



## **Minneapolis Youth Baseball Association**

Our goal is to return to baseball with the safety of our players, coaches and families at the forefront of our programs. The Board of Directors has created the following plan to structure games that align with standards released by the Governor's office and recommendations put forth by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Although these guidelines are intended to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases like COVID-19, each family assumes inherent risks by participating in group activities. To ensure we are providing a safe baseball experience for everyone, we need full compliance in following the guidelines listed below. Please be responsible and do your part to help us return to play. We all agree that baseball will look and feel different this year. But our hope is that, by returning to the field, our players can enjoy the social and emotional benefits of baseball in a safe way.

[CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#)

[MDH Guidelines for Social Distancing in Youth Sports](#)

### **Return to Play Plan**

Coaches, players, umpires, family members or spectators who are sick or are experiencing any of the following symptoms or live with someone who is COVID-19 positive are not allowed to participate in MYBA-sponsored events. Symptoms include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Unexplained Headache
- Vomiting and/or Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

## Phase 2 (Begins July 1): Games Allowed

All participants must practice social distancing whenever possible, maintaining a six-foot distance from other participants during warm-ups and after games. During games, players should play as usual, but try to create distance as quickly as possible after the play is completed.

1. Masks are required to be worn as outlined below.

Group	Required if heat index is less than 88 degrees	Required if heat index is less than 95 degrees	Always required
Coaches			
Pre-Game Warmup			
Player in Dugout/Extended Bench Area			
Batters			
Baserunners			
Catchers			
Infielders (1B,2B,SS,3B)			
Pitchers			
Outfielders			

Pitchers and outfielders are not required to wear masks during play.

2. Batting team must not take the field until the entire fielding team is off the field.
3. Each team must provide their own baseballs when they are the fielding team.
4. During a game, participants must maintain six feet of separation in the dugout. Participants not able to be in the dugout will be lined up down their respective foul lines or behind the backstop with six feet of separation.
5. Players, coaches and umpires must refrain from high fives, handshake line, and any other physical contact with fellow coaches, opposing coaches, players, umpires, and spectators. A “tip of the cap” will be used as a salute to the opposing team to promote sportsmanship following the game.
6. Umpires must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with any other person and must officiate the game from behind the pitcher’s mound.
7. Each player is responsible for their own helmet, glove, water bottle, and bat and sanitizer. Equipment may not be shared, with the exception of team-provided baseballs. Gear bags can be hung on fences or placed on the ground but must be spaced six feet away from any other gear. All electronic devices must stay in the players bag. They cannot be used in the dugout.
8. No food, sunflower seeds, gum, etc. will be allowed at games. No spitting.
9. As best you can, wash hands immediately before and after games. If handwashing is not available, use hand sanitizer. (It is recommended that sanitizers contain at least 60% alcohol.)
10. Catchers gear cannot be shared. Teams may only use the number of catchers in a game for which they have sets of gear. This would be 2 catchers per game, unless players have personal catchers gear (glove, mask, shin guards, chest protector). Coaches (or assigned parent volunteers) are required to sanitize catchers gear and baseballs after each practice or game.
11. Only one of the designated game catcher(s) or a coach can warm up a pitcher at the beginning of an inning or in the bullpen.

12. Spectators must maintain proper social distancing according to MDH guidelines and stay in the designated spectator area. To keep safe distance and room for players outside of the dugout, there will be a limit of 4 spectators per player. Spectators can watch the game in the specific spectator area; see map. Spectators are encouraged to wear a mask.
13. Friends and family should not attend practices to avoid crowding. If necessary for them to be at practices, ensure that proper social distancing is maintained and encourage the use of cloth face coverings.
14. Each team must keep an accurate book of both team rosters including contact information. In the case of someone getting infected this document will be necessary for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to perform contact tracing.
15. In the event of an injury during practice or game, the coach of the injured player will attend to the player while wearing a mask.
16. **Players and Coaches are required to contact the MYBA President [Millerspresident@gmail.com](mailto:Millerspresident@gmail.com) in the following situations:**
  - a. **If a player or coach tests positive for COVID-19.** MYBA is required to notify MDH at [health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us](mailto:health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us). MDH or local public health will work with MYBA to identify close contacts and do follow-up with teams. If a cluster of infections emerges within a team, MYBA, as directed by MDH, may suspend the activities of a team for two weeks.
  - b. **If a player or coach has been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case.** The Board will communicate with the person/family and determine the course of action. This is not reason for an automatic suspension of team activities for two weeks but instead, will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
  - c. **If a player or coach has reason to believe a household member may be sick with COVID-19 and is in the process of getting tested.** The Board will communicate with the person/family and determine the course of action.

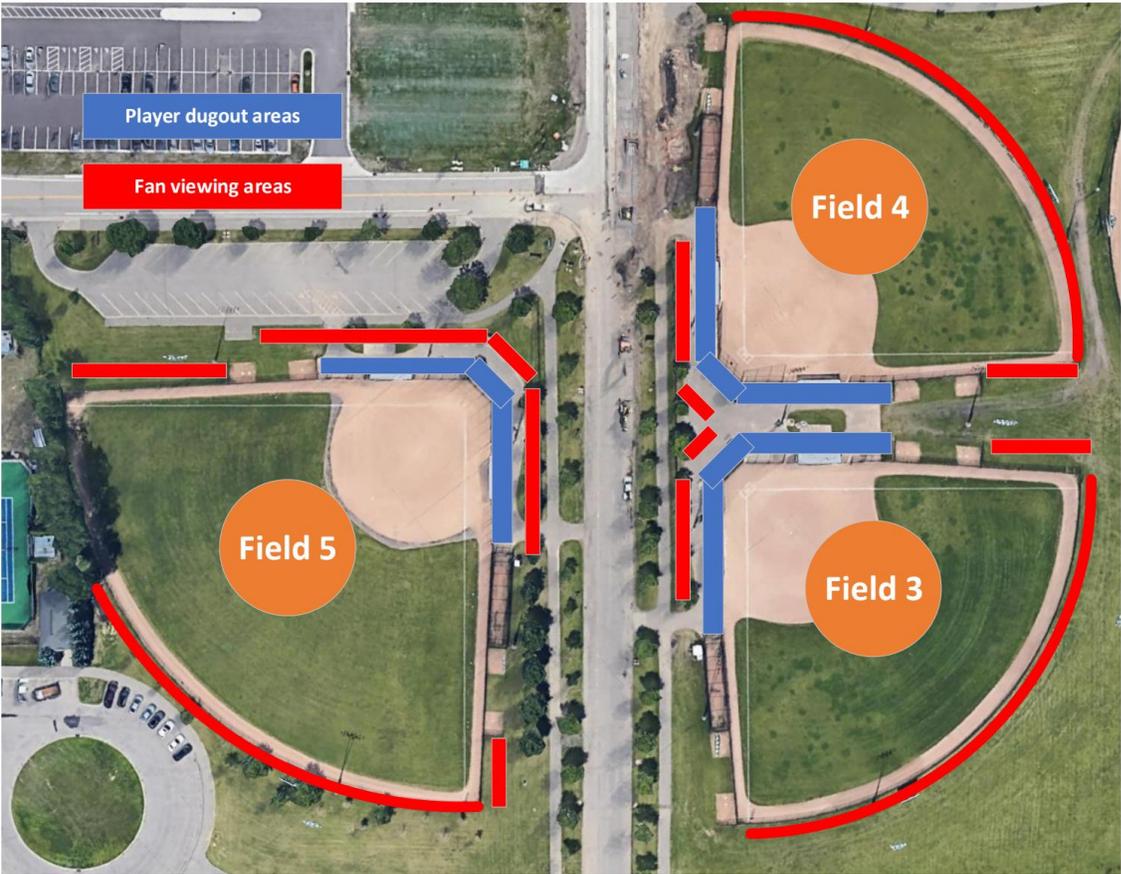
**Please note, MYBA cannot inform any families, players or coaches of that person's identity without their consent, unless directed by the Department of Health, or if said patient needs to produce medical records for any reason.**

We ask that each player, coach and family be diligent in following the guidelines listed above. If any member of the Millers community observes failure to adhere to the guidelines, it should be brought to the attention of the Board immediately. Please email [Millerspresident@gmail.com](mailto:Millerspresident@gmail.com) with concerns. Disciplinary action may be taken if deemed necessary.

The above guidelines are mandatory for Millers players, coaches and spectators playing at home or away. We will provide visiting teams playing at Minneapolis fields with our guidelines and will encourage teams to follow our guidelines but will not require them to do so.

For additional information for the season, please visit [Metro Baseball League](#) for back to the diamond updates. Where MYBA and MBL policies don't align, the stricter of the two apply for Millers teams.

Spectator Viewing at Neiman Fields



Player dugout areas

Fan viewing areas

