/mbl-update-31820>
- Regularly communicated with our families to keep them up to date, listen to their concerns and consider their feedback when making decisions
- Secured fields for our traveling baseball program and ensured that we have the space we need for practices and, eventually, games.

- Working with Metro Baseball League (MBL) Gopher State Baseball League and Minnesota Softball to support the [Back to the Diamond Plan](#) in partnership with the Governor and state officials. [MBL/Gopher/MN Softball Plan](#)

## Promote a Safe Program Environment

- Adapt practices to allow physical distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible.
- Adhere to social distancing guidance provided:
  - Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
  - Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>
- Operate practices with pods of no more than 10 individuals (coaches + players) as outlined in the guidance of social distancing in sports.
- Modify bench and dugout areas (to specifications indicated by Minnesota Baseball League) where participants are likely to be in very close contact such as the bench area.
- Should games be allowed, EVTB will follow guidance regarding bases, social distancing between teams and other considerations which may include player and umpire placement on fields, spectator guidance, face mask guidance and more. Approved statewide plans for baseball (distributed by Metro Baseball League) will be submitted to EVAA and recorded as part of this plan.

## Promote Cloth Face Coverings

- Follow cloth face covering guidance from CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html> and guidance put forth by the State of Minnesota or the Minnesota Baseball League.
- Coaches and participants will be encouraged to wear masks or face coverings that cover their nose and mouth. In the event masks or face coverings are required by the State of Minnesota, local governmental entities or a sport's statewide governing body, they will be required by EVAA.
- Volunteers working in youth and participant programs are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings as much as possible.

## Phased Return to Fields

Using statewide guidance on gatherings, our programs will rely upon a phased return to fields to slowly bring back players.

**Stay Safe Minnesota Phase 2 (June 1):** This phase is guided by the *Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports from the State of Minnesota*:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>

*Practices with no more than 10 people in a pod and no more than three pods at any baseball field (40,000+ sq. ft.). Only players and coaches will be allowed at practices. Practices will be focused on development and follow all required rules (as they apply to baseball) put forth by the State of Minnesota. Whenever possible, practices will be held outdoors.*

**Stay Safe Minnesota Phase III (TBD):** This phase may increase crowd size. It will likely be guided by the *Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports from the State of Minnesota*:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>

EVTB will abide by any and all guidelines provided regarding Phase 3. This may include increased group size, ability for games or scrimmages within our community or more.

**Stay Safe Minnesota Phase IV (TBD):** This phase may increase crowd size. It will likely be guided by the *Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports from the State of Minnesota*:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>

EVTB will abide by any and all guidelines provided regarding Phase 4. This may include increased group size and the possibility of tournaments, games or scrimmages within our community or more.

## Equipment & PPE

Baseball requires team and player equipment. Throughout all phases, our organization will enforce the following guidelines (also supported by EVAA) with regards to equipment and PPE:

- All player equipment (bats, gloves, helmets, facemasks, etc.) must be individually owned and not shared between players. For families where this requirement poses a financial challenge, programs will provide scholarships.
- Team equipment (balls, catcher gear, bases, etc.) will be sanitized at regular intervals throughout practices and games. Coaches will be provided with sanitizing solutions for equipment as well as hand sanitizer for players to use.
- We will encourage batting gloves to be worn frequently and as much as possible.

Traveling baseball has secured sanitizer that can be used with equipment that would last through a shortened season. Once the go-forward has been approved, we will continue to seek out additional sources of sanitizer solution for equipment. Additionally, we will recommend that families provide their own hand sanitizer for their players, if they are able.

## Field Use

EVAA Traveling Baseball and In-House Baseball had previously secured fields for the upcoming season. At this point, the season is not looking to be extended, but compressed. No additional fields are expected to be needed. If previously scheduled baseball tournaments are cancelled, EVAA Traveling Baseball would change the field reservation for those dates as the fields would not be needed.

## Refreshments or Concessions

Traveling Baseball does not operate concessions during practices or league games. Typically, concessions are only operated during tournaments. Should tournaments continue, all appropriate licenses and safety measures will be taken per city and state guidelines.

Shared refreshments and sunflower seeds will be prohibited for coaches and players. Individuals will be responsible for supplying their own hydration and snacks which should be of a type which support a safe/clean environment.

## Communications and Setting Expectations

EVAA Traveling Baseball will follow communication guidance from the larger EVAA plan and communicate frequently with coaches, volunteers and participants to ensure the rules are understood and followed.

## Compliance and Enforcement

EVAA Traveling Baseball will follow the compliance and enforcement guidance from the larger EVAA plan. In addition, EVAA Traveling Baseball will assign a coach and, when applicable, a parent for each team. The assigned coach will ensure the participants are compliant to these rules. The assigned parent will ensure the families spectating are compliant.

Reports of any violations will be directed to the EVAA Traveling Baseball Director, Tony Walker. Contact information is available on both websites.

## Allowing for Opt Outs

EVAA Traveling Baseball supports families and participants who may not be comfortable returning this season. No player will be punished or discriminated against in future seasons for opting out of the 2020 season. This includes team or position placement on future teams.

## EVAA Traveling Baseball Response to Apple Valley

Provide a detailed plan for how each of your offerings would function under social distancing guidelines of six feet. Consider age differences (t-ball vs a 14-year-old baseball team) and various sports.

## Field Changes

*If you plan on altering your season dates outside your originally permitted season, have you checked to see if fields are available during those times?*

At this time, we are planning to condense the season, not extend the season where field availability would be an issue.

*Do you need any field alterations based on league format changes? I.E. more small soccer fields if altering team sizes.*

We do not anticipate any field alterations based on the currently proposed league formats.

*How will changes and closures in other communities possibly affect field use in Apple Valley?*

We anticipate similar field usage in June and July like previous years. Hosting tournaments is still unknown due to the larger number of people. If there are no tournaments, this could lead to changes in our field reservations for dates we planned to host the tournament.

*How could your offerings function under a maximum participant number that might be applied? Levels haven't been set yet but could be 10, 50, 250, etc.*

Practices and games would adhere to the maximum participant number as allowed by the MN governance. We will leverage the guidance around pods, splitting teams into pods with coaches to focus on development. Pods will not be intermingled during Phase II and until further guidance allows for intermingling. Games will not begin until authorized by state and local guidance.

Will you be limiting or discouraging spectators/parents from attending your programs? How will social distancing be controlled and enforced?

We will comply with the social distancing guidelines for youth sports (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>) which states that parents/guardians should not attend practice. If it is required, they will be expected to socially distance from other parents, coaches and players.

How will you publish your COVID-19 plan to your association and the community?

The attached plan will be issued to all Eastview baseball families and available on our website..

Will you operate concessions and, if so, how will your concessions operations operate safely under social distancing, food safety and sanitizing guidelines? All concession sales need a license from the State Health Department.

EVAA Traveling Baseball has a tournament committee currently exploring this option. As of right now, we do not have plans to sell any concessions at our hosted tournaments. We will continue to work with you and the state if plans progress.

How will you assure compliance with your safety plan? Will you have a compliance contact that the City can communicate with to enforce the plan?

A coach and or volunteer will be assigned safety and compliance duties. Any issues should be addressed with the coach and or volunteer as soon as possible. The assigned coach will be held accountable to adhering to our guidelines. Training and support will be provided by the board to coaches and families. The City should feel free to contact the Eastview Traveling Directors or any board member to discuss compliance. See attached guidelines for more information on proposed procedures.

What procedures will you be implementing to ensure the sanitation and disinfect of equipment and touch points for your activities? Have you investigated the ability of those supplies, quantity needed, price to buy supplies, and potential supply chain?

We have secured enough sanitizer for each team to use throughout the season and we will budget for additional quantities or other disinfection products to be purchased as needed. No equipment will be shared and all equipment will be cleaned regularly.

What personal protective equipment and procedures will you be implementing for participants, coaches/instructors, officials, spectators, and other participants?

Players and coaches will follow masking guidelines provided by the state (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>) and our statewide organizations.

## Traveling Softball Plan – Spring 2020

Fusion Fastpitch Softball agrees to abide by the EVAA guidance created and has added the following plan for how to bring our youth back to the fields safely and serve as an example for youth sports throughout our community and neighboring communities.

The Fusion Fastpitch Softball program is a combined program serving all youth throughout Apple Valley. As such, we have developed this plan to meet or exceed the minimum requirements set forth by both Valley Athletic Association (VAA) and Eastview Athletic Association (EVAA).

Fusion Fastpitch Softball will follow state recommendations and mandates regarding youth sports. A coalition, which includes representatives from our statewide organizations (Minnesota Fastpitch Softball and Minnesota Baseball League) are formulating recommendations and regulations that will serve as a baseline for all our plans moving forward. We also work closely with EVAA Traveling Baseball to ensure we are aligned and working together.

Back to the field resources can be found in the following documentation:

- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>
- Back to the Diamond Guidelines: [https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/001c-2171766/Baseball\\_and\\_Softball\\_Restart.pdf#\\_ga=2.48779046.1681916056.1591147112-1554814374.1583179710](https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/001c-2171766/Baseball_and_Softball_Restart.pdf#_ga=2.48779046.1681916056.1591147112-1554814374.1583179710)
- Minnesota Softball: <https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/>

## What We've Done to Date

Fusion immediately paused our program as stay-at-home orders were implemented. That pause did not stop our planning or organization from continuing to operate and plan a safe and educational season for our players.

Specifically, **Fusion Fastpitch Softball** has:

- Held regular board meetings and liaised with both the Valley Athletic Association and Eastview Athletic Association to contribute to ongoing sports planning
- Secured fields for our traveling softball program and ensured that we have the space we need for practices and, eventually, games
- Conducted coaches training and meetings to continue developing our volunteers
- Regularly communicated with our families to keep them up to date, listen to their concerns and consider their feedback when making decisions
- Cancelled our spring tournament (to be held May 30) as we heard concerns about the potential to keep our players and fans safe
- Cancelled our in-house program that serves our youngest players (K-1) as we do not see a successful way to ensure physical distancing and limited crowd numbers while still providing an engaging and educational experience

- Trained all coaches, held parent meetings, and secured signatures on the EVAA waiver to begin practices
- Reopened fields and practices on June 1 for approved teams

We have been working with Metro Baseball League (MBL) Gopher State Baseball League and Minnesota Softball to support the [Back to the Diamond Plan](#) in partnership with the Governor and state officials. Please reference the most recent plan: [MBL/Gopher/MN Softball Plan](#).

## Promote a Safe Program Environment

In line with the EVAA plan and EVAA Traveling Baseball's plan, Fusion will:

- Adhere to social distancing guidance provided:
  - Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
  - Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>
- Operate practices with pods of no more than 10 individuals (coaches + players) as outlined in the guidance of social distancing in sports.
- Modify bench and dugout areas (to specifications indicated by Minnesota Baseball League) where participants are likely to be in very close contact such as the bench area.
- Once games are allowed, Fusion will follow guidance regarding bases, social distancing between teams and other considerations which may include player and umpire placement on fields, spectator guidance, face mask guidance and more. Approved statewide plans for softball (distributed by Minnesota Softball) will be submitted to EVAA and recorded as part of this plan.
- Per Minnesota Softball, Fusion will suspend a full team should a player or coach test positive for COVID-19 for up to 14 days. If a player's or coach's family has a potential exposure, the player or coach will be asked to refrain from activity until test results are confirmed.

## Promote Cloth Face Coverings

- Follow cloth face covering guidance from CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html> and guidance put forth by the State of Minnesota or the Minnesota Baseball League.
- Coaches and participants will be encouraged to wear masks or face coverings that cover their nose and mouth. In the event masks or face coverings are required by the State of Minnesota, local governmental entities or a sport's statewide governing body, they will be required by EVAA.
- Volunteers working in youth and participant programs are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings as much as possible.

## Phased Return to Fields

Using statewide guidance on gatherings, our program (and EVAA Traveling Baseball) will rely upon a phased return to fields to slowly bring back players.

**Stay Safe Minnesota Phase 2 (June 1):** This phase is guided by the Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports from the State of Minnesota:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>

Practices with no more than 10 people in a pod and no more than three pods at any baseball field (40,000+ sq. ft.). Only players and coaches will be allowed at practices. Practices will be focused on development and follow all required rules (as they apply to softball) put forth by the State of Minnesota. Whenever possible, practices will be held outdoors.

**Stay Safe Minnesota Phase III (June 10):** Guidance from the state of Minnesota indicates another dial turned, starting June 10.

Practices with no more than 25 people in a pod, coaches and players included. Only players and coaches will be allowed at practices. Practices will be focused on development and follow all required rules (as they apply to softball) put forth by the State of Minnesota. Whenever possible, practices will be held outdoors. If indoor practices must be held due to weather conditions, teams will be broken into pods of 10 and will adhere to all indoor sports rules. This will only be in dire circumstances, most outdoor practices are cancelled due to weather.

**Stay Safe Minnesota Phase IV (TBD):** In future phases, we anticipate that games and/or scrimmages will be authorized and Fusion teams will be participating and hosting opposing teams from other communities.

Fusion softball will continue to follow statewide guidance as we begin to consider game play in the City of Apple Valley.

- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>
- Back to the Diamond Guidelines: [https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/001c-2171766/Baseball\\_and\\_Softball\\_Restart.pdf#\\_ga=2.48779046.1681916056.1591147112-1554814374.1583179710](https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/001c-2171766/Baseball_and_Softball_Restart.pdf#_ga=2.48779046.1681916056.1591147112-1554814374.1583179710)
- Minnesota Softball: <https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/>

Key considerations as we look to starting games, possibly as early as June 15:

- All guidelines stated for practices (no spitting, no sharing food/drinks, etc.) will remain in effect with the exception of the pod approach, which is limited to practices only.
- Social distancing will continue to be expected of all volunteers, coaches and players; coaches will block off all areas behind home plate through first and third bases to leave that space for players and coaches to socially distance.
- Fielding teams will only enter the field of play after the other team has completely exited the field.
- Coaches will be instructed and expected to maintain six feet social distancing while on the field (first and third base coaches (all ages) and pitching coach (8U)).

- No touch rules will be in effect. Each team will “tip the cap” to the other team and umpire(s) at the end of the game in lieu of the traditional handshake line.
- Spectators will be required to socially distance from others and will only be allowed to watch games from beyond the first and third base or in the outfield (where applicable).
- Masks will be strongly recommended for coaches and spectators; they will be recommended for players, especially when in dugout and bench areas.
- Host teams will be expected to sanitize high touch surfaces prior to the opposing team arriving and after the opposing team leaves the site.
- Each team will be expected to bring their own softballs for use when in the field.
- Coaches (from both teams) will be asked to remind families and spectators to stay home if they are feeling ill, stay home if they are in a high-risk category, avoid congregating in parking lots or on nearby playgrounds and adhere to social distancing guidelines. They will also continue to stress that spectator numbers should be limited to only immediate family members, wherever possible.
- Each coach will have a full roster with complete contact information at every game to assist with contact tracing, should it be necessary.

Note that Fusion does **not** operate concessions during any league games, nor does the organization intend to hold a tournament in the City of Apple Valley in 2020.

**Stay Safe Minnesota Phase IV (TBD):** *This phase may increase crowd size. It will likely be guided by the Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports from the State of Minnesota:*

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>

*Fusion will abide by any and all guidelines provided regarding Phase 4. This may include increased group size and the possibility of tournaments, games or scrimmages within our community or more.*

## Equipment & PPE

Softball requires team and player equipment. Throughout all phases, our organization will enforce the following guidelines (also supported by EVAA) with regards to equipment and PPE:

- All player equipment (bats, gloves, helmets, facemasks, etc.) must be individually owned and not shared between players. For families where this requirement poses a financial challenge, programs will provide scholarships.
- Team equipment (balls, catcher gear, bases, etc.) will be sanitized at regular intervals throughout practices and games. Coaches will be provided with sanitizing solutions for equipment as well as hand sanitizer for players to use.
- We will encourage batting gloves to be worn frequently and as much as possible.

Fusion softball has secured sanitizer that can be used with equipment that would last through a shortened season. Once the go-forward has been approved, we will continue to seek out additional sources of sanitizer solution for equipment. Additionally, we will recommend that families provide their own hand sanitizer for their players, if they are able.

## Field Use

Fusion Fastpitch Softball had previously secured fields for the upcoming season. At this point, the season is not looking to be extended, but compressed. No additional fields are expected to be needed.

## Refreshments or Concessions

Fusion Fastpitch Softball does not operate concessions during practices or league games. Typically, concessions are only operated during tournaments. Should tournaments continue (in the fall), all appropriate licenses and safety measures will be taken.

Shared refreshments and sunflower seeds will be prohibited for players, coaches, volunteers and parents/guardians. Individuals will be responsible for supplying their own hydration and snacks which should be of a type which support a safe/clean environment.

## Communications and Setting Expectations

Fusion Fastpitch Softball will follow communication guidance from the larger EVAA plan and communicate frequently with coaches, volunteers and participants to ensure the rules are understood and followed.

## Compliance and Enforcement

Fusion Fastpitch Softball will follow the compliance and enforcement guidance from the larger EVAA plan. Reports of any violations will be directed to the Fusion Fastpitch Softball Director, Krysta Larson. Contact information is available on the website.

## Allowing for Opt Outs

Fusion Fastpitch Softball supports families and participants who may not be comfortable returning this season.

## Fusion Fastpitch Softball Response to Apple Valley

Provide a detailed plan for how each of your offerings would function under social distancing guidelines of six feet. Consider age differences (t-ball vs a 14-year-old baseball team) and various sports.

## Field Changes

*If you plan on altering your season dates outside your originally permitted season, have you checked to see if fields are available during those times?*

At this time, we are planning to condense the season, not extend the season where field availability would be an issue.

## Do you need any field alterations based on league format changes? I.E. more small soccer fields if altering team sizes.

We do not anticipate any field alterations based on the currently proposed league formats. Using pods (as outlined in the state's plans) enables us to use full fields and outfields with appropriate social distancing measures.

## How will changes and closures in other communities possibly affect field use in Apple Valley?

We anticipate similar field usage in June and July like previous years. We will not host a tournament in Apple Valley in 2020. We may be asked to host more "home games" due to limitations of other cities. These requests would fit within our current permits.

How could your offerings function under a maximum participant number that might be applied? Levels haven't been set yet but could be 10, 50, 250, etc.

We will leverage the guidance around pods, splitting teams into pods with coaches to focus on development. Pods will not be intermingled during Phase II and until further guidance allows for intermingling. Games will not begin until authorized by state and local guidance. It is our understanding that the phase for games may be coming this summer. As such, we will abide by all statewide guidance regarding crowd numbers. We will work to stagger game times wherever possible at sites where multiple fields exist such as Hayes and Eastview High School fields.

Will you be limiting or discouraging spectators/parents from attending your programs? How will social distancing be controlled and enforced?

We will comply with the social distancing guidelines for youth sports (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>) which states that parents/guardians should not attend practice. If it is required, they will be expected to socially distance from other parents, coaches and players. As we enter potential game situations, we will ask that only immediately family members attend games wherever possible. Additionally, we will ask both Fusion and opposing team coaches to reinforce our social distancing guidelines, rules regarding spectator viewing areas and guidance regarding clustering in locations such as parking lots or nearby playgrounds. We will provide warnings as necessary and remove spectators for operating outside of the guidelines.

How will you publish your COVID-19 plan to your association and the community?

The plan will be issued to all Fusion softball families and available on our website. It will also be reviewed by coaches with families before starting practices. As we enter game situations, each Fusion coach will reach out to the opposing coach at least 24 hours prior to a game and share our published plan on the Fusion website and our ask of the opposing team, as outlined in this plan. We will also identify if there are additional considerations that need to be taken based upon the opposing team's guidelines and plans.

Will you operate concessions and, if so, how will your concessions operations operate safely under social distancing, food safety and sanitizing guidelines? All concession sales need a license from the State Health Department.

Fusion will not be hosting a tournament in Apple Valley in 2020. As such, we have no need for concessions or permits.

How will you assure compliance with your safety plan? Will you have a compliance contact that the City can communicate with to enforce the plan?

Fusion Fastpitch Softball will follow the compliance and enforcement guidance from the larger EVAA plan. Reports of any violations will be directed to the Fusion Fastpitch Softball Director, Krysta Larson. Contact information is available on the website.

What procedures will you be implementing to ensure the sanitation and disinfect of equipment and touch points for your activities? Have you investigated the ability of those supplies, quantity needed, price to buy supplies, and potential supply chain?

We have secured enough sanitizer for each team to use throughout the season and we will budget for additional quantities or other disinfection products to be purchased as needed. No equipment will be shared and all equipment will be cleaned regularly. In game situations, the home team coaches will be expected to prepare the field for the opposing team, including bench and dugout areas. They will also be expected to clean those areas post-game.

What personal protective equipment and procedures will you be implementing for participants, coaches/instructors, officials, spectators, and other participants?

Players and coaches will follow masking guidelines provided by the state (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>) and our statewide organizations. We have secured and offered low-cost cloth facemasks for our Fusion players and coaches to ensure they have them available should they opt to wear them.

## EVAA Soccer (In-House & Traveling)

Soccer agrees to abide by the EVAA guidance created and has added the following plan for how to bring our youth back to the fields safely and serve as an example for youth sports throughout our community and neighboring communities.

The In-House soccer program has partnered with VAA over the past few seasons, serving all youth throughout Apple Valley and our extended areas. For Spring of 2020, our EVAA In-House soccer program has been cancelled. VAA has done the same. EVAA Tournament Traveling soccer teams will follow state recommendations and mandates regarding youth sports as well MYSA Soccer and Salvo Soccer Club.

Soccer COVID-19 resources can be found in the following documentation:

- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>
- Minnesota Youth Soccer Association: <https://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/page/show/5698047-covid-19-updates>

## What We've Done to Date

Soccer immediately paused our program as stay-at-home orders were implemented. That pause did not stop our planning or organization from continuing to operate and plan a safe and educational season for our players.

Specifically, Soccer has:

- Has held brainstorm meetings to discuss season lengths, social spacing, and practice options
- Had our field choices submitted and were ready to play when allowed
- Regularly communicated with our families to keep them up to date, listen to their concerns and consider their feedback when making decisions
- Cancelled our Spring In-House season as of May 17
- Prepared a social distance practice to include individual fitness and soccer skills done in groups 8 or less and 10 feet apart always working with their own soccer ball. At this time no shooting will be done. All players will have masks on during discussion times – they will be allowed to uncover their nose and mouth when doing the workouts in their designated space.
- Followed MYSA guidance and cancelled our competitive season; we will have no soccer games for the Spring 2020 season and only a few teams participating in development activities

Soccer will use a Phased Return to Play that follows MYSA guidance. This outline is included below for easy reference.

### **Phase 1 - Digital soccer**

**Phase 2 - Social Distancing**, with limited numbers (9 or fewer players) on the field, with strong hygienic measures, and no at the field spectators

**Phase 3 - Social distancing**, with the full team on the field with strong hygienic measures, and no at the field spectators

**Phase 4 - Games**, social distancing for players when not playing, strong hygienic measures, and social distancing of spectators

**Phase 5 - Return to pre-COVID 19 conditions**

## Phase 2 Plans

EVAA Soccer is currently in Phase 2 and will follow the guidelines stated below for each participant on the field. Prior to any player, volunteer or coach arriving at a practice, they will be required to complete a self-assessment and stay home if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

### The Player

At the field:

- Players must keep a minimum of 6 ft from teammates at all times
- Go to the designated field with a mask on, find an empty cone (safe space), place bag with sanitizer, rag, and water near the cone, players may remove masks, place the ball on the ground, and sanitize hands
- Once all players are present, the coach will spray the players' ball with sanitizer. Player will wipe their ball with their rag
- Players will be 6 ft apart and will not touch the ball with their hands during the training session.
- During a session, if a player becomes ill, we will immediately isolate the player who becomes ill and contact the parent/guardian.

Post-session:

- Collect items from cone - place mask on, leave the field to the designated pick-up spot.
- Once home wash hands, remove all gear from the bag and wash each item.

### The Family

During the session:

- Drop player at designated drop off-site no earlier than 10 minutes ahead of a start time
- Stay in cars to observe training or drop and go. You must return on time to pick-up
- There is NO congregating during the session or in the parking lot

In the case that families are not remaining in their car, Field Marshall (staff) will remind families to return to their vehicle once. A second reminder will result in the child's dismissal from the session, and the family will forfeit the opportunity to return to training for the duration of Phase 2

Post-Session:

- Ensure the child's clothing is washed before and after each training session
- Ensure the child's training equipment is washed/sanitized before and after each training session

## The Coach

At the field:

- Between sessions spray down all cones utilized with sanitizer and sanitize hands
- Take attendance of players
- Spray ball with sanitizer for players to wipe down with their rags
- Adhere to club social distancing and hygiene measures - no high fives, only the coach handles equipment, wear masks during sessions
- If a coach becomes ill at the field, they will inform the Field Marshall (staff) and leave the field immediately.

Post-session:

- Complete the attendance forms
- Wash clothing after each training session
- Sanitize equipment after each training session

## Soccer Response to Apple Valley

Do you need any field alterations based on league format changes? I.E. more small soccer fields if altering team sizes.

We do not anticipate any field alterations at this time.

How will changes and closures in other communities possibly affect field use in Apple Valley?

At this time we only need our Apple Valley designated soccer fields requested.

How could your offerings function under a maximum participant number that might be applied? Levels haven't been set yet but could be 10, 50, 250, etc.

Practices and games would adhere to the maximum participant number as allowed by the MN governance. Practices could be organized to small group instruction to remain compliant. Games would start once groups up to 50 would be permitted.

Will you be limiting or discouraging spectators/parents from attending your programs? How will social distancing be controlled and enforced?

Parent/guardians will be discouraged from attending practices. Only a limited number of immediate family members will be permitted at games and they must comply with sitting in designated areas at the appropriate distance from other people. Families who have members with underlying health conditions will be encouraged to stay home.

How will you publish your COVID-19 plan to your association and the community?

The plan will be issued to all soccer families and available on our website. It will also be reviewed by coaches with families before starting practices.

Will you operate concessions and, if so, how will your concessions operations operate safely under social distancing, food safety and sanitizing guidelines? All concession sales need a license from the State Health Department.

Not applicable for EVAA Soccer.

How will you assure compliance with your safety plan? Will you have a compliance contact that the City can communicate with to enforce the plan?

Soccer will follow the compliance and enforcement guidance from the larger EVAA plan. Reports of any violations will be directed to the Soccer Director, Marc Dannecker. Contact information is available on the website.

What procedures will you be implementing to ensure the sanitation and disinfect of equipment and touch points for your activities? Have you investigated the ability of those supplies, quantity needed, price to buy supplies, and potential supply chain?

We have secured enough sanitizer for each team to use throughout the season and we will budget for additional quantities or other disinfection products to be purchased as needed. At this time no equipment will be shared and all equipment will be cleaned regularly.

What personal protective equipment and procedures will you be implementing for participants, coaches/instructors, officials, spectators, and other participants?

Coaches and participants will be strongly encouraged to wear masks or face coverings that cover their nose and mouth. In the event masks or face coverings are required by the State of Minnesota, local governmental entities or a sport's statewide governing body, they will be required by EVAA and our soccer program. Volunteers working in youth and participant programs are also strongly encouraged to wear cloth face coverings as much as possible.