

Wilton Softball/Baseball Return-To-Play Guidelines

Introduction

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****

Guidelines for Games and Practices

- 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 (as detailed by current CDC guidelines), 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 into 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 will be informed of where they are going so the health department can trace them and who they have come in contact with.
 - Masks must be worn at all times inside dugouts, and when appropriate distancing is not possible. Bags will be hung along field fencing, both inside and outside dugouts, to allow for six-foot distancing between players and coaches.
 - Masks will be worn by all players and spectators in situations where they are unable to maintain proper social distancing outdoors. Masks will be worn by all players and spectators during any indoor activities.
 - Except as expressly provided below with respect to catcher's equipment, 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.
 - It is recommended that children use their own catcher's gear if they have their own gear. However, each team will also maintain two sets of catcher's equipment

and, if possible, designate prior to each game that no more than two players will be asked to play the catcher's position during the applicable game.

- If the foregoing is not possible (e.g., a team has only one set of catcher's equipment, a player designated to play the catcher's position is injured during the game or a set of catcher's equipment is damaged during the game), then the manager will be responsible for using a CDC-approved product to disinfect the catcher's equipment prior to its use by a player other than the original catcher.
 - 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.
 - Concessions stands available/operated at the fields will only provide pre-packaged items designed for individual consumption (e.g., bottled water, sealed bags of chips, individually wrapped snacks, etc).
 - No shared spectator tents will be allowed at the field. Only immediate family members may share a tent.
 - A Portable Hand Washing Station will be placed proximate to league-provided Port-o-potties, which will be outfitted with soap and sanitizer.
 - 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 in which proper social distancing is not able to be maintained when interacting with others (e.g., 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) are encouraged to sanitize their hands at the end of each half-inning. 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 persons involved is required for contact tracking purposes.
- Wilton Coach Responsibilities:
 - Wilton coaches (and other officials, including members of the baseball and softball boards of directors, league directors and player representatives) will monitor the foregoing guidelines relating to safety of players, coaches, and umpires and spectators at the fields.
 - Wilton coaches will work with their board of directors and town officials to ensure that all surfaces where hand contact may be made are thoroughly cleaned using a CDC-approved disinfectant prior to and after all games or practices.
 - All 1st & 3rd base coaches will maintain a distance of at least 6' from baserunners and fielders.
 - Coaches must maintain an attendance log for all practices and games.
 - When playing a home game against an out-of-town team, the Wilton coach will communicate the foregoing policies and procedures to the visiting team in advance of the game day.
 - When at an away game, the Wilton coach will obtain the home team's policies and procedures regarding safety in advance of the game day and will review such policies and procedures for adequacy. The Wilton coach will assess whether additional health and safety items must be requested from the home team and, if so, will communicate those items to the home team prior to the game day.

- Umpires:
 - When possible, Umpires will be paid electronically (Venmo, etc.) or through a mailed check. Cash will only be exchanged when electronic means of payment are not available.
 - 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 PPE masks in addition to their typical protective mask when on the field.
 - If a second umpire is utilized for a game, he or she will call the game from a spot on the field by the third base bag and will maintain a distance of at least 6' from all players during the game.

- 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 not exceed numbers specified in current Connecticut guidelines.
 - Spectators must be socially distanced (6') and are restricted to sitting in designated spectator sections.
 - Spectators should bring their own chairs. Use of the bleachers is not encouraged.
 - For all Little League baseball 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 foot traffic) and to maintain proper social distancing. Note that the scoreboard controls will be disinfected using a CDC approved product before and after each game by the applicable parent volunteer.
 - For WBSA play only at the Varsity, JV and Allen's Meadow fields, no one will be permitted behind the backstops at all. The scoreboard on the Varsity field will not be used for any games.
 - All fans are required to wear personal masks when 6' social distancing is not possible.
 - Fans are recommended to bring hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes.

- Some game play rules will be altered such as:
 - Team conferences will be held in large, open areas which allow for 6' distances between all coaches and players.
 - 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.
 - 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'.
 - All participants should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans (a "tip of the cap" can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line).

Legend

Player

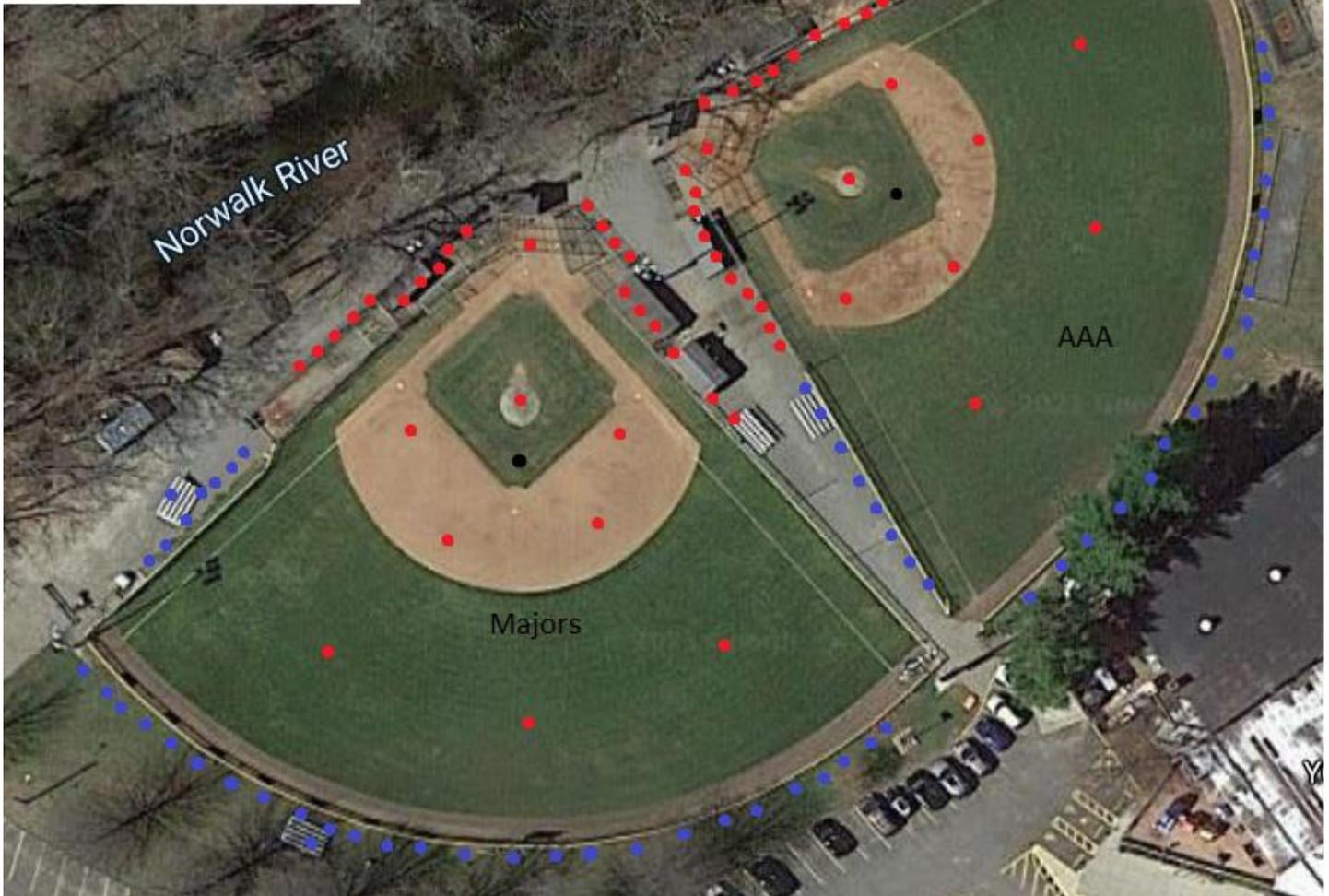
Spectator

Umpire

Little League Baseball Fields at Wilton YMCA

Scale:

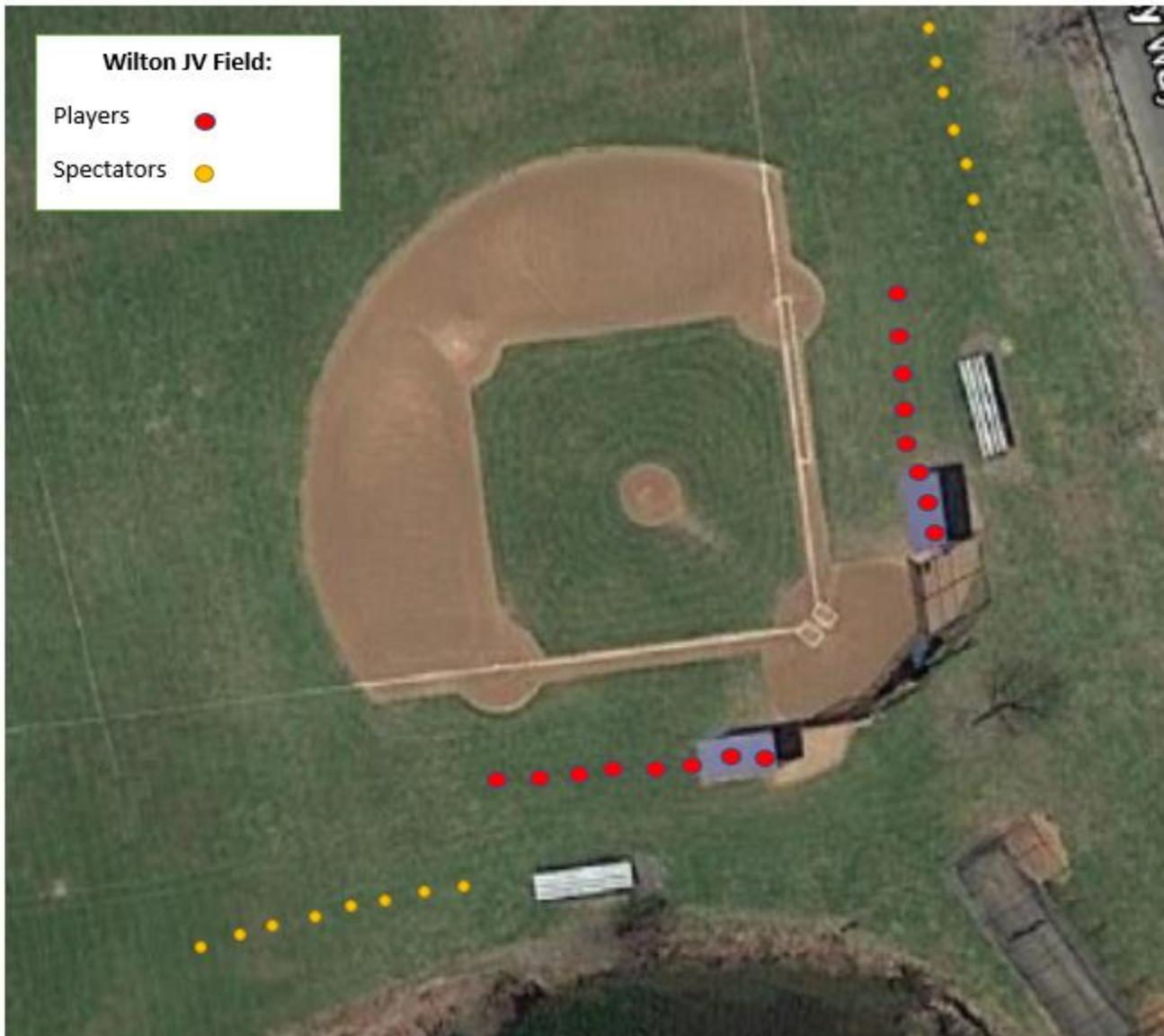
60 feet



Notes:

- 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 at the field will not exceed current state and local guidelines.
- Pinch point between Wilton Little League Majors and AAA fields in outfield is approximately 12 feet.

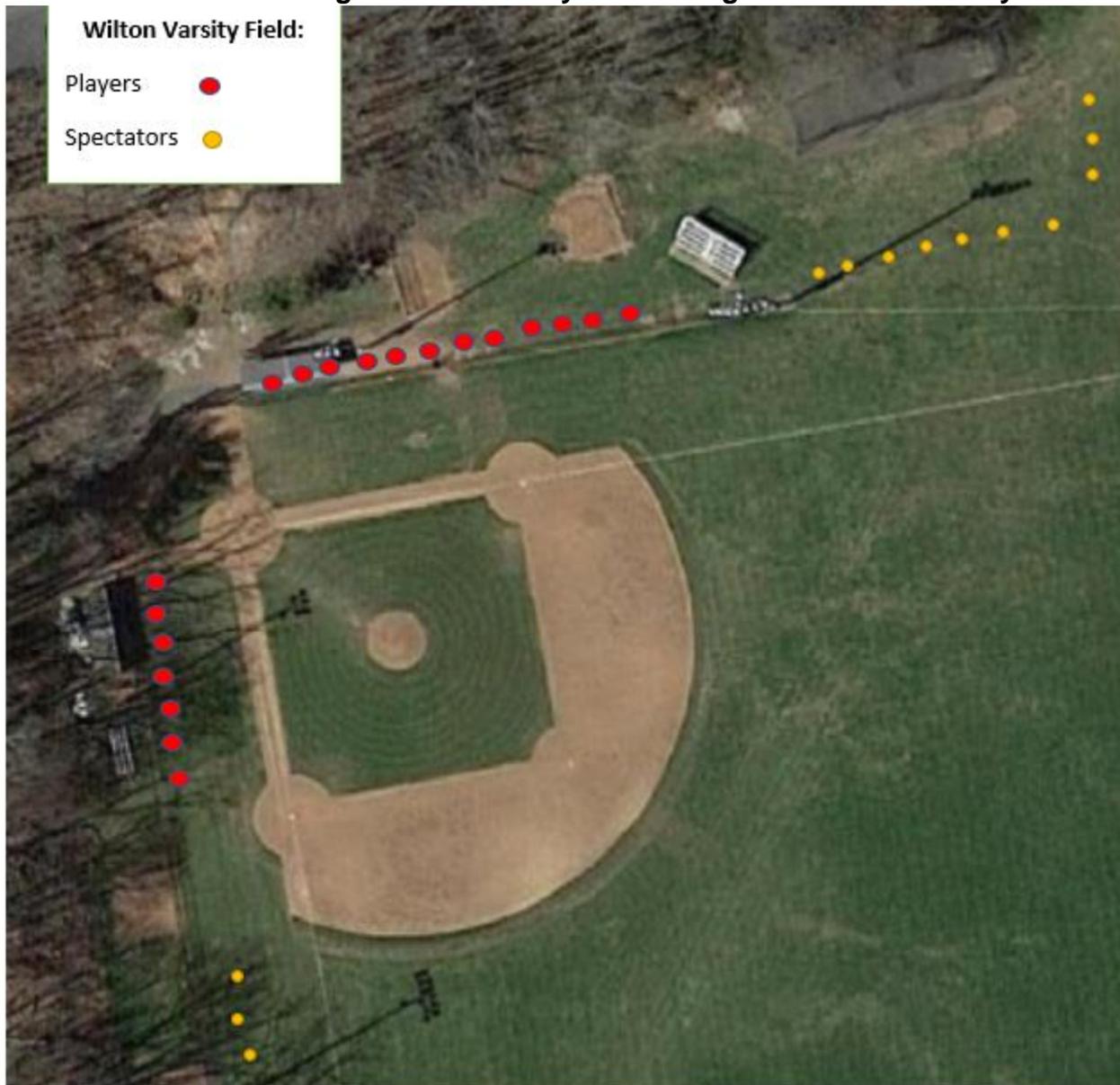
Wilton High School Junior Varsity Field – Field Layout



Notes:

- All measurements are approximations from the Town of Wilton GIS site found at <http://wilton.mapxpress.net/>
- The total number of people at the field will not exceed current state and local guidelines.

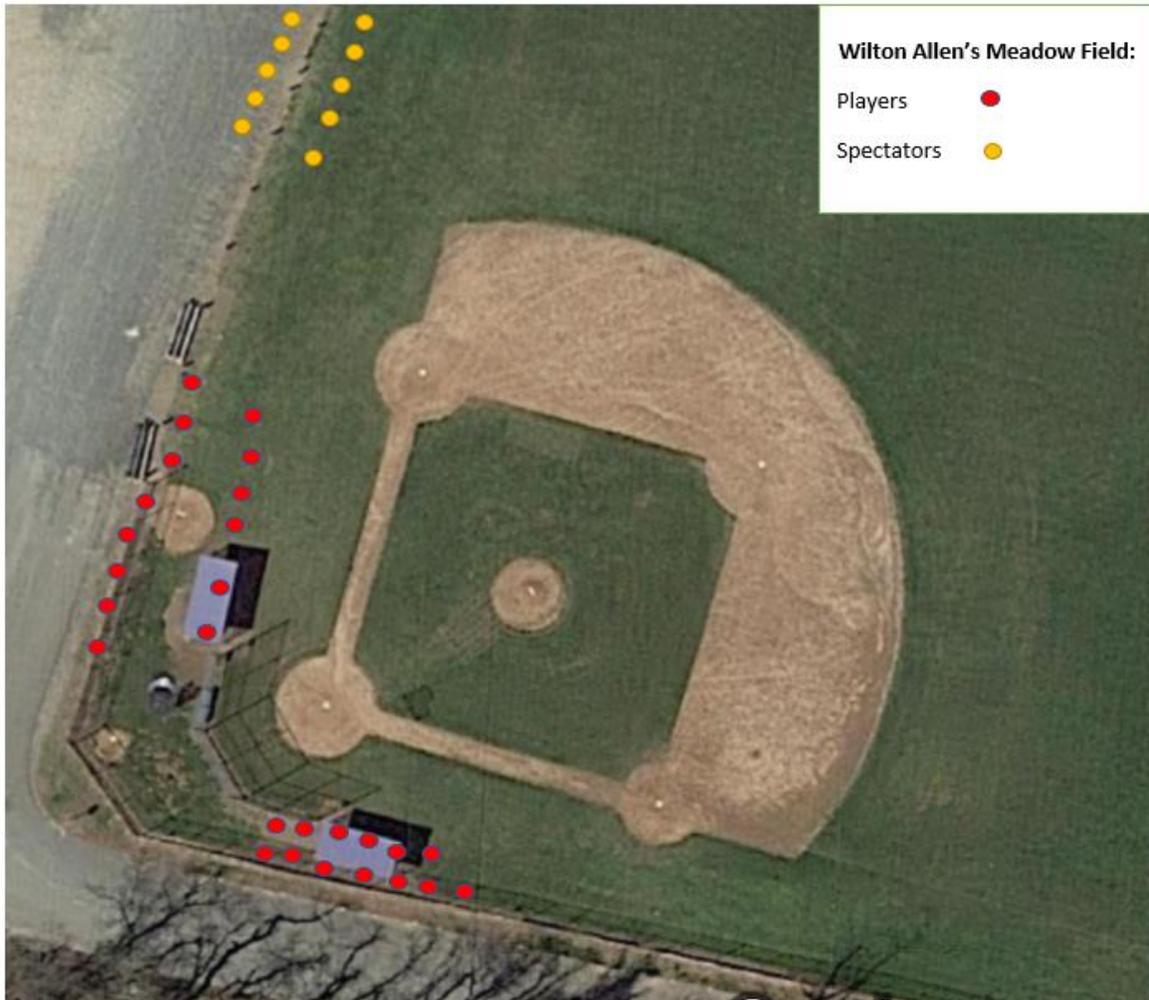
Wilton High School Varsity Field – Dugout and Outfield Layout



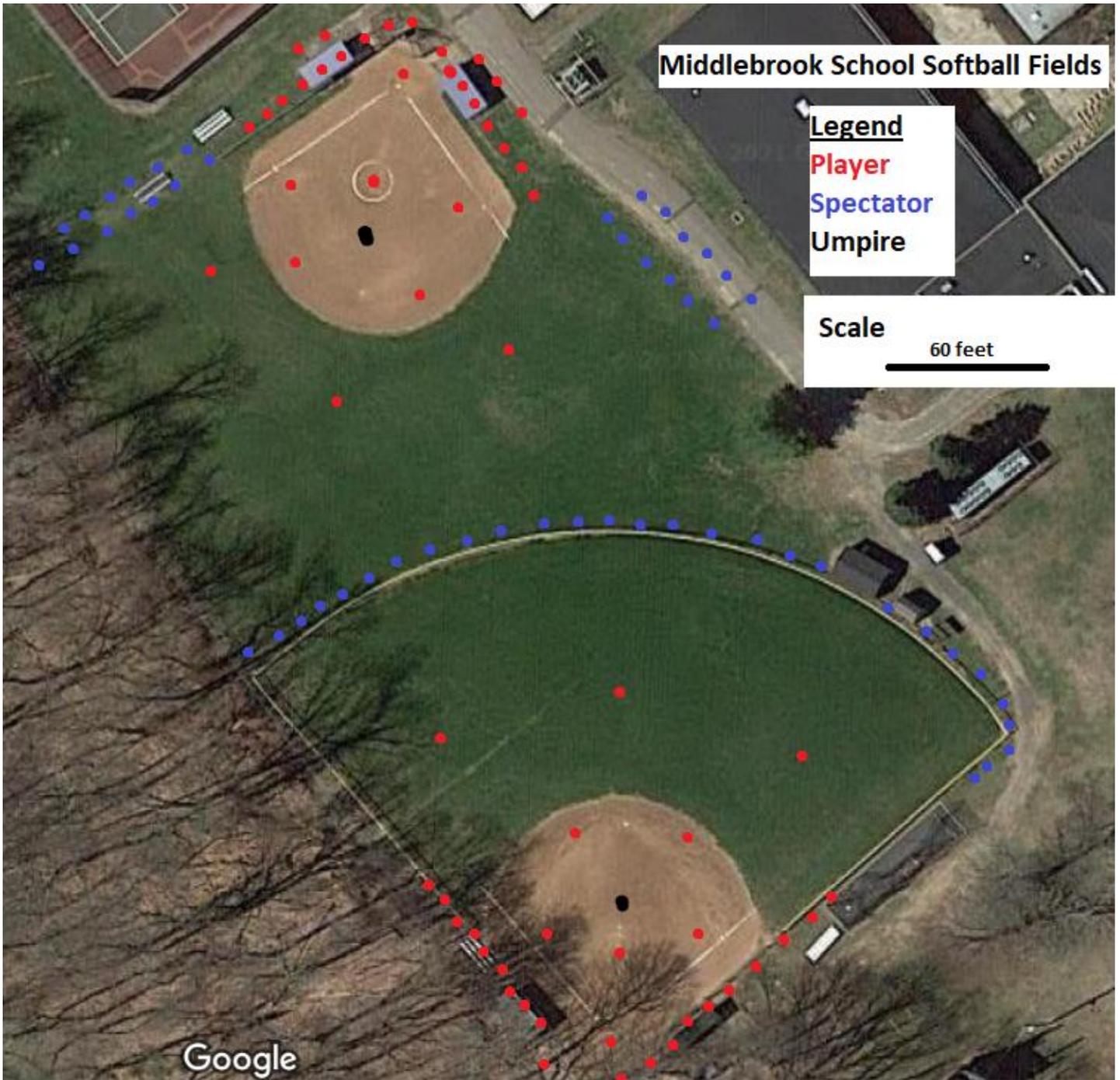
Notes:

- All measurements are approximations from the Town of Wilton GIS site found at <http://wilton.mapxpress.net/>
- 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 at the field will not exceed current state and local guidelines.
- The fences along the fields are long enough to have 16 players lined up with 6 feet of space between each player and any gates that may be built into the fence line.

Wilton Allen's Meadow Field



- 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 at the field will not exceed current state and local guidelines.



NOTE:

- The total number of people at the field will not exceed current state and local guidelines.

Wilton Softball/Baseball Return-To-Play Guidelines

Sources Considered:

1) ASPEN INSTITUTE

<https://www.aspenprojectplay.org/return-to-play>

2) USA SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

[Click here to download the Back to the Ballpark Guidelines >>](#)

3) USSSA SPORTS

[POST COVID-19 Return-to-Play Guidelines \(Updated 5/14/20\)](#)

[POST COVID-19 Return-to-Play FAQ's](#)

[Return to Play Waiver Sample](#)

4) LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL

<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/best-practices/organizing-playing-watching-games/>

5) RIPKEN BASEBALL

[https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/4ae6-2176139/Return to Play Plan.pdf? ga=2.30561535.1391041181.1591620678-1820849720.1579648575](https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/4ae6-2176139/Return%20to%20Play%20Plan.pdf?ga=2.30561535.1391041181.1591620678-1820849720.1579648575)

6) CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

7) STATE OF CT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

8) STATE OF CT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

<https://www.casciac.org/pdfs/CIACResocializationofAthleticsGuidance.pdf>

Wilton Waiver For All Program Families

RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE, COVID-19 LIABILITY, AND COVID-19 RISKS

The persons to whom this Agreement applies are, as follows:

Adult Participant Name: _____

Minor Participant Name(s): _____ Participant Age(s):

(If applicable) Name of Participant's Parent or Legal Guardian signing below:

IN CONSIDERATION for myself and/or my children listed above being permitted to utilize the services, utilize the facilities and/or participate in the programs of WILTON [SOFTBALL/BASEBALL] (the "Organization"), including, but not limited to, observation or use of facilities or equipment, or participation in or acting as a spectator during any program affiliated with the Organization, the undersigned, on behalf of himself or herself and such participating children and any personal representatives, heirs, and next of kin (hereinafter referred to as "the undersigned") hereby acknowledges, agrees and represents that he or she has inspected and carefully considered such premises, equipment, and facilities and has considered the Organization's programs and that the undersigned finds and accepts same as being safe and reasonably suited for the use or participation by the undersigned and such participating children.

In addition, the undersigned acknowledges that novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") infections have been confirmed throughout the United States, including several cases in the undersigned's own State and locality. In accordance with the most recent guidance and recommendations issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), undersigned's own State's Department of Health (DOH) for slowing the transmission of COVID19, the undersigned hereby agrees, represents, and warrants that neither the undersigned nor such participating children shall visit or utilize the facilities, services, and/or programs of the Organization (other than any exclusively online services and programs) within 14 days after (i) returning from highly impacted areas subject to a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice, (ii) exposure to any person returning from areas subject to a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice, or (iii) exposure to any person who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. The CDC Travel Health Network is continuously updating this list and the undersigned agrees that they are aware of this list and the countries listed. The undersigned agrees to check on a daily basis the CDC Travel Health Notices list (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) prior to participating in or utilizing the facilities, services, and programs of the Organization. The undersigned hereby agrees, represents, and warrants that neither the undersigned nor such participating children shall participate in, visit or utilize the facilities, services, and/or programs of the Organization if he or she (i) experiences symptoms of COVID-19, including, without limitation, fever, cough, loss of sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath, or (ii) has a suspected or diagnosed/confirmed case of COVID-19.

The undersigned agrees to notify the Organization immediately if he or she believes that any of the foregoing access/use restrictions may apply.

The Organization has taken certain steps to implement certain recommended guidance and recommendations issued by public health agencies for slowing the transmission of COVID-19, including, without limitation, the access/use restrictions set forth above. The undersigned

acknowledges and agrees that the Organization may revise its procedures at any time based on updated recommended guidance and recommendations issued by public health agencies and further agrees to comply with the Organization's revised procedures prior to utilizing the facilities, services, and/or prior to participating in the programs of the Organization. The undersigned further acknowledges and agrees that, due to the nature of the facilities, services, and programs offered by the Organization, social distancing of 6 feet per person among children and their fellow participants or others is not always possible. The undersigned fully understands and appreciates both the known and potential dangers of participating in the programs and/or utilizing the facilities and services of the Organization and acknowledges that use thereof by the undersigned and/or such participating children may, despite the Organization's reasonable efforts to mitigate such dangers, result in exposure to COVID-19, which could result in quarantine requirements, serious illness, disability, and/or death.

IN FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF BEING PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAMS, THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:

THE UNDERSIGNED, ON HIS OR HER BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF SUCH PARTICIPATING CHILDREN, HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE the Organization or its national governing body organization, or any of their respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers and agents, or any of the fellow participants or their family members or guests from all liability to the undersigned or such participating children and all personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin of the undersigned or such participating children for any loss or damage, and any claim or demands on account of any property damage or any injury to, or an illness or the death of, the undersigned or such participating children (or any person who may contract COVID-19, directly or indirectly, from the undersigned or such participating children) whether caused by the negligence, active or passive, of the Organization or otherwise while the undersigned or such participating children are in, upon, or about the premises or any facilities or using any equipment of or participating in any program of or affiliated with the Organization. To the extent such statute applies, the undersigned also expressly and knowingly waives all rights under California Civil Code Section 1542, which provides: "A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party."

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS the Organization, or any of their respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers and agents, and each of them, from any loss, liability, damages or costs they may incur, whether caused by the Organization's negligence, active or passive, or otherwise while the undersigned or any participating child is participating in any program of the Organization or in, upon, or about the premises or any facilities or equipment affiliated with the Organization. The undersigned understands and agrees that the Organization is not required to provide insurance to cover the undersigned or such participating children in the event they suffer illness, injury, death, property loss, theft or damage of any sort upon, or about the premises or any facilities or equipment therein or while participating in any program affiliated with the Organization.

The undersigned agrees and acknowledges that use of the Organization facilities and services, and participation in the Organization programs, may involve inherent danger and risk, including, without limitation, the risk of physical illness or injury, death or property damage. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND RISK OF ILLNESS, BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE to the undersigned or such participating children due to negligence, active or passive, or otherwise while in, about or upon the premises of the Organization and/or while using the premises or any facilities or equipment thereon and/or while participating in or observing any program affiliated with the Organization. The undersigned acknowledges that any illness or injuries

that the undersigned or such participating children contract or sustain may be compounded by negligent first aid or emergency response of the Releasees and waive any claim in respect thereof.

THE UNDERSIGNED further expressly agrees that the foregoing ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the laws of the State in which the undersigned resides or participates and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AND FURTHER AGREE THAT NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OR INDUCEMENT APART FROM THE FOREGOING WRITTEN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE. I AM AWARE THAT BY AGREEING TO THIS AGREEMENT I AM GIVING UP VALUABLE LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO RECOVER DAMAGES FROM THE ORGANIZATION IN CASE OF ILLNESS, INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE, INCLUDING, FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT AND WITHOUT LIMITATION, EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AT ANY ORGANIZATION FACILITY OR DURING PARTICIPATION IN ANY PROGRAM AND ANY ILLNESS, INJURY OR DEATH RESULTING THEREFROM. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS A PROMISE NOT TO SUE AND A RELEASE OF AND INDEMNIFICATION FOR ALL CLAIMS. IF SIGNING ON BEHALF OF MINOR: I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS MADE ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR CHILD(REN) AND/OR LEGAL WARDS AND I REPRESENT AND WARRANT TO THE ORGANIZATION THAT I HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF SUCH MINOR(S).

I have read and understand the terms of this Assumption of Risk, Release and Waiver of Date Liability, and Indemnity Agreement and agree to its terms.

_____ Printed Name

_____ Signature

_____ Emergency Contact Name

_____ Emergency Contact Number