

South Fayette Baseball & Softball Association Return to Play Guidelines

Purpose:

- The purpose of this document is to ensure proper protocols and guidelines are followed by members of the South Fayette Baseball & Softball Association in response to return to play guidelines set forth by the State of Pennsylvania, South Fayette Township, & Youth Sports Organizations (Little League & USA Softball).
- SFBSA members will be requested to sign an acknowledgement of these guidelines.
- Enforcement of these guidelines will be the responsibility of all members to take part in. Coaches will be asked to verify that proper numbers of attendees (Players, Coaches, Spectators, & Umpires) do not exceed field maximums. Parents/Members of SFBSA are required to assist in the social distancing of players when not in the field of play.
- Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the parties being asked to leave the field area including any players, coaches, umpires, or spectators.
 - In the event of multiple occurrences by one individual or team, that individual or team will be dismissed for the entirety of the season.

Screening:

- Parents are required to screen their children prior to arrival at games/practices for signs of illness, including but not limited to the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Dry cough
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Difficulty breathing unrelated to a known, underlying condition (e.g., asthma)
- Anyone who is experiencing the above symptoms, or who is otherwise not feeling well is **not** to participate in the scheduled game/practice, including those who would be spectators at the event. **NOT FEELING WELL = STAY AT HOME!**
- Coaches will monitor players throughout the game for signs of illness. If a coach feels that a player is experiencing signs of illness, they will be asked to leave the event with a parent, or other responsible adult, immediately.
- Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of illness should STAY HOME; this includes players, coaches, umpires and spectators.

Masks:

- Coaches & Umpires are expected to wear a mask in the dugout area.
- Players in the dugout or sitting in the bleachers are expected to wear a mask. Players who are on-deck, batting, or playing a position in the field are not required to wear a mask.
- All spectators are expected to wear a mask entering and exiting the park(s), and when not practicing social distancing.
- The Association understands that for some persons, wearing a mask is not advisable due to certain medical conditions; therefore, if participants, coaches or spectators are not wearing a mask, the Association will assume that it is due to a medical decision.

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Social Distancing:

- In order to follow proper Social Distancing Guidelines there will be a Max Capacity of 90 individuals per field for an event including players, coaches, umpires and spectators.
 - Each player is to have no more than two spectators at the event.
- Dugouts:
 - Rosters of teams were set to allow for the minimum amount of players possible taking into account the number of registered players at each age group. More teams were created at certain age groups to allow for less players & spectators to be at the event.
 - Roster sizes depending on age groups could be from eight to 12 players.
 - Coach to player ratio will in most cases be 1:4 (1 Coach per 4 players) based on roster sizes.
 - Taking into account that while batting, 2 coaches will be in the field of play as base coaches, 1 Coach will be in the dugout, and 1 coach in the outside seating area with players.
 - Only 1 coach and a maximum of 4 players may be in the dugout at one time; from a practical standpoint, when the team is batting, the 4 players in the dugout should be those who are likely to bat in that inning.
 - A pod system of players will be used where applicable (Pre-TBall & TBall) to allow for the full rotation of players in groups of four into and out of the dugout.
 - At older levels, players will be rotated into and out of the dugout area according to the batting order, as a player reaches base or is called out on the bases that player's position in the dugout will be filled by the next player in the order from the outside seating of the dugout. All players that fail to reach base, or are called out on the field will immediately leave the dugout/field area and return to seating outside the dugout.
 - All other players and coaches (unless coaching a base or assisting in the outfield), will be seated in the bleachers utilizing proper social distancing guidelines. Bleacher will be marked to show proper social distancing seating arrangements.
 - Everyone in the dugout should remain six feet apart; benches and fences will be marked with tape to visually show proper social distancing, seating arrangements, and placement of equipment bags.
 - No seeds, gum or spitting permitted.
 - Players, coaches and spectators must provide their own beverages, the concession stand will not open this season. No post game team snacks.
 - Spectators are not permitted to stand behind or adjacent to dugouts
- Bleachers:
 - Bleachers are reserved for players and coaches only. All other spectators are required to bring their own chairs and to sit socially distanced along the perimeter of the field.
- Dugouts and bleachers will be sanitized following each game. Teams playing in the next scheduled game may not enter the dugout/bleachers until the teams playing immediately

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before they have exited and sanitation has been completed (30 minute time in scheduling will be allotted for leaving and sanitation before next group may enter).

- Sportsmanship: No high-fives, fist bumps, handshakes, or huddles. Hat tips are encouraged.

Scheduling:

- Games/Practice scheduling will use a staggered start and end time to help limit the amount of people located at the Park at the same time, where multiple fields are available.
- Fields that are located directly next to each other where spectators may be in close contact will not be used at the same time.
- For games/practices that will be scheduled back-to-back a time limit of one hour & 45 minutes will be strictly enforced. There will then be a one half hour break before the start of the next game to allow current players/spectators to clear the area before the next group of players/spectators arrive.
- All SFBSA Summer Tournaments have been cancelled for the season.

Equipment:

- Hand sanitizer will be provided for each dugout.
- Each team will provide a game ball(s) to be used during the ½ inning when they are in the field. The ball will be sanitized after each inning.
- No sharing of bats, gloves, helmets or masks is permitted.
- There will be no Catcher at the Coach Pitch level. There will be no Pitcher at the T-Ball and Pre-T level. At all other levels, baseball and softball, catching equipment will be made available by the Association; however, catchers are encouraged to bring their own equipment if possible. Additionally, the catcher position will rotate on a limited basis, or not at all, during the course of a game. Coaches are responsible for sanitizing equipment after each use.

Communication:

- South Fayette Township will ensure that signage is posted at all facilities indicating the need to wash hands frequently & to practice social distancing.
- Additionally, the Association will communicate its expectations regarding adherence to these guidelines via e-mail on a weekly basis, as minimum.
- SFBSA guidelines will be communicated with outside organizations and townships that may be coming to South Fayette to play prior to date of scheduled event.
- In the event a player becomes ill during a practice or game, the coach & parent/guardian need to reach out to the Association President, Tim Mantick, via e-mail (tjmantick@gmail.com) to inform him.