

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Northfield Youth Baseball Association, Inc. (“NYBA”)

Updated on July 19, 2020

NYBA is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our players, coaches, parents, spectators, and workers (collectively, these persons are referred to as “NYBA Patrons” or “Patrons”). “Workers” include field maintenance staff and umpires paid directly by NYBA. To ensure we have a safe and healthy environment, we have developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This Plan incorporates and supplements, where applicable, the MBL/MYAS/MN Softball Guidelines of ‘Back to the Diamond’ for reopening youth baseball and softball (referred to as the “Guidelines”).

Our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan follows applicable Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, and Emergency Executive Order 20-74 related to safety and health precautions required in response to COVID-19, while addressing the following:

1. identification, removal, and isolation of person
2. implementation of social distancing;
3. hygiene and healthy etiquette;
4. cleaning and disinfecting protocols;
5. communications, training and supervision practices and protocols; and
6. additional protection and protocols for distancing and barriers.

1. Screening policies and procedures that assist in the identification of persons exhibiting signs of COVID-19

NYBA Patrons will be instructed to be informed of and encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The following policies and procedures are being implemented to assess persons’ health status prior to attending a NYBA event or activity and for Patrons to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms.

- All NYBA Patrons must self-screen their person and each player (for whom they are responsible) for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before the Patron comes to a facility, complex or field for participation in any NYBA event, including but not limited to practices and games;
- If a Patron has signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they are not allowed to attend any activities at an NYBA event and in proximity to a facility or field;
 - in the case of a player absence due to COVID-19 symptoms, the parent should report the reason for the absence to the player’s coach;
 - in the case of a coach absence due to COVID-19 symptoms, the coach should report the reason for the absence to a member of the NYBA travel committee;

- in the case of a worker absence due to COVID-19 symptoms, the worker or the worker's parent should report the reason for the absence to the worker's supervisor;
- If a Patron exhibits COVID-19 symptoms while at an NYBA event, that person will be asked immediately to leave the facility; if it's a youth player or worker, the parents will be contacted and asked to pick up the player/worker; the player/worker shall be isolated at the facility with adult supervision until such time as they can be picked up;
 - According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include cough, fever, chills, muscle pain, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell;
- If a Patron or someone that resides with a Patron tests positive for COVID-19 and has been at an NYBA event within 10 days of getting the test result, the Patron must report the positive test to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and to a member of the board of directors within 24 hours and cooperate with contact tracing efforts by the MDH;
 - The Patron and members of the Patron's household may not attend NYBA events until they have met the applicable CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>) and (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>)
- NYBA will cooperate and comply with all directives of the MDH in the event of a confirmed case.

2. Social distancing

Social distancing (also referred to as “physical distancing”) of six feet will be implemented and maintained between NYBA Patrons at all NYBA events through the following engineering and administrative protocols:

- The Sechler Park concession stand will be reduced to one window and the flow of traffic will require proper distancing and discourage congregating at the facility;
- Bleachers behind or surrounding the backstop will be closed to spectators if distancing is not followed;
- There will be clearly-marked, designated areas for spectators along the outfield fence from the area just beyond first base, around the outfield, and ending at the area just behind third base depending on the field configuration;
- To minimize the size of gatherings around the fields, it is strongly recommended that families consider the number of spectators within their group who attend games at the complex;
- The manner of physical distancing of players and coaches in practices and games will be set by the Guidelines;
- Practice times at NYBA facilities will be staggered by at least 15 minutes to minimize overlap between pick-up and drop-off;
 - Other than coaches, parents and spectators are encouraged to drop players off and return to pick them up or watch practices from their cars;
 - Players should arrive to practice shortly before the scheduled start (no more than 30 minutes) and leave promptly at the end of practice;
- Game times will be staggered by at least 20 minutes to minimize overlap of Patrons between games;

- Coaches and Players are not permitted to be at a NYBA facility more than 30 minutes prior to game time; the next-up teams shall have designated areas to gather and must maintain physical distancing at all times prior to the game;
- Parents/spectators shall keep 6 feet of physical distance from non-family members at all times;
- Postgame team meetings are not permitted on the field; players and spectators must leave the facility promptly after games;
- After a game, 3 coaches work to (1) clean dugouts/disinfect, (2) rake and prep fields for next game and (3) manage player pick-up;
- Prior to game, coaches confirm with leaving coaches that disinfecting has been completed and manage player warm-up;
- Game times will have hard stops and coaches will be encouraged to manage time, regardless of score.
 - Parents must know when their players will be ready for pick-up which should be orderly and efficient;
 - Players stay in the outfield, with their equipment until their parent/car is identified, players must exit single file while maintaining physical distance

3. Hygiene and healthy etiquette

NYBA Patrons are being instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

In addition, the NYBA is implementing the following policies and procedures:

- NYBA understands the use of face coverings for players, parents and spectators is optional;
- Over-the-neck masks will not be provided to all coaches, players, workers, and umpires who work NYBA games; all coaches, players, workers, and umpires are allowed to have a mask in their possession at all NYBA fields and facilities if they so feel necessary;
- Patrons will be expected to comply with the Guidelines to the extent they encourage face coverings;
- To the extent not addressed in the Guidelines, coaches and umpires will be encouraged to wear a mask at any time they are within 6' of a player, during practices or games;
- Patrons will be reminded of healthy etiquette through email communications and supported by making extra trash receptacles available to all Patrons.

Patron hygiene and source controls are being implemented at our facilities at all times.

4. Cleaning and disinfecting protocols

Appropriate and effective cleaning/disinfectant supplies will be purchased and available for use in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets and manufacturer specifications and are being used with required personal protective equipment for the product.

Regular housekeeping practices are being implemented, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of amenities, equipment, and high-touch surfaces at NYBA facilities, including dugouts, portable toilets, coach's room and concession stand.

In addition, the NYBA is implementing the following policies and procedures:

- Coaches will have sanitizer or a bleach/water solution to disinfect surfaces before, during, and after practices and games;
- Parents are encouraged to send sanitizer with their player for individual use to sanitize their own equipment;
- Dugouts shall not be used during practice;
- Sanitizing of the balls for play in practice or games will be set by the Guidelines;
- During scheduled game times, portable or permanent restrooms will remain open with sanitizer and/or soap for hand washing;

5. Communications, training and supervision practices and protocols

The NYBA COVID-19 Preparedness Plan will be communicated to all NYBA Patrons and posted on our website and training will be provided to all workers, coaches, team managers, and board members as follows:

- The Plan, along with any supplemental rules, will be posted in various common locations throughout the facilities;
- Frequent email communication regarding the Plan will be sent to Patrons;
- The Plan will be posted on the NYBA website;
- Social media sites may also be utilized to communicate elements of the Plan;
- Board members and travel leadership will be trained on the Plan at NYBA facilities, in a physically distanced manner, and they will then host age-level coach's trainings that will be mandatory for coach participation;
- Umpires will be trained on the Plan at NYBA facilities in a physically distanced manner.

Members of the NYBA Board, travel leadership, coaches, parents, and workers are all responsible for implementing and complying with this Plan and the Guidelines. Our goal is to minimize the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our environment and communities, and that requires full cooperation. The Board will be monitoring compliance with the Plan and coaches or other Patrons who intentionally disregard or repeatedly fail to adhere to the Plan will be subject to discipline in accordance with the NYBA Code of Conduct, including but not limited to preclusion from participating in or attending NYBA events.

This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan has been approved by NYBA Board of Directors as of June 6, 2020, and will be posted on the NYBA website and at facilities operated by the NYBA. It will be updated as necessary in compliance with the Stay Safe MN plan and any upcoming Gov. Tim Walz executive orders.

This Plan was communicated via email and website to all Patrons June 6, 2020 and necessary training was provided. Directors of the NYBA Board and travel leadership are to monitor how effective the program has been implemented by periodically onsite reviews and online feedback via our website. Patrons are to work through this new program together and the NYBA will update the training as necessary.

6. Additional protection and protocols for distancing and barriers

The City of Northfield manages and oversees the maintenance and upkeep of the Sechler Park baseball complex, softball fields and picnic shelter. NYBA works in coordination with the City of Northfield and is expected to ensure the Plan is followed by NYBA Patrons to maintain the health and safety of the community.

The Plan above has outlined the procedures required to continue use of the Sechler Park facilities and will be monitored by the City of Northfield through updates with the Streets and Parks Manager, Tim Behrendt.

If necessary, the NYBA will implement the following policies and procedures:

- Control the flow of vehicle traffic during NYBA games and practices;
- Direction foot traffic for players and spectators separately to maintain physical distance;
- Placement of signage and waiting isles that maintain physical distance for customers at the concessions stand, portable toilets and other common spaces.

Certified by:

Daniel Hollerung

NYBA President, Travel Baseball