

COVID-19 Policy

Spring 2021 Return to Play

First and foremost, player health and safety is the priority. That said, softball is a sport that requires close contact between individuals and sizable numbers of people gathered to play. There is inherent risk assumed by the player by continuing to play.

Some individuals (i.e. immunocompromised, diabetic, cancer, and other health issues) are at high risk for contracting COVID-19. The league strongly suggests that you contact your primary care provider for recommendations before participating in a group sports or coming in to areas of high volume people.

The following provides a potential policy for implementations concerning safety upon returning to play to attempt to minimize risk. Any Policies are subject to change as needed.

1. If you feel sick or have any symptoms of COVID-19 stay home and avoid any contact with teammates and coaches
2. All players must sign a waiver acknowledging and accepting the risks associated with returning to a group activity prior to entry to the park
3. Only teams playing and umpires with games during that hour will be permitted in the quad
 - a. Teams preparing to play the following hour may enter and use warm up areas 30 minutes prior to their scheduled start time and will be restricted to those areas
 - b. Board members are exempt from this rule for the purposes of running league activities
 - c. Ratings & scorekeeping committee members may also be in the quad for the purposes of fulfilling their duties for their committee
4. Masks are required for all individuals not currently on the field or in the dugout
 - a. This includes players in the current game who are waiting for their time at bat or are subs
 - b. One warning will be given if a mask is not being worn, then you will be ejected from the park
5. Spring will utilize the pick a stick format. A 25oz, 26oz, and 27oz NAGAAA bat will be provided.
 - a. Each team will have a separate set of bats to use
 - b. Disinfectant (Lysol or similar) will be made available and located behind home plate. Each team is responsible for spraying and disinfecting the bat grip prior to their game.
 - c. Catchers are not to pick up the bats left by the hitter, they should leave it for the next hitter to retrieve.
6. Coaching meetings prior to the game may only involve one person from each team and are to be conducted with the appropriate social distancing (after swapping line up cards) with masks required
7. No player (including pitchers) may lick their fingers or blow into their hands then touch the ball
8. Dugouts are reserved for in the hole hitters only
 - a. All other players will use the stands and picnic tables during games and maintain social distancing
9. Team huddles and handshakes between teams are prohibited
10. PSSA will display signs throughout the park as a reminder for social distancing and other protocols being enacted under this policy
11. PSSA will provide hand sanitizer in all dugouts
12. Two new balls will be used for all games to reduce repeated use from game to game

If COVID-19 is detected during, after or before league play:

1. All participants with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 will NOT be allowed to participate in any league or team activities. Participant is ONLY permitted to return to league organized activities when the following has been met:
 - a. Three days have passed since recovery (Recovery is defined as three days without fever) and the individual has improvement in symptoms.

- b. Ten days have passed since symptoms have first appeared in the individual
- c. Notify all participants who may have had contact with the participant during the period in which he/she may have had COVID-19 within 24-48 hours.
- d. Inform the league within 24 hours if a participant tests positive for COVID-19 and has been actively participating.
- e. Place the participant's team on a 14-day leave from league play immediately if a participant tests positive for COVID-19 during the season.
- f. Suspend league play for a minimum of 14-days if 3 or more teams test positive for COVID-19 during the season

Failure to abide by these policies will result in ejection from the park and/or referral to Ethics