To: HBGS League Membership

Subject: Notice of New HBGS Mandatory Health & Safety Procedures

Due to concerns surrounding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and other health authorities, HBGS is implementing some new, mandatory health and safety procedures as part of a proactive approach to preventing the spread of germs.

Throughout the HBGS organization, we are adopting these new measures effective immediately. We cannot stress enough how vital it is that all HBGS participants adhere to these guidelines.

**“No-Contact/No-Handshake” Policy**

HBGS is immediately instituting a precautionary “no-contact, no-handshake policy” to be observed at every level of the organization until further notice. This includes all physical contact and extends to customary game-related activities, such as pre-game coaches’ handshakes, umpire-coach introductions, and post-game handshakes between members of opposing teams. Instead, staff, players and coaches should use verbal queues, such as saying “good game,” without shaking hands, high-fiving or any other physical interactions.

**Maintain Good Hygiene Practices**

All HBGS volunteers, membership and participants in any HBGS events should be aware of the coronavirus risk and take the necessary precautions to avoid exposure to germs. This includes maintaining good hygiene practices. We strongly recommend the following:

* Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; this is suggested after any physical contact with another person or with a shared surface.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
* Cover your mouth and nose – with a tissue, if possible – when coughing or sneezing, then properly discard the tissue in the trash.
* Avoid close contact with anyone else who is coughing or sneezing or who is otherwise sick.
* Clean or disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
* If anyone in a players household has a temperature exceeding 100.4, the player and other family members from that household should stay home.
* If at any time you or your player are symptomatic or in anyway not feeling well, STAY HOME

We will provide updates related to these new measures or let you know about any additional precautions to take if and when they become necessary and will advise as limitations are removed or eased up on. We appreciate your cooperation in following these new procedures as we work together to maintain the highest health and safety standards as an organization.

We understand that this new form of softball is very different and there are many new rules to follow, we hope you will work with us and cooperate so we can get all players out on the field doing what they love sooner than later!

Huntington Beach Girls Softball

**POST COVID-19 Return-to-Play Guidelines and Procedures**

Drafted 6/17/2020

Version 2.0

Inside this manual are best practices for our sport, as developed by our HBGS POST COVID-19

Task Force. These best practices are designed to help members with ideas and plans for

operating post COVID-19. They do not replace or supersede any protocols or restrictions

outlined by state or local authorities. All membership must continue to follow those local or state

guidelines.

**HBGS/Westminster Girls Softball Field Practice Adopted Practices:**

1. Follow all local and state guidelines for facilities and events.

2. Ratio of one coach(adult) per every 3 girls is permitted on the fields at practice.

3. Teams will practice in group or circuit style setting. Girls will remain in their groups they start in throughout the practice and will move from coach to coach to work on various needed skill improvement.

4. One team will be assigned to each field per practice slot – there will no longer be shared practice times. The grass and cages surrounding each field will be considered all part of the practice slot for scheduling purposes.

5. Parents to supply their players with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for cleaning hands between activities. All players and coaches will be required to sanitize their hands between groups. Coaches, volunteers, and players are required to bring their own hand sanitizing products.

6. Any CDC recommendations for players wearing face coverings will be in effect, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game. HBGS recommends that players wear masks when batting or in the catcher position and in the dugouts, pitching lanes and cages. It is required that any face coverings worn by players or coaches must be neutral in color and may not have any designs on them or be decorated with glitter, sequins or any other shiny material. Face coverings are optional and are to be worn at the parents discretion.

7. Teams to clean their dugout of all trash and other items after each practice, and to wipe down/spray (clean/sanitize) hard surfaces such as dugout entry ways, benches, bat racks, etc.

8. Upon arriving at a dugout for the first time, teams are to disinfect hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, etc.). **Procedures #7 and #8 here will comply with the CDC recommendation of a two-step process for cleaning and disinfecting.**

9. Practice schedules will be adjusted to increase the amount of time between allocated field times, to eliminate overlap and reduce traffic flow.

10. The use of sunflower seeds and any food in the dugout is banned.

11. HBGS will cap the total number of teams that can enter the fields to stay within potential gathering limitations.

12. Non-Essential spectators/visitors/extended family will be encouraged to not attend until gathering limitations are increased or removed. Initially spectators will be limited to immediate family residing in the same household; only 2 parents at any given time and no siblings (when possible). These limitations will be revised as the State moves into Phase 4 or whenever spectators are free to attend sporting events and outside gathering capacities are lifted or revised. Spectators will be required to remain behind 1st and 3rd base. Spectators are not permitted to approach the fencing, field or dugouts; players will meet them in the outfield or on the blacktop after practice. Parents are encouraged to wait in their cars until the end of practice to limit the number of people coming/leaving fields.

13. Parents and players of practices just ending will leave the premises immediately. The next team to play will not enter the dugout until the entire team has exited and sanitizing is complete.

14. All staff, players and parents must continue social distancing on and off the field.

15. All staff and parents are encouraged to wear a mask or other face covering until CDC, state and local authorities declare that masks are no longer recommended. Masks must be worn when at least 6 feet of social distancing can’t be maintained.

16. All players are to use their own equipment while participating. This includes gloves, bats, etc. All shared catchers gear will be disinfected between uses by dugout personnel. Sharing equipment is not permitted. Each station will maintain it’s own supply of practice balls and will be sanitized between groups.

17. The catcher shall position themselves during a player’s at-bat to allow for social distancing.

18. Teams will practice with a max of 12 players

19. All teams are directed to clean their dugouts and team bench areas on arrival and departure.

20. Coolers, EZ Ups (unless set up for player use outside dugouts) is prohibited to avoid gathering and the spread of germs. Players should bring their own, personal cooler instead of using a team cooler. Players should plan on bringing an individual water bottle. Players will be required to bring their own assigned chair for them to use outside the dugout when they are waiting for their turn to enter the dugout to prepare for their at bat. Bat bags will not be permitted in dugouts, they will be hung outside the back of the dugouts – all personal belongings in the dugouts will need to be stored in containers that can easily be sanitized (buckets/other plastic containers).

21. Anyone using port-a-potties or facility restrooms do so at their own risk, although the league will be requesting additional weekly cleanings and hand washing stations, it is encouraged that all visitors bring their own disinfectants and sanitizing products.

22. The snack bar at HBGS fields will be open for use as a first aid station and will only sell sealed drinks and prepackaged foods.

23. This information must be distributed to all participants prior starting up the season, to

ensure the safety of all attending.

24. Coaching staff are required to take attendance at all practices. They will temperature check all players prior to activity, players with a temperature over 100.4 will not be allowed to participate that day. Board Members and staff of Huntington Beach Girls Softball reserve the right to send home any players who appear to show contagious symptoms or fever.

**POST COVID-19 Protocol for Changes to This Document**

**Due to the uncertain aspects in return to play, this document is expected to change based on**

**new procedures and feedback. You should always follow your local and state guidelines.**

**In the event of any conflict in language between any printed version of the POST COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines AND Procedures and the www.HBGS.org/coronavirus online version, the**

**www.HBGS.org/coronavirus shall prevail.**

**HUNTINGTON BEACH GIRLS SOFTBALL (known herein as HBGS) PROTOCOL FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK**

**Consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, coaches, staff, umpires/officials, and families of players (as feasible) should self-report to Huntington Beach Girls Softball (email: HBGSleague@gmail.com) if they have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.**

**HBGS will immediately separate coaches, staff, officials, and players with COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, shortness of breath) at any youth sports activity. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick. Individuals who have had close contact with a person who has symptoms should be separated and sent home as well, and follow CDC guidance for community-related exposure. If symptoms develop, individuals and families should follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.**

**Please visit:** [**https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html) **for tips to know if you may need to isolate or self-quarantine.**

**After report of any COVID-19 illness HBGS will close off areas used by a sick person and will not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting them. In accordance with state and local privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations, HBGS will notify Orange County Health Care Agency/Public Health (**[**www.ochealthinfo.com**](http://www.ochealthinfo.com)**) , program staff, umpires/officials, OVSD and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)external icon and other applicable laws and regulations.**

**Sick coaches, staff members, umpires/officials, or players should not return until they have met CDC’s criteria to discontinue home isolation. To prevent the possibility of spread HBGS requires players who have been exposed to other players who test positive for COVID-19 to quarantine for 10 days or provide a negative test result to the league before returning to any HBGS event, function, outing, games or practice.**

**CDC criteria is updated as necessary and may be found here:** [**https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html#discontinue-isolation**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html#discontinue-isolation) **. You may find tips on how to know when it’s safe to end home isolation after begin sick here:** [**https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC\_AA\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html)

**For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19**

**It is important to remember that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 10 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness.**

**We thank you for your cooperation in providing the safety playing environment possible.**

**Huntington Beach Girls Softball League, Board of Directors**

**Below is the waiver that all parents will need to sign before their player can return to play.**

**The finalized waiver will be sent out as soon as we’re advised of a return to play date.**

**POST COVID-19 HBGS Youth Waiver**

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING:

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in HUNTINGTON BEACH GIRLS SOFTBALL, athletics/sports program whether involving team or individual training and related

events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

1. The risk of injury and/or illness from the activities involved in the program is significant, including the

potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal

discipline may reduce the risk, the risk of serious injury does exist;

2. The risk to have direct or indirect contact with individuals who have been exposed to and/or diagnosed with one or more communicable diseases, including but not limited to COVID-19 or other medical conditions, diseases, or maladies, and/or any mutation or variation thereof does exist and it is impossible to eliminate the risk that I could become infected through contact with or close proximity to an individual with a communicable disease;

3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING

FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation;

and,

4. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If,

however, I observe any unusual, significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove

myself from participation and bring such hazard to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,

5. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS HUNTINGTON BEACH GIRLS SOFTBALL LLC, OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, AND THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER, its officers,

officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, directors, sponsors,

advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of the premises used to conduct the event (collectively, the "Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND

ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT

FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

PARENT’S/GUARDIAN’S SIGNATURE SHOULD BE ON THE SAME LINE AS PLAYER'S NAME WHERE IT

APPEARS ON THIS ROSTER. By signing this roster, parent or legal guardian agrees to the above statements and verifies that the player’s date of birth is correct. Parent or legal guardian of each youth player must sign below. FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN OF PARTICIPANT OF MINORITY AGE: This is to certify that I, as parent/legal guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE.