

Plover Whiting Youth Athletics (PWYA)
COVID-19 Precautions

PWYA strives to provide youth baseball and softball to area youth in a manner that puts the health and safety of our players, coaches, umpires, employees, families, fans and our community first. PWYA is committed to working with local government and health department officials during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure an opportunity is available for area youth athletes to compete in the safest and healthiest way possible. To achieve this goal, PWYA has put together the below precautions, which will be in place until the PWYA Board of Directors along with local officials agree one or more of the below precautions are no longer necessary. PWYA also understands that once started, it may be necessary to postpone or cancel the existing season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parks, Grounds and Facilities

- PWYA recommends posting “Social Distancing” reminders at common entrance areas to Woyak Park as well as multiple locations within the park.
- PWYA recommends posting “Social Distancing” reminders on the back of all dugouts and backstops on fields used not at Woyak Park.
- PWYA recommends removing bleachers and benches, if possible, at all fields used.
- PWYA recommends removing or relocating picnic tables that are in close proximity to any fields used.
- PWYA asks the Village of Plover to fence off the playground at Woyak Park until the village opens playgrounds for public use. PWYA recommends that this be done at all parks with playgrounds in close proximity to fields that are used.
- Other areas may be cordoned off as deemed necessary to encourage social distancing.
- Dugouts will be extended and blocked off to allow for appropriate social distancing among players and coaches.
- Where possible, hand sanitizer will be placed around the park.

General Guidance

- All participants must read and sign a “Return to Play” waiver to participate. The waiver adds COVID-19 language.
- All coaches must attend a meeting to review the COVID-19 precautionary measures and recommendations addressed in this document. If a coach is unable to attend an in-person meeting, he/she must review the same material with either the PWYA Boys Overall Coordinator or Girls Overall Coordinator.
- All players, coaches, volunteers, employees and spectators should practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas.
- Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use.
- Everyone at the park is encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- PWYA asks that all families measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each PWYA activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person

with COVID-19 should not attend any PWYA activity until cleared by a medical professional ([CDC: Resource: If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone | PDF Download](#)).

- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend PWYA activities with permission from a medical professional.
- Individuals have the option to wear a cloth face covering, however the decision ultimately rests with the individual or their family. The cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing.

Practices (Travel and League)

- Practices will be scheduled through the current procedures established by PWYA. They may be amended to limit hours and duration, as well as frequency, as required.
- Practices will be attended by the full roster of players.
- Parents will be asked to leave the field area or stay in their vehicles during the scheduled practice times.
- Parents will be asked to drop their child off no earlier than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of practice and to be there to pick their child up at the time practice is scheduled to end.
- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations
- Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
- Sharing of equipment will be discouraged.
- Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before used by a new player. Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
- Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable.
- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name. Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.
- There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
- Dugouts will not be used for practices.
- In the event of inclement weather practices should be preemptively cancelled to prevent close contact in shelters.
- Scrimmages will not be allowed.
- Coaches will take attendance records for tracing purposes.

League and Travel Games

- Games will be played by the team roster.
- As identified previously, dugouts will be extended and blocked off to allow for appropriate social distancing among players and coaches.
- Managers/coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout or the extended dugout so that they are at least six feet apart and must be placed behind a fence.
- Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.
- Sharing of equipment will be discouraged.
- Players, coaches and umpires will be encouraged to sanitize their hands prior to the game. Sanitizers will be provided in the equipment box located at each field.
- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations.
- Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
- Sharing of equipment will be discouraged.
- Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before used by a new player. Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
- Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable.
- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name. Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.
- There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
- The team responsible for keeping score, will sanitize the remote after its use and return it to the equipment box.
- One umpire will officiate the game from behind the pitcher's mound. A second umpire may be necessary to officiate from the outfield. There will not be an umpire behind home plate.
- Umpires will not handle balls. A designated coach from each team will be responsible for the balls for their team while they are in the field. After play of the ½ inning, balls will be returned to the designated coach.
- Balls that leave the field of play will not be returned for play, unless they are retrieved by a designated person or can be sanitized.
- Practice outside of the field of play will not be allowed. There will be a scheduled ½ hour of time between games or prior to the start of a game, where teams will be allowed to practice on the field.
- Batting practice in batting cages will not be allowed. Batting cages will not be utilized.

- After the game, the coaches will perform base, plate and mound raking and will sanitize the rake handle.
- Coaches will also spray and sanitize the dugouts with the provided dugout sanitizer (Instructions for application will be outlined at the coaches meeting).
- Tarps will not be rolled out onto the plate and pitcher's mounds.
- The head coach will keep player and attendance for tracing purposes.
- Parents will be asked to drop their child off no earlier than 40 minutes before the scheduled game time.
- It is recommended that spectators arrive at the park as close to the scheduled game time as possible.
- Postgame team snacks/beverages are prohibited until further notice.
- Sunflower seeds are prohibited until further notice and all players and coaches are asked to refrain from spitting at all times, both in the dugout and on the playing the field
- If a pregame meeting is held, it will consist of only one coach from each team, and shall meet social distancing requirements. Under no circumstances will players be a part of these meetings.
- The post-game handshake line is prohibited, instead, players shall stand in their assigned spot and tip their cap to the other team in a show of sportsmanship.

Team Travel and Tournament Play

- PWYA has already cancelled the May Early Bird Tournament and the June FastPitch tournament. The June FastPitch Tournament will look to be rescheduled in July with a smaller number of teams.
- PWYA recognizes it has a responsibility to the entire community and will not host any tournaments without first discussing with local officials.
- To compensate for the loss of travel tournaments, teams may look to schedule competition with a single team in the surrounding area to be held at the Woyak facility following the above outlined guidelines for play.
- If any of these single competition games are held offsite, PWYA is requiring that a minimum of the above precautions are exercised at the offsite facility, at the discretion of the PWYA Executive Board.

Concession Stand

The concession stand will follow the Department of Health guidelines for food preparation, service and delivery. As required, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be worn. A separate record will be kept for dates and times of each worker in the concession stand.