

Responsible Return to Play
COVID-19 Safety Guidelines



Steam Softball

2020



A Message from the SVSA Board

The Sauk Valley Steam Academy Executive Board unanimously voted to resume Steam Softball practices beginning May 29, 2020 (official Phase 3 date in the Restore Illinois document). Additionally, teams will be able to resume play in leagues/tournaments beginning June 1, 2020. We cannot stress enough that any softball activity that will occur the rest of the 2020 season is COMPLETELY voluntary. If you are not comfortable with your player participating in any practices or events during this time, please let your coach know immediately. Coaches should report such conversations to the Board so we can be in contact with those families to discuss options. There will be no repercussions for making the decision to not participate in practices and tournaments. Please take the time to read this document in its entirety so everyone understands our roles and responsibilities for ensuring all players, coaches and families are safe as we return to playing softball.

SVSA Board's Rules, Rights & Responsibilities

- The SVSA has outlined guidelines and safety measures that all players, coaches and parents must follow in order to resume activity at the targeted dates. We believe that we have outlined guidelines and safety measures that put the safety and health of our players, coaches and families in position to resume softball activities. If we as an Executive Board do not feel that we can continue practicing the outlined safety measures and guidelines we will once again suspend softball activity.
- Our guidelines are susceptible to change if new information is gathered. In this event, we will notify you as that information becomes available.
- Parents will be asked to sign a Liability Waiver for the SVSA prior to returning to practice or traveling to tournaments. This document will only need to be signed once.
- USSSA has released a COVID-19 Waiver that all parents will be required to fill out prior to any USSSA tournament. If this waiver is not completed 24 hours in advance of the tournament, your player will not be permitted to play. This document will need to be signed prior to every USSSA sanctioned event.
- The SVSA Board will provide each coach with sanitizing equipment to be utilized at practices and tournaments. Should coaches run low on these materials/equipment, they should contact the Board for replacements.

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- In the event a player, coach or immediate family member is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, the Board recommends that those individuals isolate and seek medical care. We ask that parents take their player's temperature prior to each practice or game. If the player has a temperature above 99.0 degrees, they are not permitted to attend practices or tournaments. Players and coaches will be asked to not attend practices and tournaments for 14 days after symptoms appear.

Safety Recommendations

- It's recommended players travel to the venue location for practices/tournaments with a member of their immediate household only.
- Face coverings do not need to be worn when a player or coach is actively participating in the field of play. It is recommended that players and coaches wear face coverings in-between games or whenever they feel safe social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained.
- It's recommended that only ONE coach attend the coaching meeting before the game at home plate (if needed).
- It is recommended that line-up card exchanges between teams be shared via phone or text.
- When coaches visit their pitcher at the mound, it is recommended that the coach wear a face covering or stay outside the pitching circle at a safe social distance. The only exception would be if the pitcher is the coach's immediate family member.
- It is recommended that Base Coaches stay 6 feet from a runner they wish to talk to during or after suspension of play. The only exception would be if the runner is the coach's immediate family member.
- Defensive teams meetings on the field, both with the coach and without, should adhere to safe social distancing guidelines.
- Teams congregating at their "team camp" should adhere to safe social distancing from individuals outside their immediate family.
- Families should consider bringing their own chairs and not use bleachers at tournament venues.

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2020 COVID-19 Return to Play Safety Guidelines

Mandatory for Coaches & Players	Mandatory of Parents
<p>Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A minimum of 30 minutes must pass between the end of one team’s practice and the beginning of another team’s practice. Once your practice is over, players and coaches need to leave the diamond as soon as possible so there is plenty of time between team’s practices. ● Coaches and players must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation) before each practice. Anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has an immediate family member with symptoms is not allowed to come to practice.* ● Coaches and players that have traveled to any “hot spots” in the last 14 days (large cities) must stay home until 14 days has passed. ● Coaches and players must adhere to physical six foot social distancing except for when the ball is in play. ● Practice sessions will be divided up into player groups and rotating shifts will be established to meet phasing guidelines. ● Dugouts are closed at any venue we use for practices. Players will use the outside fence to hang their bags. Bags MUST be hung six feet apart from each other. ● Coaches and players must bring their own water bottles. Water bottles must be clearly marked with names. No 	<p>Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A minimum of 30 minutes must pass between the end of one team’s practice and the beginning of another team’s practice. Parents and players need to leave the parking area as soon as possible so there is plenty of time between team’s practices. ● Responsible for conducting daily symptom checks of their child. Anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has an immediate family member with symptoms is not allowed to come to practice. ● In order to adhere to the 10 or less, all parents must stay in the parking lot/grass lot. ● Must adhere to the 6 feet social distancing when dropping off or picking up players at practices. This includes in or around bleachers for anyone not in the same family. Individuals should not congregate in common areas following practices. ● Must not enter the players area (field of play or bench/dugout area). ● Parents are responsible for water/sport drinks for their player in bottle format. Parents must make sure they are clearly marked and identified with the player’s name. ● Parents are responsible for making sure player’s equipment has been properly sanitized before and after

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<p>sharing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No spitting or eating seeds, gum, or similar products. • Coaches and players need to bring their own hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes to utilize before, during and after practices. • Coaches and players are not allowed to share equipment, i.e. bats, helmets, etc. The only exception to this is if a team has one set of catcher gear that is shared amongst players. If more than one catcher is going to use that equipment in a single practice, the coach is responsible for sanitizing that gear between uses. • Coaches and players are asked to properly sanitize equipment before and after practices. • Coaches will be sure that each individual player cleans their own designated area prior to leaving practice. • Coaches and players should refrain from high fives, handshakes and other physical contact with teammates and coaches. 	<p>practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents must send players with hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes to be used before, during and after practice.
<p>Tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches and players must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation) before each tournament. Anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has an immediate family member with symptoms is not allowed to come to practice.* • Coaches and players that have traveled to any “hot spots” in the last 14 days (large cities) must stay home until 14 	<p>Tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are asked to follow city, county and state requirements for attending tournaments in state or out of state. • Parents should have hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes available for their players use. • Families should maintain social distancing measures when

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days has passed.

- Coaches and players must adhere to physical six foot social distancing except for when the ball is in play.
- If room permits and player safety is not compromised, expansion of team dugouts should be practiced. This will depend on the tournament location and individual tournament rules.
- Upon arriving at a dugout, Steam coaches will enter first and disinfect hard surface areas, i.e. benches, bat racks, etc before our team enters the dugout area.
- When leaving a dugout, players will clean all trash and other items and coaches will disinfect hard surfaces after the players exit.
- Coaches and players must bring their own water bottles. Water bottles must be clearly marked with names. No sharing.
- No spitting or eating seeds, gum, or similar products.
- Coaches and players need to bring their own hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes to utilize before, during and after tournaments.
- Coaches and players are not allowed to share equipment, i.e. bats, helmets, etc. The only exception to this is if a team has one set of catcher gear that is shared amongst players. If more than one catcher is going to use that equipment in a single practice, the coach is responsible for sanitizing that gear between uses.
- Coaches and players are asked to properly sanitize

entering, during and leaving tournament venues.

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equipment before and after tournaments.

- Coaches and players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans. A “tip of the cap” can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line up.
- Steam players will not attend the pre-game home plate meeting.
- Coaches should ensure the players are adhering to social distancing in dugouts and other seating areas while not actively participating on the field of play.

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