



SHOREVIEW
AREA YOUTH
BASEBALL

SHOREVIEW AREA YOUTH BASEBALL (SAYB)

Preparedness Plan and Return-to-Play Guidelines

Shoreview Area Youth Baseball (SAYB) is committed to providing a safe, healthy season for its volunteers, coaches, and players. In that regard, SAYB has developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and Return-to-Play Guidelines. The goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19. This requires full cooperation among our volunteers, coaches, parents, and players.

Purpose: This document outlines SAYB's approach to social distancing during a return to baseball while social distancing restrictions are being observed. These guidelines follow and support the "2020 Back to the Diamond" guidelines published by MYAS, MBL, and Minnesota Softball and the Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports published by the Minnesota Department of Health—as well as guidance from the CDC. SAYB reserves the right to modify this document as appropriate based on CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidance.

Current Season Status: On May 13, 2020, Governor Walz issued his "Stay Safe MN" Order, which permits outdoor sports of ten (10) people or less. On May 21, 2020, Governor Walz's Stay Safe MN Plan was updated to reflect that "Organized Youth Sports" remained "Closed" until June 1, 2020, at which time practices could be held, but not games. SAYB is awaiting further guidance on games and will update this plan after receiving the guidance.

Fields: SAYB teams shall not hold any team practices until the City of Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, Arden Hills, or North Oaks open their fields.

Scheduling: Practices and games will be scheduled with the goal of minimizing contact between teams. These protocols may include

increased spacing of start times between practices and games on the same fields and staggering start times on neighboring fields.

Support Activities: SAYB will minimize available services during and between practices and games, minimize the number of volunteers and support personnel, and provide tools that allow for social distancing.

Concessions: SAYB will not offer on-site concessions.

Spectator Expectations: Parents will not be allowed to spectate at practices. During games, parents and spectators will have separate seating away from the backstop or dugout. Spectators will not be allowed around the area of the backstop or dugouts. Only players, up to three coaches per team, and the umpire(s) are allowed on the field of play. Spectators are only permitted to view the game from the outfield—meaning along the foul lines starting at 1st/3rd base extending to the outfield and in the outfield area.

It is recommended that only immediate families/households of the players will be allowed to spectate the game. Social distancing guidelines will apply (for example, being 6 feet from the next group/spectator).

CDC-approved masks may be used, but are not required, by spectators.

Dugout: Upon arrival at the dugout, teams will take reasonable efforts to sanitize all hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, etc.). Following the practice or game, departing teams will clean their dugout of all trash and other items and will take reasonable efforts to wipe down all hard surfaces (benches, bat racks, etc.)

The dugout will be extended to behind the dugout to the backstop for both teams. This is to allow rostered players and up to three coaches per team to practice social distancing throughout the game while their team is up to bat. Hand and equipment sanitizing between innings is recommended.

In general, no more than five (5) individuals should be in the dugout at any given time (this is dependent on the size of the dugout). These individuals (players, coaches, or any combination) are to maintain social distancing. All

other team personnel are to practice social distancing in the extended area of the dugout, as referenced above.

Game Protocol: At the pregame meeting and throughout the game, coaches and umpires will not shake hands or have any physical contact with each other. All parties are to maintain social distancing guidelines. No physical contact or touching is permitted.

Players and coaches are asked to refrain from high fives or any other physical gestures of celebration. All team personnel are to maintain social distancing guidelines.

At the conclusion of the game, players will be asked to forego the sportsmanship line at the end of the game. Instead we are asking for each team to promote sportsmanship, such as by lining up on their respective foul line and “tipping their cap” as a salute to the other team.

Equipment: It is highly recommended that team personnel carry hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes with you to be used before, during and after the games, whenever appropriate.

Players should provide their own gloves, bats, batting gloves, helmets, water bottle, and catcher’s gear (if applicable). Parents should take reasonable efforts to sanitize these items before each practice.

Players should refrain from sharing equipment with other players and coaches. If players happen to share equipment, they should do their best to clean it before use and to use hand sanitizer after use.

Each team needs to provide their own baseballs for when they are in the field. Coaches will take reasonable efforts to rotate baseballs for use, as data suggests that warm temperatures and sunlight are a natural deterrent to the spread of most pathogens.

Coaches may provide catcher’s gear to be used during practice. Coaches will take reasonable efforts to sanitize the gear before each practice and after each use.

Players and coaches can wear PPE items, such as face masks, if they choose, if the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game.

All coaches should carry a face mask with them in the event one is needed (i.e. player injury). In the event a player is injured, ONE coach (if possible) should use hand sanitizer, put on gloves and wear a mask while attending the injured player as needed.

Umpires: Umpires may choose to officiate the game from behind the pitcher's mound, while practicing social distancing with all fielders. This will limit the number of people around home plate and will still allow the umpire to call the game and see the whole field.

Umpires should wear a CDC approved face mask. Umpires should not handle baseballs and should wear gloves if they intend to handle baseballs.

Hygiene, Monitoring, and Stay-Home Expectations: CDC guidelines shall be followed by parents, coaches, and players regarding monitoring and staying home in cases of COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Practice good hygiene always.
- Monitor symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, or other symptoms.
- Coaches, parents, and players testing positive for COVID-19 shall not attend practice or games until the following are met:
 - at least 3 days (72 hours) fever-free;
 - improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Coaches, parents, and players having “close contact” with someone with a person having COVID-19 shall not attend games or practices for a period of 14 days after exposure and until symptom-free.

More information can be found at:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Other Social Distancing: Coaches and players should observe proper social distancing in other practice and game situations not listed above, including, by way of example, during mound visits, in batting cages, and in the bullpen.