



PORTAGE YOUTH BASEBALL

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COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

All COVID-19 Safety Guidelines are subject to change and will be updated as deemed necessary by PYB.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Spectators will not be allowed around the area of the backstop or dugouts. Only players, coaches, and the umpire(s) are allowed on the field of play. All areas between the dugouts outside the field of play are reserved for the players and coaches. Spectators are only permitted to view the game from the outfield. This means the game may be viewed along the foul lines starting at 1st or 3rd base extending to the outfield and in the outfield area. If players are using the bullpens, spectators must move and make that area available to the players. All spectators residing outside of the same household shall practice social distancing to maintain 6 feet of space between themselves and the next spectator, group, or family.

PRACTICE RULES

1. Any player or family member exhibiting coughs, fevers, or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19 is an automatic DO NOT ATTEND. Anyone that shows these signs and symptoms will be asked to leave immediately as this puts our season in immediate JEOPARDY.
2. Dugouts will be CLOSED during practice! Players are to leave bags 6 feet apart along the fencing and maintain the social distancing requirements. This will be marked off for the players to give them guidance.
3. Every player must have their own equipment including helmet, baseball glove, and hat (labeled with their name). There is no sharing of equipment. For any player not having their own bat, there will be league provided bats that will need to be wiped down after a player uses it. Catcher's gear will be sanitized after a player uses it and before the next player does.
4. Split the players up as best you can. Small groups for skill work.
5. Tee work should be done by the player on their own. Coaches should maintain 6 feet of distance.
6. Soft toss can be done but maintain social distance of 6 feet.
7. Batting gloves can be worn at all times to create a barrier if you choose.
8. Masks will not be required but can be worn if you choose. Keep in mind the heat during the summer months, and some masks can be hard to breathe through which could lead to heat exhaustion.
9. Every player should bring their own hand sanitizer if possible. However, PYB will do its best to have some available for players that do not have any.
10. Coaches are responsible for sanitizing with a 10% bleach solution. The baseballs should be sanitized after each practice. Catcher's gear and team bats should be sanitized after each use.
11. No gum chewing, sunflower seeds, or spitting will be allowed at the ball fields during games or practices.



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GAME RULES

1. Any player or family member exhibiting coughs, fevers, or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19 is an automatic DO NOT ATTEND. Anyone that shows these signs and symptoms will be asked to leave immediately as this puts our season in immediate JEOPARDY.
2. Dugouts will be open, but coaches will ensure proper social distancing is being followed as there will be marked seating in the dugouts and on bleachers. Players are to leave bags 6 feet apart along the fencing and maintain the social distancing requirements. This will be marked off for the players to give them guidance.
3. Every player must have their own equipment including helmet, baseball glove, and hat (labeled with their name). There is no sharing of equipment. For any player not having their own bat, there will be league provided bats that will need to be wiped down after a player uses it. Catcher's gear will be sanitized after a player uses it and before the next player does.
4. The umpire will be behind the catcher. Games may have 1 plate umpire and 1 base umpire. Umpires will use the maximum distance allowed to call a fair game. If only 1 umpire, he/she will be behind the catcher.
5. Every player should bring their own hand sanitizer if possible. However, PYB will do its best to have some available on-site. Hand sanitizer should be used prior to entering the field and before leaving.
6. Balls are to be provided by the team on the field. No one, besides that team, should be touching the ball, including the umpire. All foul balls will be picked up by a designated coach or team volunteer. If someone else touches the ball, it needs to be disinfected.
7. No post game handshakes or high fiving teammates. At the end of the game, each team lines up on their baseline and tips their caps to their opponent.
8. Coaches can hold team meetings but need to maintain proper social distancing. This should take place in a staging/warmup area.
9. Arrive no more than 30 minutes prior to the start of your player's game. The designated warm up area will be on the field. The home team uses a designated batting cage for the first 15 minutes and the visiting team for the second 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. Parents should remain in their vehicle until the game is about to begin. If there is more than 1 game on any field in the same night, parents and players should exit the field and parking lot as quickly as possible so the parents arriving for the 2nd game can enter the facility on time.
10. No fans/spectators allowed between the dugouts on the infield area. If anyone is in this area they will be asked to leave and go back to their seating area. Failure to do so will result in the game they are watching to be canceled immediately.
11. PYB recommends that direct households sit together during your child's game and maintain proper social distancing from the next family. Families will need to bring their own chairs and sit along the fences starting beyond 1st & 3rd base and going around the outfield.
12. Coaches are responsible for sanitizing with a 10% bleach solution. The baseballs should be sanitized after each practice. Catcher's gear and team bats should be sanitized after each use.
13. No gum chewing, sunflower seeds, or spitting will be allowed at the ball fields during games or practices.



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VIOLATION OF ESTABLISHED COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

PYB has established the above guidelines with the interest of the safety of all players, coaches, fans, and the community in mind. Violation of any of the above guidelines places an increased danger on those the plan intends to protect. If a violation is observed by any coach or board member, the coach or board member shall immediately attempt to obtain voluntary compliance with the established guidelines. If there is a continued refusal by the violator to comply with required guidelines, the practice or game shall be immediately canceled. The PYB Board will then review the violating team's ability to continue practicing or playing for the remainder of the season.