

# **Mankato Royal's**

## **Guidelines/Protocols for Social Distancing During Tournaments**

### **Purpose**

This document will outline the Mankato Royal's (MAYBA) approach to social distancing during our return to baseball while social distancing restrictions are still being observed. These guidelines follow and support the "2020 Back-to-the-Diamond" guidelines published by MYAS, MBL, and Minnesota Softball and are intended to cover weekend tournament games.

### **Scheduling/Arrival**

Games will be scheduled in such a way as to minimize contact between teams. These protocols may include increased spacing of start times between games on the same fields and staggering start times on neighboring fields.

Teams will be required to warm up near the foul pole on their respective side of the field as possible. Players will arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before their scheduled start times. Parents will be asked to stay in their vehicles until 20 minutes before their scheduled start times. Teams and spectators will be required to vacate the park once their games have been completed. During tournaments, teams will be asked to not spectate other games that are occurring.

### **Covid Waiver Form**

All participants (players and coaches) must complete the 2020 City of Mankato, Minnesota Waiver and Release of Liability Form. The form must be delivered to the tournament director prior to the start of your first game.

### **Batting Cages**

Batting cages will remain CLOSED and off limits for team use during tournaments to avoid crowding of players and coaches in a confined space

### **Spectator Expectations**

Parents and spectators will have separate seating away from the players and extended dugout areas. The spectator area will generally be down the 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> base lines beyond the dugouts and in the outfield areas on most fields. On some fields where the field access doors are on the outfield side of the dugout, the spectator area may instead be located behind the backstop. In all cases, the spectator and player areas will be clearly marked for tournament weekends.

Spectators will not be allowed around the area of the extended dugouts. Only players, up to three coaches per team, and the umpire(s) are allowed on the field of play.

Only immediate families/households of the players will be allowed to spectate games. Attendees will need to sit with their family unit. This means that all family members will need to distance from all other family units.

CDC approved face coverings are recommended for all spectators attending, particularly during tournament play where social distancing may not always be possible.

### **Dugout (Team Personnel)**

Upon arrival at the dugout, it is recommended that the arriving team sanitize all hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, etc.). Following the game, departing teams will clean their dugout of all trash and other items and wipe down all hard surfaces (benches, bat racks, etc.).

In order to allow coaches and players to socially distance, the dugout will be extended to behind the dugout to the backstop or down the foul lines for both teams. Hand and equipment sanitizing between innings is also recommended.

Teams are expected to observe social distancing in dugouts, which will typically mean no more than 5 individuals in the dugout at any given time. The actual number allowed will be dependent upon the size of the dugout. These individuals (players, coaches or any combination) must maintain all social distancing guidelines throughout the game. All other team personnel must 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 be allowed to shake hands or have any physical contact with each other. All parties must 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 must always 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 line up on their respective foul line and "tip their cap" as a salute to the other team to promote sportsmanship.

### **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 will refrain from sharing equipment in general. This includes but is not limited to bats, helmets, and catcher's equipment.

Each team needs to provide their own baseballs for when they are in the field.

Players and coaches are allowed to wear PPE items, such as face masks, if they so choose, as long as those items do not compromise the safety of any participants in the game.

### **Umpires**

Umpires will be required 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.

### **General**

The following items will not be allowed at the baseball facilities: sunflower seeds, peanuts, gum, team treats, or team beverages.

All individuals are expected to stay at home if they are not feeling well. If any member of the player's household is experiencing any of these symptoms, that household should not attend:

- Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Fever (Families should be aware of each member's "base temperature")
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

If any player or spectator is confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 within 10 days of attending a baseball game, a representative of that team is expected to make the game/tournament coordinator aware of the positive test so that any opposing teams or other close contacts can be notified