

## Greenville Youth Sports (GYS) COVID-19 Pandemic Response Measures 2021 Season

**Players/Coaches are not allowed to attend practices/games for any of the following reasons:**

1. If you/your child has any symptoms and/or are awaiting test results, or are simply not feeling well.
2. If a close contact or immediate family member is sick, not feeling well, or awaiting test results.
3. If you/your child have been notified of a close-contact/exposure and must quarantine, the individual in quarantine cannot attend practices/games until their quarantine period ends.

**Players/Coaches are allowed to attend practices/games if:**

1. They are symptom free and not in quarantine.
2. They are currently in a 90 day immunity period (either due to having had COVID or being fully vaccinated).

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRACTICES / GAMES**

**Coach considerations regarding COVID-19:**

- The head coach should act as the first point of contact for their athletes in the event someone on the team is going through COVID-19 quarantine protocols.
- Head coach should contact your GYS board representative for your respective league if an athlete receives a positive COVID-19 test result.
- Encourage athletes to bring their own personal hand sanitizer and sanitize hands before/after practices/games.
- Communicate these guidelines to all participants.
- See social distancing section below to work practice plans as much as possible to reduce contact/risk.

**Social distancing:**

**Practice** – Coaches should be mindful of social distancing as much as possible. This means while playing, chatting, changing drills that players remain spaced out and avoid congregating of players.

**Hydration** – All students should bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.

**Games** – Discourage congregating upon arrival to the field, during the game and immediately following the game.

**Warmups** – Maintain social distancing between players.

**Elimination of team handshakes** – Teams may find other respectful ways to acknowledge each other before or after a competition, while maintaining social distancing. Teams can acknowledge their opponent with a tip of their hat or a wave.

**Conferences** – social distancing to be maintained as much as possible when the coach is communicating with the entire team or in smaller groups. All players should be encouraged to mask during huddles, especially non-active players.

**Interaction with officials** – Coaches should maintain social distancing when interacting with an umpire or any other individual on the field. Substitutions and a general rules interpretation conversation can occur at social distance.

**Pre-game** – One coach from each team and 2 umpires at home plate may have a meeting with the players remaining in the team dugout area. Normal line-up exchange can take place.

**Coin Toss** – If used, 2 athletes and 1 coach from each team at home plate spaced out.

**Playing Field and Dugout Area** – Allow only essential personnel on the playing field. These are defined as athletes, coaches, and officials.

**Dugouts** – Athletes should utilize both sides of the dugout areas for hanging personal bags to allow for social distancing. Masks can be worn in the dugout if needed.

**Departing the Field of Play (post game)** – After the game has concluded, encourage your team to clear the dugouts quickly. Please refrain from lingering around the dugouts/diamonds post game.

## **Equipment**

**Batting Helmet** – Players should use their own batting helmet and not share.

**Bat** – When possible, players should use their own baseball / softball bat and not share.

**Catching Equipment** – Players should use their own catching equipment when possible. If an athlete needs to share, catchers' gear with an extra emphasis on the helmet, should be wiped out with a sanitizing agent approved for COVID-19 prior to the next athlete using the same gear.

**Baseballs/Softballs** – Should be sanitized after each game/practice. Encourage each team to have their own balls for when they are on defense. Don't share the same ball as your opponent.

**Dugouts** – Spacing of athlete's baseball/softball bags is highly recommended along with water bottles/drinks.

## **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVENTS**

### **Venue:**

- Added signage around the park to encourage social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer supplied around the diamonds/concessions/restroom areas.
- We recommend every athlete brings their own hand sanitizer.
- Wiping down high contact areas more frequently. Ex) concessions countertops.

### **Spectators:**

- Due to GYS activities being held outdoors, with adequate space for social distancing, we will not be monitoring or limiting spectators. Spectators may attend at their own discretion and should adhere to current social distancing guidelines.
- Consider bringing your own chairs/social distance when observing practices/games.
- Please allow the participants of the game/coaches/umpires to retrieve any balls that go out of the field of play to avoid additional contact.

**Concessions:**

- Post signage at stand for patrons to maintain social distancing between parties near the food stand.
- Maintain a sanitizing solution approved for COVID-19 for wiping cloths during operations and increase cleaning/sanitizing frequency – especially high contact surfaces such as equipment, utensils, and countertops.
- Avoid using shared condiment containers if possible.
- All concession workers and volunteers that are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks while in the concessions building. Those that are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear a mask.

**Umpire considerations:**

- Umpires are NOT responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and the athlete's parents.
- Bring personal hand sanitizer and/or wash hands frequently. Gloves are permissible.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, and other apparel/equipment.
- Officials should use their own water bottles.

**Other:**

- Advance messaging to teams and spectators before hosting an event.
- Standard communication of best COVID-19 practices/signed waivers required prior to hosting any tournament/scrimmage by a GYS affiliated team.
- Screening of participants, spectators, event personnel, event officials, and teams – Communicate pre-screening expectations for all attendees. [CDC Symptom Checker](#)
- All attendees should check their temperature at home before attending an event. If any attendee has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above, or if they have 2 or more COVID-19 symptoms, they should not attend the event.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines please send an email to [secretary@greenvilleyouthsports.com](mailto:secretary@greenvilleyouthsports.com).