

City of Salem Softball Program Modified Tournament and Complex Rules



Ensuring Social Distancing and Cleanliness During the COVID-19 Pandemic



NOTE: All players will be required to abide by these new policies while they are in place. We will do our best to remove restrictions as the year goes on but will always remain in compliance with local and state guidelines and limitations. Coaches are responsible for holding their players accountable to these new rules. Any person who does not follow these rules will be asked to leave the complex, if that person continues to cause problems, they will be suspended for year with no refund.

PLAYERS:

- It is recommended that players use their own personal equipment, such as mitts, bats, batting gloves and helmets/masks.
 - If someone needs to touch another person's equipment (for example: retrieving a bat after the hitter is on base or because a player does not own their own bat), there will be disposable towels and sanitizer in each dugout for the players to use to minimize touching the same surface as others, or to clean those surfaces after they do.
 - Players are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer and first aid items, although both will be provided if necessary.
 - All persons entering the park will be encouraged to wear a face mask or other facial covering until the CDC and local/state authorities declare that masks are no longer recommended. We understand the concern about running and exerting energy while wearing a mask, we suggest that you wear one as often as you feel comfortable, specifically in the dugout and common areas of the facility.
 - **NO SPITTING IS ALLOWED INSIDE THE COMPLEX.** This includes saliva, chewing tobacco and sunflower seeds..
- ROSTERS/LIMITS ON NUMBER OF PEOPLE INSIDE THE COMPLEX:**
- In the beginning, no spectators will be allowed inside the complex. If guidelines allow, spectators can watch games from outside of the complex beyond the 300ft fence, as long as those spectators practice social distancing and remain at least 6ft away from any person not in their household. The number of spectators allowed will be increase as state and local authorities increase the acceptable gathering sizes.
 - Once spectators are allowed, spectator areas will be marked where lawn chairs can be placed. Bleachers will not be available for spectators until guidelines allow.
 - Tournament directors will work with complex staff to determine the number of players and team personnel each team will be allowed to have inside the complex. This number can and will vary depending upon current guidelines and restrictions in place in our region. The tournament director will oversee monitoring these limits and enforcing them at entry and will use wristbands to identify who is allowed to enter. Tournament directors will provide a list of the specific people from each team who enter the complex daily.
 - Teams will need to wait in the parking lot or in a designated waiting area until the players of the previous rounds have exited the park AND the dugouts have been sanitized. Teams should leave the park immediately following their last scheduled game. No post game meetings or talks are permitted inside the complex. Game times will be spaced out to accommodate the delays this new policy will create. Coaches need to check in with staff at the front gate before the team may enter the complex.

- One-way directional signage will be implemented throughout the park to prevent interactions or congregation of people. We will divide the main entry walkway in half, and we may utilize other gates for exits (between fields 2 & 3 and 4 & 5) to minimize two lane traffic in the entry.

UMPIRES:

- Umpires will always maintain a position to accomplish social distancing. This includes before, during and after at-bats and while moving into a position on the field to make a call.
- Umpires are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer. Scoreboard controllers will be sanitized between users.

DUGOUTS/SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- Dugouts will be sanitized before and after a team occupies them for a game. **NO TRASH OR PERSONAL ITEMS CAN BE LEFT IN THE DUGOUT, CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES.** (This is the coach's responsibility to enforce. If a team leaves their dugout a mess, they subject themselves to forfeits.)
- The dugout area will extend in both directions outside of and behind the dugouts. Tape will be placed helping to create designated areas to help players remain 6 ft apart. Players are encouraged to spread out into areas outside of the normal dugout to maintain a proper social distance and enter the dugout only when necessary. It is expected that all teams will have both base coach positions occupied, as well as an on-deck batter (2 on deck for slow pitch), throughout their games.
- Players are encouraged to spread out their personal items in the extended dugout area to minimize congregating in common areas.
- In the event of inclement or extremely warm weather, teams are encouraged to bring canopies or pop up tents into the complex to provide shelter from the rain or hot sun.

GAME PLAY:

- Only one member from each team is allowed at the pre-game plate talk. Umpires will stand at home plate and team representatives will position themselves 6ft from the umpire.
- The Catcher and Umpire shall position themselves during a player's at bat to allow for social distancing. In Slow pitch, the catcher should be back behind the umpire close to the backstop to allow the umpire an optimal visual of the strike zone.
- No physical contact will be allowed between players at any time! This is including but not limited to: high fives, handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, chest bumps, etc. Team huddles and post-game handshakes are also not allowed.

BALLS:

- Sanitizing wipes will be in each dugout for sanitizing balls during play. City of Salem staff will also be sanitizing balls throughout game play when possible.
- Umpires will not hold any extra balls not currently in use. The catcher will keep extra balls in a designated area on the backstop.

RESTROOMS/WATER FOUNTAINS:

- Water fountains will remain turned off during the initial re-opening phases, players are encouraged to bring their own water with them to the park.
- Restrooms will be constantly monitored to ensure cleanliness and adequate stocking of supplies. Once an hour, each restroom will be closed for a short amount of time and completely disinfected.
- Tape will be placed on the ground in and outside the restroom, assuring that physical distance is maintained while waiting in line. We will limit the number of people allowed inside the restrooms.

QUESTIONS/CONVERSATIONS WITH STAFF:

- City staff will be dispersed throughout the complex and available for help. We ask that only the coach (or designated team member in charge) communicate with our staff in order to help maintain social distancing and limit interactions.

SIGNAGE:

- Signage will be placed throughout the complex to help direct the flow of traffic, encourage social distancing, communicate these new policies and procedure that will help minimize contact between staff and participants.