



MYSA COVID-19 Protocols

June 9, 2020

The following protocols were developed in conjunction with the recommendations set forth by Public Health Madison and Dane County's "Forward Dane" plan ("PHMDC"). These protocols are also consistent with similar guidelines in place for peer leagues and governing softball associations (USA Softball, USSSA, etc.). These protocols are subject to change based on current and future recommendations of health officials.

No player or coach should participate if exhibiting or exposed to someone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 14 days. Symptoms may include fever, dry cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, feelings of discomfort or illness, headache, chills, loss of sense of taste or smell.

All players, coaches and parents must review these guidelines before the start of practice or play.

Phase 1 – Practice Protocols:

- Coaches will stagger practice start times to prevent overlap of participants and to allow sufficient time to sanitize shared equipment (i.e., balls, pitching machines, rakes, etc.)
- Players should not arrive at the fields more than 10 minutes prior to their designated practice time.
- No parents or siblings are allowed on-site – drop off and pick up only. Spectators must remain in their vehicle.
- Players should bring their own water in a bottle labeled with their name.
- No food, candy, or sunflower seeds are allowed. Spitting will not be tolerated.
- Arriving teams must allow the previous team to completely exit before entering the field / facility for their own practice. To ensure we avoid cross-over, players and coaches must enter on the first base side and exit on the third base side of the field.
- Practices may consist of up to three coaches / parent volunteers plus the team's full roster, only to the extent the total number is within current PHMDC plan.
- Players may not gather in the dugouts except for entry / exit from the field.
- Coaches and players will sanitize their hands before and after practice as well as between drills and during water breaks. We recommend that each player brings their own hand sanitizer.
- Players should keep their individual equipment (e.g., glove, helmet, bat, batting gloves, etc.) in their own space, spread out along the baseline fence at least 6 feet apart from other player's equipment bags.
- The sharing of individual equipment is prohibited. If a player does not have a helmet or bat, MYSA has some inventory that will be sanitized and provided. The player should keep this equipment for the duration of the season, and it must be returned at the conclusion of the season.
- Shared equipment, such as catcher's equipment, will be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and allowed sufficient time to dry before being used by another player. Sanitization must be performed by an adult.
- Players and coaches must adhere to 6' of distancing at all times – before, during and after practice. No handshakes, high-fives, huddles, or close contact of any kind is permitted.
- Masks are optional for coaches and players, assuming distancing rule is being followed. Coaches will have a mask on-hand in the event proper distancing cannot be maintained (i.e., injury, assistance with equipment, etc.).
- Coaches should design and implement practice plans that allow for proper distancing and to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to practice.
- Catchers should setup at least 6 feet behind the batter. Otherwise, coaches are encouraged to use a net or other backstop instead of a catcher.
- No chants, songs or cheers will be permitted. Studies have shown the virus may travel up to 12 feet in these circumstances.
- Players unable to comply with these practice protocols after being reminded by a coach will be asked to leave practice.
- Restrooms may not be available depending on the site and cleaning capabilities. Plan accordingly.



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Phase 2 – Game Protocols:

- Coaches will stagger game start times to prevent overlap of participants and spectators.
- Coaches and players will arrive no earlier than the designed time set by the coach.
- Coaches, players, and spectators should be cautious and courteous upon entering and exiting the facility site and observe proper social distancing rules.
- Only players, up to three coaches per team, and the umpire(s) are allowed on the field of play.
- Spectators are only permitted to view the game from behind the outfield fence. This means the game may be viewed along the foul lines starting at 1st/3rd base extending to the outfield and in the outfield area.
- Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to limit the amount of family members attending. Social distancing guidelines apply (e.g., must be 6 feet from the next group/spectator/family).
- Spectators must bring their own chairs or sit on the ground. Spectators will not be permitted in the bleachers.
- The dugout will be extended from behind the dugout to the backstop for players of both teams to practice social distancing. Bleachers are designated for players or coaches only.
- Hand and equipment sanitizing between innings is recommended.
- At the pregame meeting and throughout the game, coaches and umpires will not be allowed to shake hands or have any physical contact with each other.
- Players should keep their individual equipment (glove, helmet, bat, batting gloves, etc.) in their own space, spread out along the baseline fence or behind the dugout, and at least 6 feet apart from other player's equipment bags.
- The sharing of individual equipment (e.g., glove, helmet, bat, batting gloves, etc.) is prohibited.
- Shared equipment, such as catcher's equipment, will be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and allowed sufficient time to dry before being used by another player. Sanitization must be performed by an adult.
- Players and coaches are asked to refrain from high-fives or any other physical gestures of celebration.
- No chants, songs or cheers will be permitted.
- Each team shall provide their own softballs for when they are in the field. Each team is responsible for switching out and sanitizing their softballs each inning.
- Foul balls should not be retrieved by players or spectators. A designated coach from each team will retrieve foul balls and sanitize them before returning to the competition.
- Umpires will be asked to officiate the game from behind the pitcher's mound, while practicing social distancing with all fielders.
- Umpires should not handle softballs and should remind players to retrieve extra softballs from their designated coach.
- At the conclusion of the game, players will be asked to forego the sportsmanship line. Instead we are asking each team to line up on their respective foul line and clap, wave, or "tip their cap" as a salute to the other team to promote sportsmanship.
- Concession stands will be closed. Restrooms may not be available depending on the site and cleaning capabilities. Plan accordingly.