

## Practice Safe Play Guidelines-MAGFA May 18, 2020

- Updated May 26, 2020
- Updated May 28, 2020
- Updated May 29, 2020

These Guidelines Comply with Minnesota Department of Health “Guidelines for Social Distancing in Youth Sports” as well as Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission recommendations. They also align with the USA Softball Return to Play Plan currently being discussed with the Governor’s office.

Note: these guidelines address practicing for MAGFA teams. Competition has not yet been approved per Mn Stay Safe Order.

- **Arriving and leaving the venue**
  - All players will enter parking lots in the Western-most entrance to parking lots for drop-off and players will enter all fields on the first base side when possible and exit on the third base side.
  - Practice times will be staggered, or limited to 1 team per field per evening, so that teams can properly exit before the next arrives.
  - No team huddles are permitted to begin practice. All meetings will be virtual or through proper 6 feet social distancing with small groups.
  - Handwashing or hand sanitizing will be required upon arriving at and before leaving practice.
- **Practices**
  - No more than 10 people taking part in team activities/practices (players/coaches)
    - All 10 will be from the same team-no team mixing
  - May accomplish this by split team practices (the same small groups will be used for each practice)
  - Maintain social distance during practice of 6 feet-all activities will be done using social distancing-infield, outfield, and drill work, as well as BP, can be accomplished relatively easily with 6 feet distancing
  - Any base running drills will maintain 6 feet distance. If there is a play at a base in a drill the players will immediately resume distance at the completion of the play.
  - Any “live batting practice” will require backing up the catcher or not using one at this time
    - based on the USA Softball guidelines masks are permitted but not required. MAGFA has concern with restriction of air flow to the youth athlete will not require masks, but if the participant’s parent or guardian chooses otherwise MAGFA will not object.
  - For any play at the plate, keep all plays or interaction between players contactless.

- No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
- Do not use the dugouts. Players will place their bags and belongings along fence or to side of field with 6 foot distance
- MAGFA will provide hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray or wipes for players' hands to use between practice activities.
- Disinfect all equipment in between activities using disinfectant spray or wipes, before and after use. In addition, players will be using their own gloves, bats, and balls for practice. Balls will be labeled with player names and will be disinfected before and after use. The only equipment that would be shared may be an occasional bat if a player does not own one, and will be sanitized before and after each use.
- Players should not attend practice if they have had a fever in the last 3 days or exhibited other symptoms in the last 10 days. Any player exhibiting fever or other symptoms of illness will not be permitted to practice. Coaches will monitor players and will immediately send a player home if any symptoms arise.
- **Games**
  - No games or competitions permitted at this time.
- **Coaches**
  - Should do a daily symptom check and do not attend practice if exhibiting symptoms
  - No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
  - "No touch" rule. No high fives, handshakes, pat on backs, etc.
  - Coaches are responsible for sanitizers and ensuring players are adhering to social distancing.
  - Coaches are to permit masks if the player chooses.
  - Coaches will monitor players during practice and not permit a player to practice if any symptoms are exhibited.
  - The head coach is responsible for the strict enforcement of the Safe Play Plan herein.
- **Athletes**
  - MAGFA is working to adapt a waiver created by USSSA softball to utilize with all players
  - Should do a daily symptom check and do not attend practice if exhibiting symptoms
  - No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
  - "No touch" rule. No high fives, handshakes, pat on backs, etc.
  - Maintain social distance during practice of 6 feet-all activities will be done using social distancing-infield, outfield, and drill work, as well as BP, can be accomplished relatively easily with 6 feet distancing
  - Disinfect all equipment in between activities using disinfectant spray or wipes, before and after use. In addition, players will be using their own gloves, bats, and balls for practice. Balls will be labeled with player names and will be disinfected before and after use. The only equipment that would be shared may be an

occasional bat if a player does not own one, and will be sanitized before and after each use.

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- **Parents and Spectators**

- Parents and spectators are encouraged not to stay onsite for practice. If parents or fans do stay for practice, they will be asked to remain in their cars, or along the outfield fence in between foul poles, and maintain 6 feet of social distancing.
- It will be the coaches responsibility to enforce this with parents and proactively Remind parents or caregivers that they should not attend practices. If necessary for them to be at practices, ensure that proper social distancing is maintained between parents or caregiver
- Since this plan is only referring to practices at this time, we anticipate parents adhering to this plan without incident.
- Should do a daily symptom check and do not attend practice if exhibiting symptoms
- No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
- “No touch” rule. No high fives, handshakes, pat on backs, etc.

- **Umpires**

- No umpires needed-practice only

- **Communication**

- MAGFA will hold a coaches meeting to ensure all coaches are apprised of these guidelines.
- These plans will be displayed at all sites, on the MAGFA website, and distributed to all families before their team’s first practice. Plans will remain on the website throughout the pandemic, modified as guidelines evolve. Notification will be sent to families when a change is made.
- MAGFA Board personnel will regularly monitor practices to ensure adherence.
- Remind parents or caregivers that they should not attend practices. If necessary for them to be at practices, ensure that proper social distancing is maintained between parents or caregiver

- **Positive Cases of COVID-19**

- If a player or coach is exhibiting symptoms and requires testing, or has been exposed to a positive case, team activities will be suspending pending testing. The player will be quarantined for a minimum of 14 days. A negative test could result in team activities without the player should no other players exhibit symptoms. A positive test will result in no team activities, all players quarantined for a minimum of 14 days AND when all players exhibit no symptoms.
- MAGFA Board will work with MDH on exposure tracing and notification of all of MAGFA
- The MAGFA President will notify the city of Mankato of any suspensions of team activities and/or positive cases.