



MN-USSSA Adult Slowpitch Return to Play



Recommended Best Practices for the Field-of-Play:

1. Follow all local and state guidelines for facilities and events.
2. Directors and tournaments may be required to cap the total number of teams that can enter an event, to stay within potential gathering limitations. Spectators will be encouraged to not attend events until gathering limitations are increased or removed.
3. Directors are asked to discuss these protocols/restrictions with all locations that host USSSA/GSL events and also cover any additional items said facilities might require. This information must be distributed to all participants prior to the start of the event, to ensure the safety of all attending, including facility staff.
4. All staff, players, umpires and spectators are encouraged to continue 6 feet social distancing on and off the field during an event. Recommend that spectators bring their own chairs.
5. All staff, players, umpires and spectators are encouraged, not required to wear a mask or other face covering until CDC, state and local authorities declare that masks are no longer recommended. Masks must be of one neutral color with no designs on them and not distracting. No spitting. Spitting will result in automatic removal from the field
6. It is recommended that new softballs remain in their original packaging until they need to be introduced into a game.
7. All teams are required to only use their own team's softballs when in the field. Once a half-inning is complete, fielding team will take their ball into the dugout and team going to play the fields provides one of their team's softballs
8. Increase dugouts sizes where possible, to eliminate that space restriction. Recommend players stand outside the dugout to allow for social distancing, but do not allow them onto the field of play.
9. Recommend staff, players, umpires and spectators bring hand sanitizing products and/or sanitizing wipes.
10. One coach or manager per team will conduct a pregame meeting at home plate, all involved are requested to keep 6 feet social distancing during ground rules and coin toss.
11. Directors are encouraged to allow for adequate time in event scheduling, to ensure adherence to social distancing during the crossover of teams.
12. It is recommended that all players and umpires use their own equipment while participating. This includes gloves, bats, helmets, etc. No handshakes, team huddles, high fives. Teams should tip their hats or wave instead.
13. The catcher and umpire shall position themselves during a player's at-bat to allow for social distancing. Catcher shall position themselves behind the umpire, at least 6 feet, and become a "retriever", not a catcher
14. All teams are directed to clean their dugouts and team bench areas on arrival and departure. This includes wiping down benches and any high-touch areas and removing any trash. Remind to all to wash hands after leaving complex.
15. Teams should not enter dugout until the other team exits. Teams must leave the field immediately after their game concludes. Teams will have 5 minutes to vacate the bench area.
16. As to all applicable persons, people should be instructed that if they are exhibiting symptoms of possible exposure to COVID-19, such as a fever exceeding 100.4, that they should not come to events until such time as the participant has been tested and/or cleared. This includes recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.
17. Remind managers that all players must sign a USSSA-specific COVID-19 waiver before participating. Copies will be made available at the fields for players to sign at their first game.