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## **Athletic Fields COVID-19 Return-to-Play Guidelines and Procedures**

**Updated June 1, 2020**

The purpose of these guidelines and procedures is for BSE Tournaments to host baseball games located in Montgomery, Berks, and Chester Counties in the state of PA. These guidelines will allow for the resumption of organized league and tournament play in the safest, most protective manner possible, following the recent closure and shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines and procedures have been developed to comply with and be consistent with the CDC guidelines, the State of Pennsylvania Health Department, PA's Pledge plan and Governor Tom Wolf's executive orders. These guidelines and procedures are subject to modification and/or change as the responses to COVID-19 change and new orders are issued and/or guidelines are established.

All athletes, parents/legal guardians of minor athletes, coaches, volunteers, tournament directors, officials, league administrators and board members must review and adhere to these guidelines, procedures and policies and must sign and return the appropriate release forms to BSE Tournaments prior to use of the facilities.

League administrators and/or tournament directors must provide complete rosters of all participants, volunteers, coaches, and board members to BSE Tournaments to verify that everyone has signed the proper release forms and is aware of the assumption of risk.

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## **General Guidelines and Procedures for Practices and Games**

1. All practices and games must be scheduled in advance and approved by that field's director.
2. Teams and/or players/legal guardians who have not signed and submitted a release form will not be permitted to participate.
3. Practices and games **MUST** be scheduled with 30 minutes of time between activities. There shall be 30 minutes between the end of the previous use before “taking the field” for the next scheduled use.
4. Incoming team members must clean and sanitize the dugouts and shared touch surfaces prior to team member occupying the dugout and field.
5. For practices, only one team at a time per field may occupy the field and dugout areas.
6. Social distancing must be observed at all times. League administrators and/or tournament directors shall be responsible for enforcing social distancing of players and observers. Social distancing is defined as six (6') feet of separation between individuals unless there are multiple individuals of the same family.
7. Masks should be worn by all persons not actively participating in practices and/or games, including volunteers, spectators, and coaches not in the field of play
8. Coaches, players, league administrators and tournament directors must employ measures to reduce shared equipment use. If players are to share equipment, each piece of equipment, with the exception of game balls, must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to the subsequent player's use. (helmets, bats, gloves, catching equipment, etc.)
9. Each participant, including players, coaches, umpires, spectators, league administrators, should be screened for COVID -19 symptoms at arrival each day of facility use. (See screening questions below). If the participant answers yes to any of the questions, that participant should leave the premises immediately and not return until they demonstrate a negative test result for COVID-19. If a participant becomes sick during an activity at the facility, that participant must leave the premises immediately. No person may enter or

*PLAY IF SAID PERSON OR PLAYER HAS A FEVER.*

10.

Report confirmed cases of COVID-19 of any player, coach, or member of a player or coach household to the league president and the respective facility owner (city or county) within 24 hours of confirmation.

**11. Limit the number of total spectators and players per field to less than 250 persons.**

### **COVID-19 Screening Questions**

- Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days? (Note: This does not apply to medical personnel, first responders, or other individuals who encounter COVID-19 as part of their professional or caregiving duties while wearing appropriate PPE.)
- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
- Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you had new loss of taste or smell?

### **Guidelines and Procedures on Field, During Games and Practices**

1. No team water coolers or shared drinking stations permitted on the field or in the dugouts.
2. Spitting is strictly prohibited. Sunflower seeds are prohibited.
3. No physical contact – no high fives, fist bumps, or hand-shakes including congratulatory line-ups after games.
4. Teams, leagues must allow team members not in the field of play to be outside of dugouts and off the field of play during a game to allow space for social distancing.
5. During baseball games no coaches are allowed to enter field of play to argue any calls with umpires. Must be done from the bench.
6. During games, game balls must be replaced with a NEW ball every two innings.
7. Coaches, players, league administrators and tournament directors must employ measures to reduce shared equipment use. If players are to share equipment, each piece of equipment, with the exception of game balls, must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to the subsequent player's use. (helmets, bats, gloves, catching equipment, etc.)
8. Do not congregate or linger after practice or games. Leave the premises as soon as possible.
9. Teams are responsible for providing and using disinfectant on touchable surfaces in their assigned dugout prior to occupying the dugout.
10. Teams shall provide and dispense hand sanitizer liberally amongst their respective participants. One adult individual provided by the team shall employ a rule of "Every Player and Every Coach – Every Inning" for dispensing and using hand sanitizer.
11. Scheduling – For practices and games schedule at least 30 minutes between the practice/game end time and the next practice/game start time. No team player, coach or equipment is allowed to occupy the team dugout until the previous team has fully exited and the surfaces have been cleaned and disinfected.

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## Waiver and Release of Liability

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1. The risks of injury and illness (ex: communicable diseases such as MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19) from the activities involved in this program are significant, potentially life-threatening, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce these risks, the risks of serious injury, illness and death do exist; and,
2. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the releases or others, and assume full responsibility for my, or my minor child's participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the facility administrator immediately; and,
4. I acknowledge that I am aware that there are risks to me and/or my minor child of exposure directly or indirectly arising out of, contributed to, by, or resulting from: An outbreak of any and all communicable disease, including but not limited to the virus "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)", which is responsible for Coronavirus Disease (COVID 19) and/or any mutation or variation thereof; and,
5. In consideration of having the opportunity to participate as either a director, league administrator, player, coach, team volunteer or team affiliate, I am aware of and willing to assume the risks associated with this activity, I hereby voluntarily agree to waive, hold harmless and indemnify BSE Tournaments and its fields and trustees, agents, volunteers, and employees from any and all claims, demands, damages and causes of action of any nature whatsoever arising out of ordinary negligence which I, my heirs, my assigns or successors may have against them for, on account of, or by reason of my participation in the activities on these used fields and properties. I indicate my agreement to this hold harmless elective noted below.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Participant Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Participants of Minority Age (Under 18 at the time of  
Registration and/or Participation)**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in athletic program utilizing BSE Tournaments rented facilities, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

1. The risks of injury and illness (ex: communicable diseases such as MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19) from the activities involved in this program are significant, potentially life-threatening, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce these risks, the risks of serious injury, illness and death do exist; and,
2. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the releases or others, and assume full responsibility for my minor child's participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove my child from participation and bring such to the attention of the facility administrator immediately; and,
4. I acknowledge that I am aware that there are risks to me and my minor child of exposure directly or indirectly arising out of, contributed to, by, or resulting from: An outbreak of any and all communicable disease, including but not limited to the virus "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)", which is responsible for Coronavirus Disease (COVID 19) and/or any mutation or variation thereof; and,

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for the participant named below, have read, understand, and have explained the provisions of this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of the activity and his/her responsibilities for adhering to the rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless BSE Tournaments and its trustees, agents, volunteers, and employees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's involvement or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Printed Name of Participating Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_