

NFSA COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

(Prepare July 9th, 2020)

Section 1: Social Distancing

Social distancing (also referred to as “physical distancing”) of six feet will be implemented and maintained between NFSA Patrons at all NFSA events through the following engineering and administrative protocols:

- Bleachers behind or surrounding the backstop will be closed to spectators;
- There will be clearly-marked, designated areas for spectators along the outfield fence from the area
- just beyond first base, around the outfield, and ending at the area just behind third base depending
- on the field configuration;
- To minimize the size of gatherings around the fields, it is strongly recommended that families
- consider the number of spectators within their group who attend games at the complex;
- The manner of physical distancing of players and coaches in practices and games will be set by the
- Guidelines;
- Practice times at NFSA facilities will be staggered by at least 15 minutes to minimize overlap between pick-up and drop-off;
- Other than coaches, parents and spectators are encouraged to drop players off and return to pick them up or watch practices from their cars;
- Players should arrive to practice shortly before the scheduled start (no more than 30 minutes) and leave promptly at the end of practice;
- Game times will be staggered by at least 20 minutes to minimize overlap of Patrons between games;
- Coaches and Players are not permitted to be at a NFSA facility more than 30 minutes prior to game time; the next-up teams shall have designated areas to gather and must maintain
- physical distancing at all times prior to the game;
- Parents/spectators shall keep 6 feet of physical distance from non-family members at all times;
- Postgame team meetings are not permitted on the field; players and spectators must leave
- the facility promptly after games;
- After a game, 3 coaches work to (1) clean dugouts/disinfect, (2) rake and prep fields for next game and (3) manage player pick-up;
- Prior to game, coaches confirm with leaving coaches that disinfecting has been completed and manage player warm-up;
- Game times will have hard stops and coaches will be encouraged to manage time, regardless of score.
- Parents must know when their players will be ready for pick-up which should be orderly and efficient;
- Players stay in the outfield, with their equipment until their parent/car is identified, players must exit single file while maintaining physical distance



Section 2: Hand Washing, Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

NFSA patrons are being instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

In addition, the NFSA is implementing the following policies and procedures:

- NFSA understands the use of face coverings for players, parents and spectators is optional;
- Patrons will be expected to comply with the Guidelines to the extent they encourage face coverings;
- To the extent not addressed in the Guidelines, coaches and umpires will be encouraged to wear a mask at any time they are within 6' of a player, during practices or games;
- Patrons will be reminded of healthy etiquette through email communications. Patron hygiene and source controls are being implemented at our facilities at all times.

Section 3: Health checks and screening of participants

The following policies and procedures are being implemented to assess persons' health status prior to attending a NFSA event or activity and for Patrons to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms.

- All NFSA Patrons must self-screen their person and each player (for whom they are responsible) for
 - signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before the Patron comes to a facility, complex or field for participation in any NFSA event, including but not limited to practices and games;
 - If a Patron has signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they are not allowed to attend any activities at an NFSA event and in proximity to a facility or field;
 - In the case of a player absence due to COVID-19 symptoms, the parent should report the reason for the absence to the player's coach;
 - In the case of a coach absence due to COVID-19 symptoms, the coach should report the reason for the absence to a member of the NFSA executive board;
 - In the case of a worker absence due to COVID-19 symptoms, the worker or the worker's parent should report the reason for the absence to the worker's supervisor;
 - If a Patron exhibits COVID-19 symptoms while at an NFSA event, that person will be asked immediately to leave the facility; if it's a youth player or worker, the parents will be contacted and
 - asked to pick up the player/worker; the player/worker shall be isolated at the facility with adult supervision until such time as they can be picked up;
 - According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include cough, fever, chills, muscle pain, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell;
 - If a Patron or someone that resides with a Patron tests positive for COVID-19 and has been at an NFSA event within 10 days of getting the test result, the Patron must report the positive test to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and to a member of the board



- of directors within 24 hours and cooperate with contact tracing efforts by the MDH;
- The Patron and members of the Patron’s household may not attend NFSA events until they have met the applicable CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preventgetting-sick/when-its-safe.html>);
- NFSA will cooperate and comply with all directives of the MDH in the event of a confirmed case.

Section 4: Tracking of participants

Coaches will be asked to take attendance at the beginning of every sessions. The NFSA maintain registration records of all players including email and phone contact information. Parents/guardians will be asked at the beginning of every session to confirm players do not have symptoms.

Section 5: Cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas

Appropriate and effective cleaning/disinfectant supplies will be purchased and available for use in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets and manufacturer specifications and are being used with required personal protective equipment for the product.

Regular housekeeping practices are being implemented, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of amenities, equipment, and high-touch surfaces at NFSA facilities, including dugouts, portable toilets, and concession stand.

In addition, the NFSA will implement the following policies and procedures:

- Coaches will have sanitizer or a bleach/water solution to disinfect surfaces before, during, and after
- practices and games;
- Parents are encouraged to send sanitizer with their player for individual use to sanitize their own equipment;
- Dugouts shall not be used during practice;
- Sanitizing of the balls for play in practice or games will be set by the Guidelines;
- During scheduled game times, portable or permanent restrooms will remain open with sanitizer
- and/or soap for hand washing;

Section 6: Communication

The NFSA COVID-19 Preparedness Plan will be communicated to all NFSA Patrons and posted on our website and training will be provided to all workers, coaches, team managers, and board members as follows:

- The Plan, along with any supplemental rules, will be posted in various common locations throughout the facilities;
- Frequent email communication regarding the Plan will be sent to Patrons;
- The Plan will be posted on the NFSA website;
- Social media sites may also be utilized to communicate elements of the Plan;
- Board members will be trained on the Plan at NFSA facilities, in a physically distanced manner, and they will then host age-level coach’s trainings that will be mandatory for coach



- participation;
- Umpires will be trained on the Plan at NFSA facilities in a physically distanced manner.

Members of the NFSA Board, coaches, parents, and workers are all responsible for implementing and complying with this Plan and the Guidelines. Our goal is to minimize the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our environment and communities, and that requires full cooperation. The Board will monitor compliance with the Plan and coaches or other Patrons who intentionally disregard or repeatedly fail to adhere to the Plan will be subject to discipline in accordance with the NFSA Code of Conduct, including but not limited to preclusion from participating in or attending NFSA events.

This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan has been approved by NFSA Board of Directors as of July 9th, 2020, and will be posted on the NFSA website. It will be updated as necessary in compliance with the Stay Safe MN plan and any upcoming Gov. Tim Walz executive orders.

This Plan was communicated via email and website to all Patrons July 10th, 2020 and training will be provided to coaches and volunteers the week of July 13th, 2020. The NFSA Board will monitor how effective the program has been implemented by periodically onsite reviews and online feedback via our website.

Section 7: Drop off and pick up procedures

The Northfield School District manages and oversees the maintenance and upkeep of the Rock Fields complex, softball fields and picnic shelter. NFSA works in coordination with the school district and is expected to ensure the Plan is followed by NFSA Patrons to maintain the health and safety of the community. The Plan above has outlined the procedures required to continue use of the Rock Field facilities and will be monitored by the school district. If necessary, the NFSA will implement the following policies and procedures:

- Control the flow of vehicle traffic during NFSA games and practices;
- Direct foot traffic for players and spectators separately to maintain physical distance;
- Placement of signage and waiting isles that maintain physical distance for customers at the concessions stand, portable toilets and other common spaces.

Section 8: Severe Weather Plan

NFSA coaches and board members will monitor weather and use an abundance of caution in cancelling or rescheduling events. The NFSA will communicate that in the event of weather, players need to be picked up immediately. In the event of the sudden onset of inclement weather, players will be divided between dug outs and the concessions building until their parents can pick them up.

