

Practice Safe Play Guidelines-MAGFA May 18, 2020

- Updated May 26, 2020
- Updated May 28, 2020-categorized
- Updated June 22, 2020 to add “Game Play” Guidelines

These Guidelines Comply with Minnesota Department of Health “Guidelines for Social Distancing in Youth Sports” as well as Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission recommendations.

The first section of this document addresses practices, and the second section addresses game play. All practice expectations REMAIN IN PLACE for a game with the addition of the game guidelines included in section 2.

- **Arriving and leaving the venue**
 - All players will enter parking lots in the Western-most entrance to parking lots for drop-off and players will enter all fields on the first base side when possible and exit on the third base side.
 - Practice times will be staggered, or limited to 1 team per field per evening, so that teams can properly exit before the next arrives.
 - No team huddles are permitted to begin practice. All meetings will be virtual or through proper 6 feet social distancing with small groups.
 - Handwashing or hand sanitizing will be required upon arriving at and before leaving practice.
- **Practices**
 - No more than 10 people taking part in team activities/practices (players/coaches)
 - All 10 will be from the same team-no team mixing
 - May accomplish this by split team practices (the same small groups will be used for each practice)
 - Maintain social distance during practice of 6 feet-all activities will be done using social distancing-infield, outfield, and drill work, as well as BP, can be accomplished relatively easily with 6 feet distancing
 - Any base running drills will maintain 6 feet distance. If there is a play at a base in a drill the players will immediately resume distance at the completion of the play.
 - Any “live batting practice” will require backing up the catcher or not using one at this time
 - based on the USA Softball guidelines masks are permitted but not required. MAGFA has concern with restriction of air flow to the youth athlete will not require masks, but if the participant’s parent or guardian chooses otherwise MAGFA will not object.

- For any play at the plate, keep all plays or interaction between players contactless.
- No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
- Do not use the dugouts. Players will place their bags and belongings along fence or to side of field with 6 foot distance
- MAGFA will provide hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray or wipes for players' hands to use between practice activities.
- Disinfect all equipment in between activities using disinfectant spray or wipes, before and after use. In addition, players will be using their own gloves, bats, and balls for practice. Balls will be labeled with player names and will be disinfected before and after use. The only equipment that would be shared may be an occasional bat if a player does not own one, and will be sanitized before and after each use.
- Players should not attend practice if they have had a fever in the last 3 days or exhibited other symptoms in the last 10 days. Any player exhibiting fever or other symptoms of illness will not be permitted to practice. Coaches will monitor players and will immediately send a player home if any symptoms arise.
- **Coaches**
 - Should do a daily symptom check and do not attend practice if exhibiting symptoms
 - No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
 - “No touch” rule. No high fives, handshakes, pat on backs, etc.
 - Coaches are responsible for sanitizers and ensuring players are adhering to social distancing.
 - Coaches are to permit masks if the player chooses.
 - Coaches will monitor players during practice and not permit a player to practice if any symptoms are exhibited.
 - The head coach is responsible for the strict enforcement of the Safe Play Plan herein.
- **Athletes**
 - MAGFA has issued and will submit signed waiver to city of Mankato when returned by all players
 - Should do a daily symptom check and do not attend practice if exhibiting symptoms
 - No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
 - “No touch” rule. No high fives, handshakes, pat on backs, etc.
 - Maintain social distance during practice of 6 feet-all activities will be done using social distancing-infield, outfield, and drill work, as well as BP, can be accomplished relatively easily with 6 feet distancing
 - Disinfect all equipment in between activities using disinfectant spray or wipes, before and after use. In addition, players will be using their own gloves, bats, and

balls for practice. Balls will be labeled with player names and will be disinfected before and after use. The only equipment that would be shared may be an occasional bat if a player does not own one, and will be sanitized before and after each use.

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- **Parents and Spectators**

- Parents and spectators are encouraged not to stay onsite for practice. If parents or fans do stay for practice, they will be asked to remain in their cars, or along the outfield fence in between foul poles, and maintain 6 feet of social distancing.
- It will be the coaches responsibility to enforce this with parents and proactively Remind parents or caregivers that they should not attend practices. If necessary for them to be at practices, ensure that proper social distancing is maintained between parents or caregiver
- Since this plan is only referring to practices at this time, we anticipate parents adhering to this plan without incident.
- Should do a daily symptom check and do not attend practice if exhibiting symptoms
- No sunflower seeds, gum or any other eating during practice
- “No touch” rule. No high fives, handshakes, pat on backs, etc.

- **Umpires**

- No umpires needed-practice only

- **Communication**

- MAGFA will hold a coaches meeting to ensure all coaches are apprised of these guidelines.
- These plans will be displayed at all sites, on the MAGFA website, and distributed to all families before their team’s first practice. Plans will remain on the website throughout the pandemic, modified as guidelines evolve. Notification will be sent to families when a change is made.
- MAGFA Board personnel will regularly monitor practices to ensure adherence.
- Remind parents or caregivers that they should not attend practices. If necessary for them to be at practices, ensure that proper social distancing is maintained between parents or caregiver

- **Positive Cases of COVID-19**

- If a player or coach is exhibiting symptoms and requires testing, or has been exposed to a positive case, team activities will be suspending pending testing. The player will be quarantined for a minimum of 14 days. A negative test could result in team activities without the player should no other players exhibit symptoms. A positive test will result in no team activities, all players quarantined for a minimum of 14 days AND when all players exhibit no symptoms.
- MAGFA Board will work with MDH on exposure tracing and notification of all of MAGFA
- The MAGFA President will notify the city of Mankato of any suspensions of team activities and/or positive cases.

This section is in addition to the above requirements. The above requirement REMAIN in place with the addition of the following expectations for game play.

- **Games-Tournaments and Hosted League Games**

- All practice guidelines remain in place for equipment, contact, eating, and sanitizing.
- No use of shared water jugs or bottles will be permitted
- Only teams that are assigned to play at a given game time are permitted at the field. Warmups can take place outside of the field area.
- Facemasks are encouraged in the dugout when not in the game. Players must maintain social distance of 6 feet whenever possible in the dugout.
- Games will be staggered by at least 15 minutes to allow sanitizing of dugouts.
- Teams will be responsible for sanitizing their dugout after use.
- Parking lot entrance requirements are the same as practice.
- Maximum of 4 family members per player or coach and to the maximum allowed by venue.
- Spectators should have a social distance at least 6 feet between families. MAGFA will put indicator marks (tags) on fences to mark this distance.
- Spectator areas will be clearly marked, areas where spectators cannot gather will be taped off, and all appropriate distance between families will be maintained.
- Bleachers will be marked for appropriate distancing for seating.
- Appropriate signage will be placed at entrances, anyone with symptoms or a pending test will not be allowed to enter.
- A waiver and information for contact tracing will be collected upon entry for all spectators and team personnel, as well as umpires and MAGFA/Association Officials
- All spectators are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Teams will use softballs provided by the tournament..
- Any foul balls will be collected by the team in the field and disinfected prior to re-entry.
- All umpire interactions will be contactless, as will coach meetings. No handshakes or congratulations lines, players can acknowledge opponent from their side of the field.
- MAGFA will follow any other requirements as indicated by sanctioning youth softball bodies for game play.
- Should any individual who was at the field or in the game have a positive test, MAGFA will notify the city of Mankato and Dept of Health and follow proper procedures for contact tracing as directed.
- If a team member or a member of their household is confirmed to have COVID-19, that team member shall notify the association and self quarantine for two weeks.

- Concession stand workers are required to wear a mask and gloves, and maintain 6 feet social distancing.
 - Barriers will be placed between concession workers and visitors
 - Only pre-packaged items will be served at concessions
 - Line placement signage to maintain social distance in line