

Hello SYBL Coaches, Players and Families.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a little bit of the outdoors over April break and have a little bit of fun with family. With the Spring Baseball Season upon us, I wanted to reach out to you to inform you of the current COVID-19 guidelines within the State of Massachusetts for Youth and Amateur Sports.

Currently, many of the State regulations from Fall are still in place. I was hoping that we would be seeing more restrictions lifted for outdoor organized (team) play however, the guidelines continue to place limitations on our Youth Sports.

Below are the guidelines that apply to baseball. You can find the entire document here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iv-step-1-effective-32221/download> or visit www.mass.gov for the latest COVID-19 updates.

Baseball is categorized as a **Moderate Risk Level** according to the Safety Standards placed forth by the State and as of March 22, 2021 the following has been put in place:

SPORTS & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ALLOWED BY RISK LEVEL DURING PHASE IV, STEP 1

The risk associated with an activity is also dependent on the type of play. The following types of play are defined by level from least to greatest risk.

- Level 1: Individual or socially distanced group activities (non-contact workouts, aerobic conditioning, individual skill work, and drills)
- Level 2: Competitive Practices (Intra-team/group games, contact drills, and scrimmages)
- Level 3: Competitions (Inter-team games, meets, matches, races, etc.)
- Level 4: Tournaments

(BASEBALL CAN ENGAGE IN LEVELS 1, 2 AND 3)

“Mandatory Facial Coverings for All Sports:

For purposes of this guidance, a facial covering means a face mask or cloth facial covering that completely covers the nose and mouth.

Activity Organizers must require facial coverings to be worn by all participants during active play except for individuals with a documented medical condition or disability that makes them unable to wear a face covering. Participants for all sports must wear facial coverings on the bench or sidelines at all times and in any huddles or time-outs from active play. Participants should take frequent facial covering breaks when they are out of proximity to other players, using caution to avoid touching the front or inside of the face covering by using the ties or ear loops to remove and replace. This requirement applies to all spectators and chaperones, coaches, staff, referees, umpires, and other officials.”

- Dugouts, benches & bleachers are allowed to open only if six feet of distance can be maintained between each participant at all times.
- Sportsmanship should continue in a touchless manner – no handshakes/slaps/fist bumps.
- Once athletes have completed their competition or activity, they must leave the area if another team is taking the field or using the playing surface to ensure adequate space for distancing.

GENERAL

To participate or attend events at SYBL fields, players, coaches, ump, volunteers and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. Anyone who is sick or showing symptoms of being sick should stay home. **Players, please notify your coach/board if you will be considered absent. In the event that are diagnosed with COVID-19, you must test negative and show no symptoms before returning.**

In the event that any persons, who have visited any of the SYBL fields, are diagnosed with COVID-19, please notify the coach/board. Please give the dates that you were on the field and we will make the proper phone calls to ensure the safety and health of any family members/spectators that would have been at the field on those dates (coaches will be taking attendance).

PLAYERS AND COACHES

- All players and coaches must achieve proper hand hygiene at the beginning and end of all games/practices. Parents are encouraged to supply their player(s) with sanitizer spray/wipes for personal use before, during or after games as necessary, bathrooms will be open for handwashing. (See bathroom update below)
- Players should bring their own equipment and water bottles for playing. All equipment should be labeled with the player's name. In the event that a player is unable to bring their own equipment, please reach out to your coach and SYBL will do our best to accommodate the player.
- Social distancing will be required as defined by state/local regulations, 6 ft apart at all times when able. This will include eliminating common practices including sharing personal items, eating/using seeds, spitting, team snacks and food sharing, etc.
- Any equipment that is required to be shared i.e.: catchers gear, will be disinfected between players.
- Players at bat will be required to wear their face covering **once safely on base**. All other players will be required to wear their face covering while not in the field of play.

SYBL FACILITIES

- “In no event can the presence of spectators, plus players, coaches, referees, and facility/activity workers cause an indoor facility to exceed more than 50% of the maximum occupancy for the facility.”
- The public bathrooms will be open for use at the Hough Street field. Bathrooms will be sanitized with a CDC approved product from LIST N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). **As of 4/23/2021 The Bathrooms at Hough Field are not open and are undergoing some general maintenance. Once maintenance is completed the bathrooms will once again be up and running.**
- Concession stand will remain closed until further notice. **As of 4/23/2021 the “Snack Shack” is undergoing general maintenance. We are hopeful that we can provide some pre-wrapped snacks and drinks during the season. To limit the amount of cash being handled and coin shortage, SYBL will provide a Venmo QR code.**
- Dugouts will be open for use and will be sanitized before and after games, all players and coaches will be required to wear face coverings while in the dugout.
- When umpires are available, home plate umpires will be positioned behind the pitcher’s mound until further notice to avoid too many bodies in close proximity to one another.

SPECTATORS

- Spectators should arrive at scheduled game times and leave the fields at the conclusion of games.
- We strongly suggest that spectators bring their own chairs for sitting and respect the social distance guidelines.
- Spectators should wear a mask/facial covering as stated above.

****Any persons considered high risk should take the precautions set by their own medical doctor when attending outdoor public events.**

We would like to thank all of you for your attention to the State COVID-19 guidelines. We will continue to update you as the guidelines change.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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