



Ashland Youth Baseball & Softball Restart Guidelines

Safer at Home Plate

We are excited to open our season with extra precautions to ensure the safety of our players, coaches, and fans. Please review the guidelines below carefully and discuss them with players. We will be asking each family to acknowledge they have read and understand the guidelines.

Fields & Facilities

- ① All coaches, umpires, and fans must adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear face masks while at the fields. Players will also be required to adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear masks unless actively on the field of play. See player-specific guidelines below.
- ① All snack shack facilities will remain closed.
- ① Players will not be allowed in the dugouts. Team areas will be constructed with temporary fencing from home plate to beyond 1st/3rd base. (See attached image of field.)
- ① Each player will have their own space within the team area (at least 6 feet) to keep equipment distanced.
- ① No players or coaches may enter the team area until all other players and equipment from previous games or practices have left the area and the benches are sanitized.
- ① No spectators will be allowed in team areas.
- ① AYBS will have hand sanitizer and/or wipes available at entrance and exit to all team areas.
- ① No seeds or gum will be permitted at the facilities, including team areas and playing fields.
- ① No gatherings in the parking lots or common areas before, during, or following events.
- ① If any player, coach, or fan (or anyone in their households) are experiencing symptoms, they should not attend games or practices.
- ① High-touch areas will be frequently sanitized.
- ① Restroom facilities will be deep cleaned once per week, and disinfectant spray will be available for occupants to spray before and after each use.
- ① Practice and game start times will be staggered to minimize the flow of people at the fields at a given time.
- ① No team snacks or water will be allowed - players must bring their own.

Players

- ① All parents of players will sign a release waiver with a COVID-19 clause.
- ① Players should not attend ANY AYBS event (i.e. – practice, game, etc.) if they are feeling sick or exhibiting any symptoms of illness.
- ① All players must bring their own water bottle, glove, batting gloves, bat, and helmet. Equipment should be clearly labeled in **large font** and will not be shared among players.
- ① Catchers are encouraged to bring their own catcher's gear. If players do not have catcher's gear, they can use AYBS gear that will be sanitized before each game. AYBS will provide adequate sets of gear per team, however this may limit how many players can be designated as catchers for each game.
- ① Players must maintain social distancing when not on the field.

- ⑩ AYBS gaiters will be provided for all players. Gaiters (or other suitable masks) must be worn in team areas. Gaiters do not have to be worn while playing, however, parents have the right to require their own child to wear gaiters while playing.
- ⑩ No handshakes or high fives before or after the games.
- ⑩ Catchers, batters, and baserunners are permitted to wear masks during play. Parents will be responsible for monitoring their child's mask use.
- ⑩ Younger players' programs have been rescheduled to the fall.

Coaches

- ⑩ Coaches must maintain social distancing and wear face masks whenever social distancing is not possible.
- ⑩ Coaches should limit their presence on the actual field of play unless tending to an injured player, coach-pitch situations, substitutions, etc.
- ⑩ Coaches must refrain from high fives or handshakes with players, coaches, umpires, and opposing teams.
- ⑩ Each team will have its own set of game balls which will be used only when that team is in the field. Coaches are responsible for ensuring balls are sanitized and/or rotated regularly.
- ⑩ Practices will be designed to have limited players as far away as possible. Groups (<10) will stick together throughout the practice and not cross over.

Umpires

- ⑩ Umpires are always required to wear face masks.
- ⑩ Pre-game plate meetings will be conducted in accordance with social distance guidelines.
- ⑩ Umpires will minimize their contact with the game balls when at all possible.

Fans

- ⑩ Fans should not attend AYBS events if they are feeling ill or have an elevated temperature.
- ⑩ Fans should remain in their cars until their game starts.
- ⑩ Fans will not be allowed to sit or stand behind home plate, designated team areas, or along the fences on each baseline.
- ⑩ There will be space available behind the outfield fence where fans may stand or bring their own chairs but must maintain social distancing from other families.
- ⑩ Families are responsible for ensuring their children and any guests are aware of and following the guidelines.
- ⑩ As always, pets are not allowed at any of our fields.

Game Day Considerations

- ⑩ One coach or parent will be designated to ensure the team is following social distancing while in the team area.
- ⑩ Game balls will be kept untouched until needed.
- ⑩ Game balls will be swapped out and/or disinfected throughout the course of the game.
- ⑩ Contact with game balls should be limited to players where possible.
- ⑩ When a ball leaves the playing area it must be returned to a coach for disinfecting before being used again.
- ⑩ Shared equipment should be for limited use only and disinfected in between uses with a CDC approved solution (e.g. – catcher's gear).

AYBS COVID Contacts

Stephen Clark: president@aybsonline.org

Jim Cashin: softballvp@aybsonline.org

Dave Forster: baseballvp@aybsonline.org

If you have any questions related to AYBS's response and return to play plan, please reach out directly. Additionally, if your player exhibits any COVID-related symptoms, tests positive, or is in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please notify AYBS immediately.

Field View



**Photo shown is at Gryncel. Other AYBS fields will be set up similarly.*