

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Waseca Youth Baseball Association

WYBA is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our players, coaches, parents spectators and volunteers (collectively, referred to as “Patrons”) as well as the Umpires and Field volunteers (collectively, referred to as “employees”).

The following information outlines an example protocol that all players and coaches should follow in alignment with our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. It should be shared with all participant families and affirmed at all teams practices and games as we begin the 2021 season. The WYBA guidelines were created in alignment with the Safe Play: Back to the Diamond Plan issued April 15, 2021 by MYAS, MBL and MN Softball based on close conversation with MDH and considering CDC guidelines. We will update our guidelines and procedures, if deemed appropriate, as the season goes on based on new recommendations and guidance from state and local officials and MYAS/MBL.

Screening Responsibilities and Reporting Requirements

All WYBA Patrons and Employees must conduct a self-evaluation symptom assessment before coming to the facility for practice, games or work.

PLEASE USE THE SIDE OF CAUTION AND STAY HOME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING 100% OR HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Fever of 99.5 or higher
- Body aches
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Headache Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Vomiting

If any player or coach is deemed a close contact or tests positive for COVID-19, that individual must notify the WYBA via email wasecabaseball@gmail.com If an Employee tests positive for COVID-19 then must notify their Supervisor (coaching or umpire coordinator) to make the appropriate notifications.

Positive Cases, Close Contacts & Quarantine Requirements:

A Close contact is deemed as anyone who is within six (6) feet of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of fifteen (15) minutes or more within a 24 hr period.

If you are deemed a “close contact” you should quarantine and be absent from all baseball practices and games for 14 days starting the day AFTER the date of contact. There are ways in accordance with MDH Close Contact Guidelines to reduce close contact quarantine to 7 (with negative PCR test on day 5 or later) or 10 days (no symptoms). If this is done masking and social distancing will be required 100% of practice and games, without exception, through the full 14 days.

- Exception: Those who are fully vaccinated and/or who have had COVID-19 within the past three (3) months with no new symptoms do not need to quarantine if deemed a close contact.

- For outdoor sports, the entire team does not automatically have to be placed on quarantine if a contact occurs. Each case should be considered on a case-by-case basis and take into effect exposure as defined as: direct exposure to respiratory droplets from a positive person; direct physical contact; duration of time within 6 feet of a positive party during non-play activity.
- Leagues coaches will be contacted when a positive case is reported to determine any close contacts that would have occurred. If a positive case is reported the whole team will be deemed a close contact.
- WYBA will notify Patrons and Employees of any positive case in which they may have had close contact. WYBA will also notify opposing teams of positive cases on our team if deemed necessary.

If you test POSITIVE, you should quarantine and be absent from all baseball practices and games for 10 days starting the day the test was administered. WYBA must be notified as stated above. WYBA will cooperate and comply with all directives of the MDH in the event of a positive case.

IN ALL INSTANCES OF CLOSE CONTACT OR POSITIVE TEST THE PARTICIPANT SHOULD BE SYMPTOM FREE FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE RETURNING TO PLAY.

Practice & Game Guidelines/Social Distancing and Face Masks

Players and coaches must maintain a social distance of at least six (6) feet whenever possible, from any other person.

- Coaches are not required to wear a face covering if/when a social distance of six (6) feet can be consistently maintained; coaches must wear a face covering when social distancing isn't possible.
- Players are not required to wear a face covering during the course of play or if a social distance of six (6) feet can be consistently maintained.
 - Players must wear a face covering when social distancing isn't possible and not actively involved in play (ie. team huddles, dugout or bench area).
- When there is a play at base or contact of any kind on the field the players should resume social distance as soon as possible upon completion of the play.
- During practices, teams should avoid use of the dugouts as to avoid unnecessary close contact situations, instead players and coaches should utilize the fencing in front of the dugout and down the baseline to hang and set their belongings.
- Teams should minimize the number of players in the dugout at a time and others should maintain social distances in the designated area outside of the dugout.
- No touch rule - refrain from high fives, no handshake line or any other physical contact with fellow coaches, opposing coaches, players, umpires or spectators.
- Spectators should maintain 6 feet distance from other non-family spectators and maintain twelve (12) feet from the field of competition/participants
 - Spectators are encouraged to wear a face covering if social distances can not be maintained and/or if not vaccinated.
- Umpires are encouraged to officiate from behind the pitcher's mound. If they choose to officiate from behind home plate they will be required to wear a face covering as they will be within six (6) feet of distance from the athletes.
 - Umpires should communicate in the pregame meeting their intentions.
 - Coaches can express any concern at that time.
 - Coaches will communicate with their catchers to gauge the comfort level of them prior to game time.

Disinfecting and Hygiene Guidelines

WYBA will do it's best to put systems in place to mitigate risk when using shared equipment, but even with these efforts there will be risk. Players are encouraged to provide their own equipment whenever possible. WYBA will provide some cleaning and disinfecting items to be used during practice and games.

- Coaches will be responsible for sanitizing the dugout area before play.
- During game play, baseballs should be disinfected between innings.
- Players should provide their own water bottle.
- Players should refrain from touching their faces.
- Batting gloves are encouraged when using shared bats
- No spitting or chewing sunflower seeds, gum, or similar products will be allowed for any Patrons
- Hand sanitizing is strongly encouraged during practice and games.

WYBA Field Guidelines

WYBA will do it's best to stagger practice and game times to minimize the overlap of Patrons between practices and games.

- Game players and coaches should avoid arriving at the ballpark more than 30 minutes prior to game time.
- All Patrons should enter and leave the Baseball Park in a timely fashion and not congregate.
- If coaches need to meet with their teams they should have their team immediately collect their belongings and do so outside of the field/dugout area if another team is waiting to enter.

All WYBA practices and games will be run in accordance with the MDH Guidance for Outdoor Venues and other MDH and MYAS Guidelines