



GROVE CITY YOUTH BASEBALL

CITY OF GROVE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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YOUTH BASEBALL SAFETY PROTOCOL

Guidelines are subject to update at any time based on guidelines, orders and ordinances from local and state health departments and other entities.

Key Practices for all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Staff and Spectators

- Do not use facility if feeling ill (fever, cough, etc.) or after recent contact with a person with COVID-19.
- Wash/sanitize hands before and after using the park.
- Adhere to physical distancing of at least six feet. Exception: players during play.
- Do not congregate in groups.
- Limit touching of common surfaces when possible.
- Avoid touching face.
- Practice good hygiene, cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with inside of elbow.
- No spitting or expulsion of body fluid from nose except into a tissue.
- Clean up after yourself. Dispose of refuse in trash or recycling bin as appropriate.
- Do not share beverages or snacks or set up a drinking station (e.g., large water thermos). All visitors and players should bring their own individual filled beverage containers/water bottles.
- Make every effort to limit travel to and from the park in a single vehicle for each household.
- Limit time at the park to 30 minutes before game time and 20 minutes after completion of the contest to minimize contact with participants and spectators of other games.
- **Face Coverings**
Masks covering the mouth and nose reduce the risk of virus transmission. The State of Ohio's guidelines for baseball and softball include recommended best practices regarding face coverings.
 - Failure to follow these rules may result in team or person(s) being removed from the event and/or cancellation of practices, games or league events. Continued failure to follow these rules may result in suspension of privileges to attend events for the family and player.
 - Employees: All required to wear a face covering.
 - Coaches: Not required but strongly recommend when in the dugout with other players.
 - Players: Not required but strongly recommend when in the dugout with other players.
 - Umpires: Not required but strongly recommended.
 - Spectators: Masks highly recommended especially if unable to maintain six feet distance from others.

Coaches

- Self-evaluate and stay home if experiencing symptoms.
- Follow the flow chart guidelines with any questions or concerns.
- Conduct symptom assessments/confirm lack of symptoms for assistant coaches and players as they arrive.
- Ensure players follow COVID-19 prevention measures in this plan including adhering to social distancing in dugouts and other seating areas and wearing face coverings while not actively participating on field of play.
- Do not hold team meetings in a huddle prior to, during or after games.

- When possible, keep equipment and personal items properly separated and avoid sharing. Some additional equipment (e.g., catcher’s equipment) is available in the Windsor office; please see office before practice/game to check out items. If equipment must be shared, administer proper sanitation between users.
- Follow the no-touch rule: refrain from high fives, handshakes and other contact with own or opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans. Consider “tipping caps” to show sportsmanship.
- Coaches must remain six feet from players during all mound visits and player conferences, on and off the field of play. All coaches-base coaches, bench coaches must adhere to social distancing practices.

Practice/Game Operations

- Limit practices to the coaches and players.
- For each practice session, it is recommended that coaches divide players into groups and establish rotating shifts when possible.
- No sharing of personal equipment including mitts, bats, catching equipment, batting gloves and batting helmets.
- Pregame meetings should include only one coach per team and all participants standing at least six feet apart.
- Any shared field preparation equipment must be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.
- Umpires adhere to social distancing practices when interacting with players, coaches and spectators. During play, umpires stand as far as possible from players while still able to perform duties, and avoid touching baseballs by allowing players to retrieve them.
- Follow the no-touch rule: refrain from high fives, handshakes and other contact with own or opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans. Consider “tipping caps” to show sportsmanship.

Player Equipment

- No personal items including equipment bags are allowed in the dugout. Place player equipment outside the dugout spaced to prevent direct contact among items from different players.
- Players should have their own individual mitt and batting gloves as well as bat, batting helmet and catcher’s equipment, if possible.
- Some additional equipment (e.g., catcher’s equipment) is available in the Windsor office for coaches to check out before practice or game.
- Avoid or minimize equipment sharing when feasible. When sharing is necessary, all surfaces of each item must be cleaned then disinfected with a material approved by the EPA as effective against COVID-19. Allow sufficient time for drying before use by a new player. Pay close attention to equipment directly contacting the head (i.e., catcher’s masks, helmets).
- Player’s equipment including bags, helmets, bats and mitts should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a player or parent/guardian.
- Coaches, sports site coordinators and board members disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves and follow the manufacturers’ directions for use. All disinfectants should be stored properly, in a safe area out of the reach of children.

Baseballs

- Baseballs should be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.
- Umpires should limit their contact with baseballs with players retrieving fouls, passed balls, wild pitches, over throws, etc.
- Keep warm-up baseballs separate from a shared ball container.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, site coordinators and board members. No spectators should retrieve balls.

Dugouts

- Coaches and players should stay in assigned locations in the dugout or on bleachers that are behind a fence and at least six feet apart.
- Players are to stay at their assigned spots when not participating in the game or while waiting for turn to bat.
- Players and coaches are strongly recommended to wear a cloth face covering while in the dugout.

Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.

- All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.
- Body fluid from the nose should only be discharged into a tissue; immediately throw tissue away and wash/sanitize hands.
- Chewing of seeds, gum and other items is not allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.

No Personal Contact Celebrations

- Players and coaches should avoid all but essential contact necessary game play such as tagging out a player.
- Refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc. Consider “tipping caps” to show sportsmanship in lieu of a handshake line.

Spectators

- Adhere to six-foot social distancing for anyone not in the same family, including in the bleacher areas.
- If unable to maintain six-foot distance, wear a mask covering the nose and mouth.
- Do not enter player areas on the field or the bench/dugout.
- Maintain a distance of at least six feet from the backstop.
- Avoid direct physical contact with players and coaches during play.
- Bring your own portable chairs when possible.
- A spectator with any of the following should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
 - Active COVID-19 infection.
 - Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19.
 - Currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility.
 - If at higher risk for severe disease, consider consulting with a medical provider before attending a game and ensure strict adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing and hand washing. High-risk conditions include being older than 65, immunocompromised or morbidly obese or diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes or chronic kidney or lung disease.

Restrooms

- All participants and spectators are encouraged to use their own restrooms before leaving for the park to limit need to use public facilities.
- Access to public restrooms is limited when possible; e.g., a “one-in, one-out” policy (one individual permitted in restroom at a time to ensure adequate distancing in a confined space).
- Prior to and after any league activity, restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Restrooms will be disinfected on a regular basis during the day.
- Public water fountains or refillable water stations should not be used.

Water Fountains

- Water fountains are not available for use.

Arrival and Departure from the Venue

- Do not arrive more than 20 minutes before game time.
- Depart within 20 minutes of the end of game.
- Practice social distancing when coming to and leaving the facility.
- Do not congregate in common areas including parking lots before or following the event.

Duties of Site Coordinators/Board Members

- Self-monitor health; take temperature daily and record.
- Disinfect bleachers, field gates, restrooms and equipment as needed.
- Encourage social distancing.
- Assist with directing people to the proper areas with proper distancing.
- Guide people to leave the facility promptly.
- Help monitor the regulations by coaches and players.
- Communicate with spectators about changes (posted signs) and proper guidelines for using the restrooms and social distancing.
- Make hourly reminder announcements.
- Disinfect Windsor Park office area daily.

Confirmed Cases

- Staff will maintain a complete list of names and contact information for coaches, players and employees present at each event including the date and start and end times. The list will be provided upon request to the local health department.
- Any individual who develops symptoms should immediately isolate and seek medical care. If COVID-19 is confirmed, that person is asked to contact the Grove City Parks and Recreation Department or the health department.
- If a case occurs, the City will contact the Franklin County Public Health Department about suspected cases or exposure and work with them to identify potentially exposed individuals to facilitate effective notifications.