



RYBSA COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines Version: Aug 12, 2020a

Purpose

This document is intended to clarify the specific guidelines and requirements for participation in, use of, and attendance at RYBSA events and facilities.

Scope

This document applies to all players and participants at RYBSA-events and facilities (both Martin and Peck street). This includes:

- Rec season players
- Teams renting or attendee events at any RYBSA facilities
- Parents and other non-player attendees on-site for RYBSA events
- Coaches
- Umpires
- Any other people including service providers or contractors on the premises of RYBSA sites.

This remains in effect until it is revised or announced to be discontinued. Facility closures noted by league community or other such board-sanctioned announcements may supersede this as appropriate

Updates

These guidelines may change to meet the evolving needs for the safety of our RYBSA community and to maintain alignment to state and local law. Please note the Version at the top of each page and check www.rybsaonline.com to ensure you are aware of an following the latest guidelines.

General Guidelines

- Follow local & state health guidelines at all times. Participating and/or visiting to RYBSA facilities and events is subject to compliance with these and all state and local guidelines. Anyone observed violating may be asked by board members to leave event and facility.
- All players and coaches must submit signed COVID-19 waivers prior to participating in any league activities.
- All spectators are required to wear a face covering while at the facility. Exceptions for medically supported needs only.
- Scheduling of games and practices may be adjusted to meet guidelines and reduce number of people at the complex.
- All restrictions that are imposed by local and state officials must be followed with no exceptions
- RYBSA will have a point of contact for any person wishing to advise the league of guidelines not being followed. Any concerns regarding compliance with guidelines should first be raised with the team coach and then escalated to division VP, who will bring to board as needed.
- Cleaning supplies, including hand sanitizer will be available to every team and each team will encourage hand washing and utilization of hand sanitizer throughout the game or practice. Coaches and players are to wash or sanitize hands both before and after game/practice/event.
- We ask that all players and those attending activities at the complexes self-certify that they are in good health prior to arriving at the fields. Any player, coach or umpire that has exhibited symptoms consistent with COVID19 in the last 14 days, should not attend games or practices. Spectators that are not feeling well are asked to stay home. Current list of symptoms is available here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>



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- All coaches will be updated on these procedures and Division-specific procedures prior to the start to the season
- Restroom use will be adjusted to be one person at a time
- Proper signage will be displayed throughout the complex on guidelines provided by local and state health official
- Cleaning and disinfection of the high touch and heavy transit areas will be done frequently. RYBSA will also have a complete deep sanitization done in the bathrooms at least weekly. Cleaning protocols will align to CDC and/or State guidelines.
- Fans attending games should follow the 6' social distancing guidelines and view games from the designated areas around the playing field that have been marked off to ensure social distancing. Spacing for players and attendees is being marked off in numerous areas and attendees are asked to abide by these to ensure appropriate distancing.
- Per the State updates in week 2 of August 2020, attendees per field shall be 50 or less. To support this families must to limit attendance to one adult per athlete. This is not inclusive of coaches. Non-participating sibling attendance should by minimized or avoided where possible.
- Parents are asked to keep track of those family members that attend the games for contact logging purposes.
- Concession stand will be closed until further guidance is given
- Players are asked to arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the game and practice for routine recreation events. Players should stay in their vehicle until the field they are playing on has been cleared from the previous activity.
- Once game or practice is over RYBSA asks that no player or families hang around the complex. All spectators, parents and players will be expected to leave within 15 minutes after the conclusion of the event or earlier to help facilitate the next group to start their activity.
- Coaches will guide players in moving on and off the field or specific areas as needed at the start, end, or during the event. Specific divisions may have more specific processes to provide additional structure for those age groups.

Game Play, Practices, and Coach/Player Guidelines

- NO handshaking/celebrations: Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
- Only three (3) players MAXIMUM in the dugout at one time, while also following 6' social distancing guidelines at all times. This is per coach discretion and coach may elect to have less than 3 in dugout. Remaining players and coaches will be positioned outside of the playing field (fenced area).
- Players should not share any of their personal playing equipment (IE: bats, gloves, fielder's mask, catcher's gear, helmets, water bottles, etc.) Accommodations may be made for coaches to handle sterilization of any team gear that may be shared (ie: catchers gear)
- All participants should wear face coverings while at the park.
- Players are required to wear the face coverings at all times excepts are follows:
 - Not required when on the field in defensive fielding positions
 - Face coverings should be worn when batting and after a hit as a baserunner.



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- Otherwise face coverings are to be worn at all other times. (IE: should be worn in dugout, on deck etc)
- Umpires and coaches will be required to wear face coverings during the entire event. Exceptions for medically supported needs only. Players needing an exception should have parent provide coach or division VP with supporting documents.
- Parents should be advised to have back up supplies in the player's equipment bag for use when needed and their own marked or labeled water bottle or sport drink. No team or dugout coolers are permitted
- Pregame conferences will be limited to 1 coach per team and 1 umpire. Social distancing of 6' will be followed
- Pre-practice and pre-game warmups will be at coaches discretion only. Players are to stay with family until start of game. If the coach elects to do warmups, they will bring players into a warm up area in an orderly fashion and lead warmups themselves while maintaining distancing. No non-coach led warmups are allowed.
- The use of candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds is NOT permitted by players, coaches, umpires or spectators
- Batting lineup changes will be limited to communicating from a distance that maintains the 6' social distancing guidelines at all times
- Division and age group guidelines will be handed out by Division VP's as needed to parents and coaches. Coaches will have discretion to ensure players are following guidelines. IE: If a player is struggling to comply, they may need to sit out or with their family for a while.
- Batting cages may be opened based on board decision. Coaches must work with parents and other coaches to ensure players maintain distancing. Coaches should consider options to limit players present at one time such as breaking team into multiple groups to arrive and depart at different times.
- A head coach may delegate a volunteer to serve as "Distancing lead" for a specific practices or games. This is an optional step to help the coach and team but not mandatory (coach's discretion) except for teeball and softball futures where this role must be designated for each event to proceed.
 - This will be a volunteer (parent, assistant coach etc) who will help players and participants abide by the distance and guidelines for that event.
 - That individual would be familiar with the guidelines and provide reminding and redirection to the players to make sure they are followed.
 - The coach may work with parents to have someone take this as a recurring role with others stepping in when that person is not present

Division-Specific Guidelines

Baseball Majors/AAA | Softball Sophomores

- For players not in the dugout or on-deck box, players will be seated in designated spots marked off by stakes no less than 6' apart and will have at least 1 coach or distancing lead to watch over players in this area at all times

Softball Freshman & AA Baseball

- Arrival and Game Start



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- Upon arriving at the field, families should confirm that the intended field has been vacated by players and families from earlier games before approaching the field.
- Players will enter the “designated player area” in a manner that maintains social distancing while wearing masks.
- The “designated player area” is sectioned off with stakes and caution tape and may include 2 or 3 spots in the dugout.
- Players will find a spot within this area, marked with an “X” and use this as a staging point throughout the game to change gear as well as hydrate. Players should fill the non-dugout spots first come, first serve for every event. The coach will direct use of the dugout spots at their discretion.
- While in this area players will maintain social distancing at all times. This will be monitored by coaches and “Distancing lead(s)”
- Once the field is ready for play, home team coaches will begin by calling in players one at a time to take the field.
- When fielders are set, the away team will bring up the first batter to home plate and move the second batter to the on deck area
- When a team is batting:
 - Players not on base or in the on-deck-box are to remain seated in the “designated player area” with masks on which includes the dugout.
 - When a player is identified as being on-deck they may remove their mask once they step on the field of play. This includes the on-deck-box.
 - Coaches will follow an orderly rotation to ensure players are entering and exiting the field of play while maintaining 6’ spacing and applying/removing face masks when appropriate
- When a team is fielding:
 - Players who are not in the fielding lineup during a designated inning of play shall remain in the “designated player area” wearing their masks
- Player staging positions may be amended as needed by the coach for a specific field or event to ensure appropriate spacing. This may include some or all players joining with their parent/guardian during these periods at which point that person would be responsible to maintain distancing.
- Transitioning between innings:
 - Coaches will ensure players exit off the field one team at a time, one player at a time while maintaining 6’ spacing.
 - Sequence to change over offensive and defense:
 1. Base runners will file off the field and return to their staging areas.
 2. Fielders will return to the “designated player area” and prepare to bat.
 3. Once all players in the field have returned exited, coaches from opposing team may call in players one at a time to take the field.
 4. When fielders are set, batting can begin.
 - This process will serve as a template for coaches to follow throughout the game
- Catchers:



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- Coaches will be issued 2 sets of catchers gear per team and may elect to use up to 2 different players to catch per game or practice thus avoiding the sharing of equipment. More catchers may be used if additional helmets are available and/or intra-game disinfection is performed.
- At the end of each game or practice coaches shall sanitize the catchers gear using cleaning products provided by the league
- For drills and other areas where lines/queues are needed, coaches will be provided with cones that they can place 6' apart to signal the required spacing for the players in line.
- For practices, coaches will move players on and off the field of play in a manner that maintains social distancing as well as ensures face masks are applied/removed when appropriate

Softball Futures Teeball, Baseball A

- Arrival and Game Start
 - Upon arriving at the field, families should confirm that the intended field has been vacated by players and families from earlier games before approaching the field.
 - Upon approaching the field, players will wait with their family in designated areas outside the fenced field area.
 - This area will serve as a staging point for the players throughout the game to change gear, wait, and hydrate between and during innings. We recommend limiting the staging area to as few people as possible
 - Once the field is ready for play, home team coaches will begin by calling in players one at a time to take the field.
 - When fielders are set, the away team will bring up the first batter to home plate and may elect to move the second batter to the on deck area
- When a team is batting:
 - Players not on base or on deck are to stay with their family outside the fenced field area. Parents are to ensure child is appropriately distanced from other individuals.
 - At the coaches' discretion, the dugout may be used for up to 2 players spaced 6' apart. The on-deck box may also be used for a 3rd player at coaches discretion.
 - Coaches will follow an orderly rotation to ensure players are entering and exiting the field of play while maintaining 6' spacing and applying/removing face masks when appropriate
- When a team is fielding:
 - The coach may mark or indicate specific areas for fielders to stay within.
 - For game time situations which will not occur until Phase III, the guidelines will be updated to align to Phase III guidance upon release.
- Transitioning between innings:
 - Coaches will ensure players exit off the field one team at a time, one player at a time while maintaining 6' spacing.
 - Sequence to change over offensive and defense:
 1. Base runners will file off the field and return to their staging areas.
 2. Fielders will return to their designated staging areas and prepare to bat.



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3. Once all players in the field have returned to their staging area, coaches from opposing team may call in players one at a time to take the field.
 4. When fielders are set, batting can begin.
 - This process will serve as a template for coaches to follow throughout the game
- For drills and other areas where lines/queues are needed, coaches will be provided with cones that they can place 6' apart to signal the required spacing for the players in line.
 - For practices, coaches will move players on and off the field of play in a manner that maintains social distancing as well as ensures face masks are applied/removed when appropriate
 - A catcher will not be used in teeball, freshmen, or A divisions.
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Revision Notes

5/27 – 6/1 – Pre-release drafts

6/2+ Aligning to additional state guidelines that were release on 6/2

6/6a – League and community release version

6/30a – Adjustments to remove outdated phase 2 items and align to phase 3 step 1 player mask requirements