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Robbinsdale Youth Baseball Association (RYBA) COVID-19 Guidelines

The Robbinsdale Youth Baseball (RYBA) has developed this document as guidelines for the program for consideration for return to play for the 2020 summer and Fall season. Below is a defined set of guidelines developed for consideration.

Arriving and Leaving Venue

- All participants must maintain six feet distance from any other person.
- Practice and game start times must be staggered, so a team has left the field before the next team arrives.
- Whenever possible, everyone should enter and exit through designated areas that are different from each other.
- Prohibit gathering and congregating on and around fields.

Practices

- All athletes must maintain six feet distance, whenever possible, from any other person.
- No more than one team per field for a practice.
- Players and coaches must be separated into pods of 25.
- Practice groups must maintain distance from each other and not mix during the entire duration.
- Practice balls must be sanitized before, during, and after each practice.

Games

- All athletes must maintain six feet distance, whenever possible, from any other person.
- Batting team must not take the field until the entire fielding team is off the field.
- Each team must provide their own balls for when they are the fielding team, and they must be sanitized each inning.
- 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.

Coaches

- Must maintain six feet distance from any other person.

- Repeatedly remind players not to touch their faces.
- Up to four coaches, including one COVID-19 safety manager, permitted for a practice or game.
- Must conduct a daily symptom assessment and stay home if experiencing symptoms.
- No spitting, chewing gum or eating sunflower seeds.
- No sharing of food or drinks.
- No touch rule – coaches 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.

Players

- Must maintain six feet distance, whenever possible, from any other person.
- No spitting, chewing gum or eating sunflower seeds.
- No sharing of food or drinks.
- No touch rule – players must refrain from high fives, handshake line, and any other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and spectators. A “tip of the cap” will be used as a salute to the opposing team to promote sportsmanship following the game.

Fans and Spectators

- Must maintain six feet distance from any other person and stay in the designated spectator area outlined by the venue.
- No fans or spectators allowed at practices.
- Must conduct a daily symptom assessment and stay home if experiencing symptoms.
- No sunflower seeds allowed.

Umpires

- Must maintain six feet distance from any other person.
- Must conduct a daily symptom assessment and stay home if experiencing symptoms.
- Must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with any other person.
- Must officiate the game from behind the pitcher’s mound.
- No touch rule – umpires must refrain from physical contact with coaches, players, and spectators. A “tip of the cap” will be used as a salute to the teams to promote sportsmanship following the game.

Communication & Confirmed Cases

All player, coach, and guardian registration information is stored in a league database and all games and practices locations are logged with the league. There will be no games with outside leagues for the

summer from 7/13 – 8/13. In the case of fall games each team must keep an accurate book of both teams including contact information. There will be a COVID-Contract-Trace form provided to record contract information. Completed forms will be electronically captured and sent to league safety coordinator for documentations. In the case of someone getting infected this document will be necessary for Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to perform contact tracing.

- Organizers must post these guidelines at their facilities, where applicable, and disseminate them to all coaches, umpires, players, and parents.
- Organizers must contact the MDH about any suspected case of COVID-19 or known exposure.

All participants will be provided a set of instructions prior to attending the event which contain expected protocols to be complied with before arrival at a league event. These protocols include:

- Take your temperature prior to leaving home to come to the park. If your temperature exceeds 99 degrees, then the designated leader shall be notified of the temperature and will be prohibited from attending until the temperature has returned to normal for a minimum period of 48 hours.
- If a player has a cough and a temperature, the player must stay home until fever free for 72 hours (per CDC recommendation).
- All players should have their own equipment, or the league will work to provide equipment on loan for the duration of the season. If there is any case where a piece of equipment does need to be shared like a bat the equipment will be sanitized per CDC guidelines prior to another person using it.
- All players will bring their own water bottles.
- No seeds or gum may be used.
- All coaches will use a cloth mask when social distancing is not possible or the need to be less than 6 feet from another person is required.

Compliance and Monitoring

A **designated adult social distancing leader** will be assigned to all events. The leader will be responsible for counting and keeping track of the number of individuals within the designated area and will enforce the limit by preventing (informing) anyone from entering the area once the count has reached its maximum capacity. If the leader determines the count has been exceeded and is unable to get the count back down to the accepted standard, the Leader will have the authority to immediately terminate the event or take other action as they deem appropriate, either alone or in consultation with the coach or coaches present.

Protection and controls for emergency weather situations.

Current weather-tracking technology is better than it's ever been, which means it's becoming easier to identify potentially inclement conditions. Checking the weather before a game or practice is an easy task. Coaches should be quick to postpone a practice or game if the weather conditions become dangerous.

If a storm should strike, have everyone head to an enclosed space. Cars are also safe. Shelter houses without walls and dugouts are NOT safe places. Be sure to wait at least 30 minutes after the storm to

begin resuming activities, being sure to monitor the weather anyway you can. In the case of a sudden storm, and a game and practice could not be postponed or stopped in time Individual safety will take precedence over social distancing.