



## 2021 Homewood Baseball & Softball League Expectations

Updated December 8, 2020

1. This is a living document that will be changing and frequently updated based on recommendations from state and local governments. At any time, these league expectations will be adjusted based on modified state and local regulations and mandates. Please visit our website for the most up to date documentation.
2. Safe-practice guidelines will be met per the State of Illinois procedure Phase 4 (practices expected to begin early March, with games beginning in mid-April 2021, pending state mandates).
  - a. Groups of players and coaches (excluding spectators) can not exceed 50
  - b. Per state guidelines, when social distancing can not be ensured, masks are required. It is up to the parent's discretion if they choose their child to wear a mask during practice.
  - c. Manager/coaches will be supplied a practice log for capturing practice attendance as part of our contact tracing process.
  - d. Each manager will have their own league-supplied spray bottle of sanitizer for cleaning the game ball and shared equipment and player hands.
  - e. No handshaking/celebrations: Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
  - f. The use of any food during play, including candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds, is not permitted by players or coaches.
3. Safe-game guidelines will be met as the State of Illinois enters Phase 4
  - a. Leagues that normally have an umpire, may only have *one* umpire this season to limit exposure and keep group sizes reduced.
  - b. The umpire will make an attempt to keep distance behind the catcher towards the backstop.
  - c. Spectators should follow 6' social distancing guidelines at all times. When social distancing can not be ensured, masks are required. It is up to the parent's discretion if they choose their child to wear a mask during game play. If a player chooses to wear PPE while playing, they may do so as long as it does not compromise the safety of themselves or of other players.
  - d. Only two (2) players MAXIMUM in the dugout at one time, while also following 6' social distancing guidelines at all times. Remaining players & coaches will be positioned down the left & right field lines (off playing field & outside of fence – if possible) away from throws that might come to 1st and 3rd base. Players will be seated or stand no less than 6' apart and must have at least one (1) Coach to watch over players in this area at all times.
  - e. No bleachers will be permitted, and spectators will need to bring their own chair.

- f. Each manager will have their own league-supplied spray bottle of sanitizer for cleaning balls and shared equipment, cleaning players' hands, and other high touch surfaces.
  - g. Multiple "game balls" will be utilized to allow frequent sanitization of the ball.
  - h. Pregame conference will be limited to one (1) Coach per team and one (1) Umpire. Social distancing of 6' is required.
  - i. No handshaking/celebrations: Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
  - j. The use of any food during play, including candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds is not permitted by players, coaches, or umpires.
  - k. Batting lineup changes should be limited to communicating from a distance that maintains the 6' social distancing guidelines at all times.
4. Managers/Coaches will not be taking players' temperatures at practices or games but asking for verbal confirmation that they are feeling well and healthy to play. It is the parent/guardians' responsibility to keep their child home and not participate if their child has recently exhibited any recent sickness or symptoms of sickness. In the event that a child does become diagnosed with COVID-19, the league must be informed immediately. Contact tracing will begin and a fourteen day suspension of practice/play will commence.
5. An attempt at a minimum 12 game season will be made, plus a minimum of weekly practices, for all leagues. Rain makeups will be attempted but not guaranteed. Per the waiver signed by each family to participate, in the event a COVID outbreak forces an early end to the season, there will not be partial refunds issued.
6. Leagues with children ages 9+ (Ripken B, Ripken A, Bantam A, Juniors) will also have a postseason tournament based on performance/rankings in the season.
7. To ensure social distancing protocols can be met, at times there may only be one game at Izaak Walton played at a time. Thus, many leagues might play games at alternate locations such as Apollo Park, Patriots Park, Flossmoor Park, or Orchard Park.
8. Games at Izaak, and at other park facilities, will be staggered to ensure there is **limited** crossover between games. In the event multiple games are held at one location (Apollo - for example), it is imperative that 30' separation is kept between both groups. Leagues with larger volumes of attendees (younger player leagues) will play more games at larger facilities like Apollo Park where larger groups and separation can be accommodated.
9. Volunteer Duties and the use of the Volunteer Duty Deposit this year will expand beyond traditional umpiring and concession duties. This year the role of the "Game Day Safety Captain" will be essential to manage game-time safety protocols. If we do not have this role, we can not execute a safe environment of play, and it is essential as an asset to support the manager/coaches.
- a. Game Day Safety Captain responsibilities include:

- i. Track and keep a log of all of the players, coaches, and umpires that are at the park for each game.
  - ii. If bathrooms are available: bathroom sanitization before and after all games, or every two hours at a minimum.
  - iii. Enforcement of safe-game guidelines as outlined above in item #3 including group attendee separation of 30' from other groups.
10. We do plan to play at facilities where Homewood Baseball and HF Parks have provided bathroom facilities that are open for our games.
11. All local & state health official guidelines must be followed for any activity to take place.
12. Players should limit any sharing of playing equipment, bats, gloves, fielder's mask, catcher's gear, or helmets. Baseballs and Softballs should be cleaned whenever possible and an adequate supply should be on hand. In the event team equipment is shared, they will be sanitized prior to use.
13. Hand sanitizer/Cleaning Solution, will be available in the dugout area for participant's hands and for sterilizing equipment at all league sanctioned practices and games.
14. Managers & Coaches should help to educate players on the hygiene/handwashing/touching of the face suggested guidelines.
15. Parents should be advised to have backup supplies in the player's equipment bag for use when needed and their own marked water bottle or sports drink. No team or dugout coolers are permitted.
16. League will review new procedures with all Team Managers and Coaches prior to the first activity or game at the park.
17. If at any time you, as a parent, would like to notify the league of any issues or discrepancies to these or any CDC safety protocols, please reach out to our league president, Tabitha Stine, by emailing [tabithas@homewoodplayball.com](mailto:tabithas@homewoodplayball.com).