



2021 East Side Player, Coach, Umpire, Staff, Volunteer and Spectator Safety Modifications

In response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, East Side will implement the following policies and procedures for the 2021 season:

Note: Many of these were the same policies and procedures in place during the 2020 season during which East Side successfully completed a baseball and softball season with no interruptions to the schedule. The East Side Board will continue to closely monitor the recommendations of state and local health officials and may change these policies and procedures at any time during the season in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for players, coaches, umpires, staff, volunteers, and spectators.

- ✓ East Side will follow all state and local health guidelines at all times, with no exceptions.
- ✓ All safety modifications, restrictions, and polices outlined herein are subject to change based on new information or guidance from local, state or national health officials.
- ✓ All players, managers, and assistant coaches must [register and complete a Babe Ruth League waiver and release of liability](#) prior to beginning practice.
- ✓ All umpires, staff, and volunteers must [register and complete a Babe Ruth League waiver and release of liability](#) prior to the season beginning.
- ✓ Any player, manager, assistant coach, umpire, staff, volunteer, or spectator having a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend any game, practice or other event at East Side.
- ✓ Any player, manager, assistant coach, umpire, volunteer, or spectator that has been directed to quarantine or isolate due to a positive COVID test or a close contact is not permitted to attend any East Side practice or game until the quarantine or isolation period has ended.
- ✓ Seniors and those with significant health risks are asked to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and not attend events or take appropriate precautions.

Player, Manager, Assistant Coach, and Umpire Health and Safety

The following policies and practices will be implemented:

- ✓ No postgame handshake between teams. Teams will still engage in an alternative postgame sign of sportsmanship such as lining up on the foul lines and tipping their cap to the opponent.

- ✓ Players are discouraged from sharing playing equipment, including gloves, softball fielder's mask, bats, batting helmets, batting gloves, water bottles, and any other individual equipment.
- ✓ At levels where the catchers wear the team-shared equipment, the catcher's mask must be wiped down with sanitizing wipes after each use. It is strongly encouraged that players who regularly play the position of catcher have their own equipment.
- ✓ The use of chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds is not permitted by players, coaches, umpires or spectators.
- ✓ Water bottles and other drinks should not be shared and should be clearly marked with an individual's name.
- ✓ Umpires may be positioned behind the mound with appropriate social distancing or may wear face masks where applicable.
- ✓ At this time, players will not be required to wear face masks.
- ✓ *Note: During the 2020 season, in order to increase physical distancing among players, managers, and assistant coaches, East Side implemented a practice of using the bullpen areas on several of the fields as an extension of the dugout so as to keep from having as many as 15 people in a small confined area. The East Side Board has determined this precaution will not be taken to start this season.*

Parent and Spectator Health and Safety

The following policies and practices will be implemented:

- ✓ Parents/Spectators are strongly encouraged to maintain a proper physical distance of 6 feet when on premises.
- ✓ Parents/Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs and sit/stand on the outside of the field fence both along the foul lines and in the outfield in order to promote physical distancing.
- ✓ Parents/Spectators are encouraged to wear face masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- ✓ Parents/Spectators are encouraged to leave after their games/practices are over and not congregate in the park so as to lessen the congestion in the park.
- ✓ East Side staff and volunteers will increase frequency of cleaning and sanitizing measures in areas of high traffic.
- ✓ Concessions workers will be required to wear protective equipment, such as face masks and gloves where applicable.

Any person wishing to advise East Side of any of the above policies and guidelines not being followed, or with any questions, should contact the Compliance Chair for the East Side Board of Directors, Matthew Blazejewski, at info@eastsidebaseballsoftball.org or 574-271-1340.