



# PLYMOUTH YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

SERVING THE PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY SINCE 1950

## **PYBS RETURN TO PLAY PLAN/COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES**

At this time, the state of Massachusetts and the Town of Plymouth have allowed the reopening of the athletic fields in Massachusetts for limited use per the Phase 2 state guidelines.

The Plymouth Youth Baseball & Softball Board of Directors have proposed the following “Return to Play” plan which will include the following guidelines.

The safety of all players and coaches at PYBS is the highest priority .

If your player has experienced ANY of the following symptoms within 48 hours prior to a scheduled PYBS event, please refrain from attending and alert your coach. Symptoms include:

- Fever (parent/guardian to check temp prior to game/practice)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Loss of sense of taste/smell

### **Phase 2 (June 8 – June 29 approximately)**

1. Gatherings will be limited to groups of 25 persons, onfield players/coaches will be divided into groups of no more than 10.
2. No games or scrimmages allowed during Phase 2.
3. Face coverings should be worn by players when unable to physically distance >6 feet.
  - a. Coaches will create practice plans that include 6’ social distancing for players and coaches in efforts to prevent the need to wear face coverings. However, players may need to wear face coverings if social distancing is not possible.
4. Dugouts will not be utilized during practices. Players will store bags and equipment along fence and/or sidelines as instructed by coaches, maintain all equipment >6 feet apart.
5. Players are not able to share equipment, players must have their own bat, helmet, face mask (softball). If players are unable to obtain their own equipment, they will alert their coach and will be provided equipment to use throughout the season. This includes catchers gear.
6. Players and coaches will refrain from high fives, fist bumps, etc.

7. No shared water dispensers or team coolers allowed, players must bring individual water bottles and labeled if possible.
8. No food allowed in dugouts or with players along the sidelines including seeds.
9. Baseballs and softballs will be cleaned whenever possible and an adequate supply will be kept on hand.
10. Spectators/parents attending practices should follow 6' social distancing guidelines at all times and adhere to all state and local policies on face coverings.
  - a. Only coaches/volunteers will be allowed on the field with the players.
  - b. Spectators will not be allowed behind backstop, dug outs, or sit on bleachers during practice. Spectators are encouraged to watch practice from outfield whenever possible.
11. Hand sanitizer will be available at the field and players will be encouraged to sanitize hands frequently. Parents are encouraged to have each player to have hand sanitizer available in equipment bag.

### **PROGRESSION TO PHASE 3 (No earlier than June 29)**

Phase 3 will allow games to begin. All guidelines still required by state/town in Phase 3 will remain in place for Phase 3 in addition to the following guidelines.

1. The number of Players in the dugout at any time will be limited (awaiting confirmation on exact numbers), dugouts will be extended along sidelines at each field. All players will be designated a "spot" outside the dugout which they will return to between innings. Players are encouraged to bring a small chair or towel/blanket to sit on between innings along the sidelines. Only players that are on deck will be allowed in the dugout between innings. All other players will remain in the designated spot until instructed by a coach to retrieve their equipment and go to the dugout as their turn approaches in the batting order.
2. All equipment including batting bags will remain OUT of the dugout, players will be instructed by their coaches where equipment will be stored during games. Players will not immediately return to their batting bags in between innings, only as their turn in the lineup approaches.
3. Balls will be sanitized between innings and as needed during the game. Spectators are asked to refrain from retrieving foul balls.
4. Coaches will have hand sanitizers and/or disinfecting wipes, however, players are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer with them.
5. Players will be provided a gaiter face covering that will need to be worn between innings if they are not able to social distance >6'. It is recommended all players wear the gaiter throughout the game, pulling gaiter down around neck when in field and pulling up to cover face while exiting field and while on sidelines. It will be required to be worn covering the face at any time players are in the dugout.

6. Spectators will be required to watch the game from a specifically designated area. At forges field, this area will more than likely be contained to the outfield only. Spectators will be required to socially distance at 6 feet from other spectators and adhere to all state/local guidelines regarding face coverings. Spectators will not be allowed behind the backstop or on the bleachers.

In addition, the following safety measures will be taken to ensure the safety of all players/spectators:

1. Guidelines will be distributed to all families and families will be required to sign safety waiver/acknowledgement before participating in practice/games to ensure understanding of all guidelines.
2. All coaches will be trained regarding new safety guidelines.
3. Gaiter face coverings will be distributed to all players and coaches.
4. Sanitizer will be provided and available at all games/practices for players and coaches.
5. All benches and bleachers will be sanitized before/after each game.
6. A designated "safety officer" will be present at each game to encourage all safety guidelines are being followed.
7. Snack shack will not be open for the summer.
8. Portable restrooms will be available at all fields.
9. All state and local guidelines will be followed throughout the season, if changes occur at any time, guidelines will be updated and all PYBS players and families will be notified.
10. If your player is displaying any signs/symptoms of illness while at the field, they may be asked to leave for safety of all players/coaches. Due to this, we are asking all players to have 1 family member or guardian available at the field or in close proximity in the event your child becomes ill.

On behalf of the PYBS board of directors, we appreciate your patience and understanding with these new guidelines. Our highest priority is the safety of all players, coaches and spectators. We look forward to an enjoyable season of baseball and softball.

Respectfully,

PYBS Board of directors