

Wilton Softball/Baseball Return-To-Play Guidelines

Visiting teams guide

The Boards of Directors of Wilton Softball, Wilton Baseball and Softball Association and Wilton Little League Baseball have collaborated to evaluate various resources published by several governing bodies and other leading organizations to develop the following draft return-to-play guidelines that may be considered by Wilton town leaders to help inform Wilton's reopening of fields for youth sports.

It is important to note that these guidelines will continue to evolve as new information becomes known and they do not replace or supersede any guidelines outlined by Federal, State or Local governmental authorities or agencies.

General Guidelines:

Any person, including any player, coach, umpire or spectator, who willfully fails to abide by the following guidelines will be asked to leave the field immediately and may be banned from attending future events.

- All participants must conduct pre-game or pre-practice symptom assessments prior to arriving at the field.
 - Anyone experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19, or who has an immediate family member who is experiencing such symptoms, must stay home. Any player, coach, umpire or spectator who is at a field during a game or a practice must promptly report any COVID-19 symptoms that he or she is experiencing to the league director(s) and coaches. Participants who have come in to contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases should fulfill a 14-day quarantine and experience no signs or symptoms prior to returning to play.
 - Should someone (spectator, player or coach) come down with COVID-19 symptoms while at the fields, then a direct family member will be designated to take them home. The league director/governing body will be informed of where they are going so the health department can perform contact tracing.
- Dugouts will not be used to shelter/house the team. Dugouts may be used as a point of egress to and from the field, or as a method of properly distancing coaches from the players.
 - Players will line up along the fence (in the out-of-play area rather than in foul territory) on their respective side of the field when not on defense or at bat.
 - Players will maintain 6' spacing when outside the field of play. Visual cues will be utilized to help demarcate the 6' spacing (e.g., locations designated by tags on the fence and/or a painted marking or the use of cones on the ground).
 - One coach or volunteer parent will be responsible for monitoring the players that are lined up along the fence.
 - Equipment bags be hung from the fence at (or greater than) 6' intervals.
 - Players may stand behind their equipment bags or bring camp chairs to place behind bags; each player will be permitted to bring his or her own umbrella to provide shade from the sun (umbrellas will not be shared among the players).
- Equipment is not to be shared among the players and should be used only by the individual owner. This includes, but is not limited to, water bottles, cooling towels, gloves, bats, helmets and hats/visors.

- Shared drinking stations (e.g., water fountains, team water coolers), team snacks, sunflower seeds and gum are prohibited at the field. Each player may bring an individually packaged snack or water bottle for his or her own use.
- Tailgating before, during or after games is strictly forbidden.
- When practical, all gates will be tied in the open position to reduce the need for participants to touch doors.
- No team or shared parent tents will be allowed at the field.
- All attendees will bring sanitary wipes to wipe down door handles and any surfaces they touch.
- A Portable Hand Washing Station will be placed proximate to league provided Port-o-potties, which will be outfitted with soap and sanitizer.
- Port-o-potty surfaces will be wiped down using a CDC-approved disinfecting product before and after each game or practice.
- **Players, coaches and umpires must adhere to physical 6' distancing except (in the case of players) when the ball is in play.**
- **When not on the field of play, players, parents, coaches and umpires must wear their own personal face coverings at all times when interacting with others, unless they are maintaining a minimum distance of 6' from the persons with whom they are interacting.**
- All participants (i.e., players, coaches and umpires) must sanitize their hands at the end of each half-inning. Participants are required to have personal hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes with them at the field. Sanitizers are not to be shared.
- Athletes are to travel to the field with a member of their immediate household. However, if there are circumstances that require carpooling, then appropriate precautions must be taken (e.g., masks worn by non-related passengers) and notification to the applicable league director/governing body of the affected persons is required for contact tracking purposes.

Coach Responsibilities:

- All 1st & 3rd base coaches will maintain a distance of at least 6' from baserunners and fielders.
- Game lineups will be exchanged between the coaches by email or other electronic transmission prior to each game, and any changes by a coach to the lineup during the course of a game will be made verbally to the umpire(s) and the opposing coach. Exchanging physical documents at the game will be prohibited.
- Coaches must maintain an attendance log for all practices and games.
- After a batted ball, a coach from the batting team will retrieve the bat by its barrel and sanitize his or her hands afterward.

Umpires:

- Umpires will call the game from a spot between the pitcher's plate and the second base bag and will maintain a distance of at least 6' from all players during the game.
- Umpires will wear a PPE masks in addition to their typical protective mask when on the field.
- Umpires must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with players, coaches and spectators.

All Spectators (Fans/Parents):

- The number of spectators is contingent on the number of players and coaches for each team as well as the number of umpires. The total number of people on field will be no more than 100 or whatever CT reopening guidelines dictate.
- Spectators must be socially distanced (6') and are restricted to sitting in the designated spectator section

- Spectators should bring their own chairs and may not use the bleachers, which will be taped off and closed.
- For all Little League fields, no one will be permitted behind the backstops other than one parent volunteer to run the scoreboard, as these areas are potential choke points of human traffic and to maintain strict social distancing, they will be off-limits
- All fans are required to wear personal masks when 6' social distancing is not possible.
- Fans are recommended bring hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes.

Game play rules

- No pre- or post-game team meetings or team huddles will be permitted.
- All participants and spectators must vacate the field immediately at the end of a game. No one will be allowed to loiter in the parking lots surrounding the fields prior to or after the end of the game.
- Games and practices will be scheduled to allow for appropriate transition times between each game or practice (i.e., times will be staggered to allow for cleaning and social distancing) but no less than 30-minutes
- Mound visits will be permitted by the catcher or manager only, and all participants in such mound visits must maintain a distance of at least 6'.
- Compliant game balls must be designated to each team for use while that team is playing defense (i.e., each team uses their own game balls).
 - Coaches will sanitize and thoroughly dry the cover of the balls after each half inning.
- Prior to taking the field each inning, all defensive players (other than the pitcher) must use hand sanitizer or wipes.
- All participants should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans

FIELD Specific Rules

THERE IS TO BE NO DRIVING OR PARKING BEHIND MIDDLEBROOK FIELD. THE ROADWAY WILL BE USED TO SPACE OUT SPECTATORS AND PLAYERS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING