














Calm Down Covid Best Practices



OVERVIEW

For those adult softball leagues/tournaments that have started play or plan to begin play in 2020, here is a list of Minnesota Sports Federation (MSF) Best Practices as gleaned from various and a sundry of websites and plans. Most importantly, use common sense, stay calm, and be respectful of others.




GENERAL

-  Follow physical distancing while still playing the game. When there is a close play at a base, resume physical distancing ASAP.
-  Encourage and enforce norms of health etiquette, including recommending face coverage where practical/comfortable.
-  Promote health checks and screening of participants and staff/volunteers.
-  Enforce Stay-at-Home when sick/symptomatic.
-  Share equipment as little as possible, but if shared, routinely disinfect high-touch shared items (including, but not limited to, balls, bats, mats, other shared equipment) after each half-inning of use. Teams supply their own bottle of disinfectant.
-  Ensure policies are considerate of staff, volunteers, and participants at highest risk of complications.
-  As stated in current government order, limit the number of players on a field to 50 and limit the number of spectators to 250 within a complex.
-  Spitting, spitting seeds or tobacco into a cup or otherwise is not allowed on a field or in a dugout/complex.
-  Promote personal hygiene, hand-washing/sanitizing before, during, and after the game. To avoid contracting or spreading COVID-19, players, umpires and fans should all avoid touching their face, nose and eyes. All participants should provide their own hand sanitizer.
-  Each team should sanitize their bench at the end of the game.
-  No sharing of food or drinks.




PRE-GAME/UMPIRES MEETING

The umpire, as always, will call managers slightly before game time. One manager per team will meet around home plate with umpire in the back of the plate by six feet. Each manager should take a position approximately six feet on each side of the plate. The umpire will briefly explain game rules, and a coin flip will take place, unless the schedule calls for a home/visitor previously determined.

In slowpitch, there are a couple of options for positioning of the umpire during play to keep them roughly six feet away from the catcher and batter:

-  Position the umpire six feet behind the batter, per the norm, with the catcher six feet behind the umpire. The umpire lets the ball hit the ground and roll through to the catcher while making the call.
-  Use a strike mat (an inexact strike zone), with the catcher positioned off to the non-batter side, giving the umpire who is stationed six feet away from the batter and catcher a clear view of the strike mat. (Note: for those who plan to use a mat, the MSF does have them available in the correct size for \$15.99 each + shipping).
-  In fastpitch, the umpire shall be positioned behind the catcher and it is their option whether they wear a health mask or not, since this is an outdoor activity which highly recommends six foot distancing but does not require mask usage.

PLAYERS

-  If a mat is employed for slowpitch, it shall be the catcher's responsibility to make sure the mat is positioned about one inch behind home plate. Pitchers must still abide by the 6'/12' arc rule.
-  While on offense (batting), teams are required to social distance. Teams may have a handful of players (4-5) in the dugout, spaced six feet apart, with the remaining players spaced out down their respective fence line six feet apart. Teams are asked to clean up their own dugout at the end of their game. Please do not leave concessionary items (pop bottles, Gatorade bottles, paper plates, etc.) on the ground in the dugouts!
-  Batting gloves are recommended, especially with shared bats.

GAME BALLS

Umpires shall not handle game balls or the mat, if used, and each defensive team should have 2-3 balls available in their dugout entrance and one on the mound. The balls should be wiped with proper disinfectant after each half-inning of play by each team (balls are not to be shared, except during play by the same team).

UMPIRES

Umpires shall be positioned as described previously and not handle game balls, the mat (if used), or exchange papers with team managers. Wearing of a health mask is recommended, but optional.

SPECTATORS

Based on the current order, the number of spectators allowed in a complex of fields or at a stand-alone field is 250, less the number of players present in the complex or at a stand-alone field. Spectators in the bleachers or providing their own chairs must practice physical distancing. Players and spectators should be allowed to exit the field/complex prior to the next set of players/fans entering.

POSTGAME

After a game is complete, players are asked to “tip their caps” to their opponent while physically distanced. No elbow bumps, fist bumps, handshakes, high-fives, etc., are allowed.



NSF-MSF SOFTBALL 2020 CLASS A/B MEN'S FAST PITCH STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AUGUST 1-2 AT CASWELL PARK, NORTH MANKATO

PLEASE
SUPPORT THE
TOURNAMENT
HOST



NSF ♦ MSF SOFTBALL
7 Teams



For the list of approved bats, visit <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment/Equipment-Bats> and <https://www.wbsc.org/documents>.

MANAGERS - VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THE PRE-TOURNAMENT PACKET, WHICH IS FOUND AT <https://msf1.org/?p=16482>.

This schedule subject to change! Bracket board posted at tournament headquarters is official! Check it before and after each game for changes.

Managers should continue to check schedule through 12 noon Friday in case there are changes due to forfeits or corrections.