

2020 Holmen Adult Softball League – COVID-Related Safety Policies

Below is a listing of manageable guidelines to help take small steps to return to play this summer. The success of this plan will only happen if we work together, so we encourage all players, coaches & spectators to respect these policies throughout the season, until further notice. We understand that uncertainty exists in anything we do, but our best chance at a return to normal is to work together as a unified entity. Teams, players, or fans not following these policies may be suspended or banned from the park. Abuse of these policies could result in the cancellation of the league. **It is the responsibility of teams to self-enforce these policies, not umpires.**

1. Fans, players, coaches and umpires are encouraged to wash or sanitize hands regularly.
2. Any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness must not attend the event.
3. Masks are encouraged, but not required.
4. Groups arriving for the following game are encouraged to remain in their vehicles until the field has been cleared from the previous game
5. Dugouts and areas behind the fences will be extended for only players and coaches, from 1st/3rd base to home plate so players and coaches can distance themselves. Spectators should not be in this area. Dugout areas should only be utilized for the team with a maximum of 4 players or coaches in the actual dugout at any time. Only players and coaches should be interacting within these defined dugout areas.
6. A designated open space (not dugout) should be used for each player's personal equipment which should not be within 6 feet of another player's equipment.
7. No physical contact by players, coaches, or umpires at any time unless part of on field game play. No pregame or post game handshakes by players, coaches or umpires.
8. It is recommended that teams carry sanitizer and wipes for any equipment (bats, balls, gloves), as well as wearing batting gloves whenever possible. Any shared team equipment (balls/bats) should be sanitized before & after each game. Teams should plan to sanitize all game equipment (bats, balls) before, after & throughout each game, as needed. Teams are responsible for providing their own sanitizer.
9. Players should bring their own personal water bottles. Water fountains are turned off. No team water jugs, team coolers, or communal snacks will be allowed.
10. Sunflower seeds & gum will not be allowed for players or coaches during games at all fields & facilities. Avoid spitting. All trash should be put in garbage containers immediately.
11. Normal league ball rules will apply (hit your own ASA 52/300). Perhaps having a designated assistant coach to retrieve any foul balls rather than spectators or players doing so.
12. Umpires will officiate the game from behind the home plate, due to the mat strike zone, but umpire and catcher should move further away from batter than normal positioning, while practicing social distancing with all fielders. Umpires should not handle balls and should remind players to retrieve extra balls from their designated coach.
13. No coaches will be allowed on the field to disagree or argue a call. Coaches must call the umpire to their dug out with all questions and remain 6 feet away. For the safety of all we will not allow aggressive arguing with any umpire and remain 6 feet away.
14. The managers meeting at home plate is eliminated.
15. Teams are required to clean their dugout of all trash and other items after each game. Also required to dispose of all trash in receptacles. No piles of cans left on the ground!
16. Players should encourage fans and family members to stay home.
17. Bleacher seating and picnic table seating is eliminated. Spectators are recommended to bring lawn chairs or blankets in the designated spectator areas, at least six feet apart down the right field and left field lines or behind the outfield fence. Social distancing should be utilized for spectators in attendance. Family households can sit together, but should also plan to social distance from other households in attendance.
18. At the conclusion of each game, teams can social distance along their foul line to acknowledge their opponent. The traditional handshake after games should be eliminated this year.
19. At the conclusion of games, no team meetings are recommended to allow time for each team to sanitize any areas utilized within their dugout along with packing up their equipment.
20. Players, coaches & spectators should return to their vehicles right after this process is complete to exit the facility.
21. **Response To Positive COVID-19 Test:** Any team that would have a player or coach test positive for COVID-19 would need to cease team activities for a minimum of 14 days as it would then be assumed that the entire team would also test positive. Unless the person with positive test had no contact with the team for the past 14 days, then the quarantine would only be required of that person, not the entire team.
22. The 14 day quarantine start date will be the date of the positive test. Once teams reach the end of the 14 day quarantine period with no additional symptoms or positive tests, they may enter the re-entry protocol.
23. Positive Test Reporting Protocol: 1) Team coaches must be informed of any positive tests, 2) Coaches must notify their team & PR Dept. (608) 526-2152, 3) PR Department must notify the league & document the start of the 14 day team shut down.
24. Team Re-Entry Protocol: 1) Team must confirm team's health status with PR Department (provide proof of cleared status), 2) PR Department will notify the league & team of approved return.