

Coaches/Players/Umpires/Fans,

These are very difficult times for everyone. Ideally, we would like everyone to feel 100% comfortable with the Governor's guidelines for re-opening baseball in Ohio. The bottom line is there is an inherent risk of exposure in any public place where people are present.

By choosing to participate or attend sporting events, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. We know and understand that some players will choose not to play this summer. We wish those people well and hope they will return to baseball in 2021.

Our goal is to provide a safe, competitive opportunity to all of those who choose to participate. Every participant in the league will need to sign off on a COVID-related league waiver before setting foot on the field. As individuals, we must be socially responsible and respect the space of others. The League will follow all the protocol established by the Governor and set out in the Guidelines.

The following guidelines in RED show mandated rules by the Governor (denoted as OHIO) and the league (denoted as MVABL) that should be adhered to at all times until restrictions are lifted. Guidelines in BLACK are listed as recommendations.

Arrival to Venue

- (OHIO) All participants and spectators must adhere to six-foot physical distancing while at the facility. {The league recommends that if you are the second game at a location that you refrain from approaching the vicinity of the field until the previous games' players have vacated the premises}
- (OHIO) Players must conduct daily symptom assessments at home (self-evaluation) prior to leaving for a game. Anyone in the household experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- (OHIO) No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Lineups should be distributed without exchanging any physical documents between coaches and/or players.
- Athletes are strongly recommended to travel to the venue alone or with a member of their immediate household.

ATHLETES

- (OHIO) Must adhere to six foot social distancing practices off the field of play. {I am not sure how this will pan out for the MVABL just yet but might include extending bench seating outside of the dugouts on the other side of the fence, while staying away from spectators}
- (OHIO) No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans. A “tip the cap” can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.
- (OHIO) No spitting or eating seeds, gum, other similar products.
- (MVABL) Retrieving balls – we ask at this time that only players (no spectators) should retrieve any balls that leave the confines of the playing field
- (MVABL) Mound meetings will be at a 6-foot distance

- (MVABL) Paying Fees/Fines - no cash payments will be accepted by the league. Payments will be accepted electronically through Venmo or Paypal at this time. Players should contact coaches for more details.
- (MVABL) Proper sanitation/cleaning techniques should be performed on surfaces in dugouts prior to and after games, or as otherwise informed by facility owners

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Should wear face coverings at all times when not actively participating in the field of play {This can be interpreted as anything that covers your nose and mouth, and not necessarily a mask. So that could also be a towel, or bandana, or simply pulling your jersey up over your nose}
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing, in the absence of soap and water, are strongly recommended for athletes during the games.
- Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between users.
- Athletes should bring individual water containers.

SPECTATORS

- (OHIO) Must adhere to six foot social distancing practices. This includes in and around bleachers for anyone not in the same family.
- (OHIO) Must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- (OHIO) Must not enter player areas (on the field of play or bench areas).
- (OHIO) Must keep six-feet or more distance from the backstop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (MVABL) At this time, the league will strongly discourage concessions to be distributed before/during/after games. If a team feels the need to provide concessions (to their team only), they will need to enforce precautions. Precautions include 6 feet spacing in concession lines between customers; staff required to wear gloves and face masks; steps taken to prevent cross contamination; and frequent sanitation of all surfaces. Players are encouraged to provide their own snacks/food and drinks.
- It is suggested that seniors or others with compromised immune systems not participate in or attend games due to risk of infection.
- Strongly recommended to wear face coverings at all times.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing, in the absence of soap and water, is recommended strongly during the games.

UMPIRES

- (OHIO) Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices when interacting with anyone off the field of play.
- (OHIO) Must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- (OHIO) Must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with players, coaches, or spectators.

- (MVABL) Umpires will not touch baseballs. Each team will be required to throw balls out to the pitcher of their team when ball is out of play. Only team members are to touch their own baseballs.
- (MVABL) Players are to refrain from coughing, sneezing, or spitting in the direction of another player or umpire.
- (MVABL) If umpire is behind the plate, catcher will not turn to an umpire or hitter any closer than the batter's box

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Should wear face coverings at all times
- Umpires calling balls and strikes should allow adequate distance behind the catcher while still able to perform their duty.
- (MVABL) Umpires may decide to call balls and strikes behind the pitcher

Leaving the Venue

- (OHIO) Individuals should not congregate in common areas or parking lot following the event or practice
- (OHIO) Individuals should not exchange items.
- (MVABL) Proper sanitation/cleaning techniques should be performed on surfaces in dugouts prior to and after games, or as otherwise informed by facility owners

Confirmed Cases

- (MVABL) If a rostered player is diagnosed with COVID-19, the league will be locked down for 2 weeks.
- (OHIO) Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
- (OHIO) Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposure.
- (OHIO) Coaches should be prepared to provide a complete list of players and spectators present at each game to include the date, beginning and ending time of the event, plus name, address, and phone contact to be made available upon request from local health district.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications.
- Once testing is readily available, test all suspected infections or exposures.
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing.