



Safety and Reopening Standards

June 12, 2020

Using guidelines from the CDC, state, and local agencies, we are laying out our expectations for all baseball participants – coaches, players, parents, and other spectators.

These guidelines are restrictive, but necessary, for us to return to the game in the most safe and thoughtful way possible. Any and all requirements will be subject to change or amendment as we gather new information and get updated directives from CDC, state, and local officials.

While baseball allows us to prioritize outdoor play, an important feature in the CDC guidelines, it is still our collective responsibility to ensure all guidelines are met and adhered to - our ability to play while keeping our community as safe as possible is not negotiable.

Please know, and make your player and supporters aware, if there are complaints from the community that we are not adhering to social distancing directives, the Town of Brookline has the right to revoke our permits for all BYB teams.

I. General protocols, guidelines, and rules:

- Full compliance with face covering and social distancing guidelines
 - Non-player participants must wear face coverings at all times
 - Players must wear face coverings when not participating on the field of play
 - These rules will be enforced by coaches, but we need vigilance from parents too
 - All participants should cover coughs, sneezes with tissue or use the inside of their elbow
- Health self-assessments – including taking your player’s and any spectator’s temperature - must be made before every practice and game
 - Anyone feeling ill or experiencing symptoms (i.e. having a fever, cough, chest pains) must stay home!
 - Anyone who has been tested positive for Covid-19 or in contact with someone who has, must stay home for 14 days!
 - Parents, players, or spectators who are concerned that they are in high risk categories should remain at home!
- Cleaning supplies, as well as hand sanitizer, will be available in the dugout areas
 - Participants will be encouraged to bring their own sanitizers as well
 - Participants will be educated on proper hand sanitization and avoiding face contact
- Activities that compromise social distances will be eliminated (see below)
- NO sharing of equipment like helmets or bats, no sharing of water bottles or towels
 - If a player forgets any of his or her equipment, he or she will not be allowed to play for that game
- Baseballs will be cleaned whenever possible – by one of the coaches - and at least after each half inning, and an adequate supply of balls will be on hand



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- Any participant who handles Team/Community equipment will sanitize their hands as soon as possible and at a minimum immediately after the activity (e.g. half-inning of play) is complete
 - For example, the pitcher will sanitize their hands after the half inning is complete, not between each pitch
- Exchanging of documents and materials should be avoided
 - For example, team line ups should be communicated verbally or on a white board that is managed by only one coach, is written up before a game and visibly available
- NO Sharing of food/drinks – each player, coach, spectator should bring their own ample supply
- NO candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds by players, coaches, umpires, or spectators
- While it a parent / guardian's personal choice, we do recommend limiting carpooling and instead have players ride to events with persons living in their same household
- Parents and spectators attending games will be required to follow local/state guides on social distancing and will not permitted enter player/team areas
 - It is highly recommended that spectators are limited to one adult per player

II. Game/Practice Guidelines

- ***Games will not be allowed until Phase III, at the earliest June 29. So be aware that Game Guidelines may change closer to that date.***
- Team practices will be required to keep groups to 12 or fewer people – we will be able to accommodate a full team with coaches at practice, but the team will be split into smaller groups for the duration of the practice and groups of 12 or less will be spaced out by 20 feet
- Mandatory 30-minute buffer between games and / or practice start times to sanitize dugout, balls, etc.
- Please arrive 10 minutes before the start of your game or practice
 - There will be no other warm-ups beside stretching and throwing
 - After practices or games, no recreational play or loitering is allowed (watching the next team play or practice)
- Coaches and umpires must wear protective face covering at all times
- Players must wear a mask when they are NOT in the field
 - Catchers, because of the proximity to all batters, MUST also wear masks on the field
- No players will remain in the dugout at any time
 - Each player must have a chair or blanket outside the dugout to go to when the player is not on the field or not at bat / on deck
 - Each player's belongings will be kept with their chair / blanket
 - This will be in a designated player zone and will be marked to ensure appropriate distancing
- When on-deck, a batter will be allowed in the dugout area by him/herself



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- Players on the field will sanitize their hands after each half- inning of play
 - The coach will designate an adult chaperone at each game to oversee this
- Catchers will be reminded to bring their own gear. If a catcher does not have their own gear, sanitized league gear will be available and sanitized but will only be available for one player per game (gear to be sanitized by the coach after each game only)
- There will be three balls available for warm-ups between each half-inning
 - Once warm-ups are finished, the coach will collect the balls for sanitizing
- Spectators should bring their own chairs and blankets, maintaining a 6-foot perimeter for each family – NO bleacher seating will be allowed
- Spectators will not retrieve or touch foul balls – a player on each team will be responsible for retrieving and sanitizing the balls
- Umpires will be wearing masks at all times and will stand 6 feet behind the pitcher
 - To reduce numbers and exposure, it is likely we will only have one umpire per game
- Activities that compromise proper social distancing will be eliminated
 - NO team huddles
 - NO handshakes after games
 - NO handshaking / hugs / celebrations
 - NO high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
 - NO spitting
 - ***Tiping of the hat and celebratory clapping will be encouraged***

All COVID-19 related concerns or questions should be addressed to **your player's coach** or to the president of BYB, **Stephen McCarthy at 978-335-9711**.

If you, your player, or someone you have been in contact with has been diagnosed with COVID-19, please reach out to president of BYB, **Stephen McCarthy at 978-335-9711** immediately so that we may implement appropriate procedures, which may include individual player, family and team quarantines.

We will be training our coaches on the above measures. We will also be designating an overseer for each game to help ensure compliance.

Again, compliance will be a community effort so please do not hesitate to interject if appropriate protocols are not being adhered to - while good coaches have often be said to have “eyes in the back of their heads”, they cannot be on top of all players and families at all times.