



Return to Play Recommendations

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



Recommended Best Practices for the Field-of-Play:

1. Follow all local and state guidelines for facilities and events. See MPRB Covid-19 Operations Plan.
2. Spectators will be encouraged to not attend events until gathering limitations are increased or removed.
3. All staff, players, umpires and spectators are encouraged to continue 6 feet social distancing on and off the field during an event. Recommend that spectators bring their own chairs.
4. All staff, players, umpires and spectators are encouraged, not required to wear a mask or other face covering until CDC, state and local authorities declare that masks are no longer recommended.
5. Spitting is strongly discouraged and please refrain from this act. Avoid the use of sunflower seeds.
6. It is encouraged that new softballs remain in their original packaging until they need to be introduced into a game.
7. All teams are recommended to only use their own team's softballs when in the field. Once a half-inning is complete, fielding team will take their ball into the dugout and team going to play the fields provides one of their team's softballs
8. Increase dugouts sizes where possible, to eliminate that space restriction. Recommend players stand outside the dugout to allow for social distancing, but do not stand on the field of play. **It is highly recommended that players bring their own chairs to set outside of the dugout to eliminate number of people in dugout.**
9. Recommend staff, players, umpires and spectators bring hand sanitizing products and/or sanitizing wipes.
10. One coach or manager per team will conduct a pregame meeting at home plate, all involved are requested to keep 6 feet social distancing during ground rules and coin toss.
11. It is recommended that all players and umpires use their own equipment while participating. This includes gloves, bats, helmets, etc. No handshakes, team huddles, high fives. Teams should tip their hats or wave instead.
12. The catcher and umpire shall position themselves during a player's at-bat to allow for social distancing.
13. **All teams are encouraged to clean their dugouts and team bench areas on arrival and departure.** This includes wiping down benches and any high-touch areas and removing any trash. Remind to all to wash hands after leaving complex.
14. Teams should not enter dugout until the other team exits. Teams must leave the field immediately after their game concludes. **Teams will have 5 minutes to vacate the bench area.** Please exit the dugout as quickly as you can.
15. Teams should not congregate together in the complex area at the conclusion of their games for the evening. If this is to be done, maintain the safe social distance of 6 feet between each other.
16. As to all applicable persons, people should be instructed that if they are exhibiting symptoms of possible exposure to COVID-19, such as a fever exceeding 100.4, that they should not come to events until such time as the participant has been tested and/or cleared. This includes recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.