

2020 SVGSA COVID - 19 Health and Safety Guidelines

Schuylkill Valley Girls Softball Association has decided to pursue a fall softball season. Our SVGSA Board has developed the following policies in an effort to protect the health and safety of our players and families. Our policies have been developed through guidance from Federal, State and Local agencies, as well as the medical community. However, please understand that guidance may change and as such, our policies and procedures **may also be subjected to change throughout the course of the 2020 fall season.**

- A. All local and state health official guidelines must be followed for any softball activity to take place.
- B. All parents/guardians must sign a waiver when registering their player that will implement their understanding and acknowledgement of all health and safety guidelines set forth by the SVGSA Board for the 2020 Fall Softball Season.
- C. Softball Event Social Distancing Guidance:**
 - a. Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations etc.
 - b. Pre-game conferences should be limited to one coach per team and the umpire(s), while maintaining 6' distance during such conferences.
 - c. Teams should refrain from post-game snacks.
 - d. "Team huddles" should be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Encourage players to spread out (arms' length). Keep the duration of the huddles to a minimum.
 - e. When travel is required, carpooling should be avoided to the greatest extent possible.
- D. Softball Equipment:**
 - a. Players should not share personal equipment (bats, gloves, fielder's mask, catcher gear, helmets, water bottles etc.)
 - i. Team helmets and bats will not be provided this season. Should a player not have a helmet, please notify SVGSA and we will arrange for the player to "rent" a helmet and/or bat for the season.
 - ii. Team catcher's gear should be sanitized prior to be used by a different player during the game. Every effort will be made to provide 2-sets of catchers equipment to each team.
 - b. Softballs should be cleaned whenever possible. Teams will be responsible for providing game balls when on defense (2-sets of balls will be used).
 - c. Parents should be advised to have backup supplies in the player's equipment bag for use when needed and their own marked water bottle or sports drink. SVGSA will not be providing water coolers for teams in the 2020 fall season.
 - i. Parents will be asked to please bring along a seat/chair for their daughter to all games. SVGSA is planning to build extra benches at home fields, but we are unsure of the set-up at opposing fields.

- ii. Parents will be asked to bring their own seats for themselves to all games.

E. Softball Coaches / Volunteers

- a. All coaches / volunteers must wear a mask during softball events when 6' social distancing practices can not be met.
- b. Maintain 6' distance from all players and volunteers when possible.
 - i. This includes mound visits and coaching bases.
- c. To minimize potential transmission yet maximize oversight of the players, SVGSA is asking that each team have no more than 5 coaches/volunteers during games and practices with responsibilities as follows:
 - i. Head Coach
 - ii. Assistant Coach
 - iii. Base Coach
 - iv. Base Coach
 - v. Bench Coach
 - 1. It will be the entire coaching staff's responsibility to ensure "prevention" practices are being followed and common surfaces and equipment (catcher's gear, ball, etc.) are sanitized before and after games and practices.
- d. Only the players and coaches should be within 6' of the dugout/bench area. SVGSA will have signage, chains, etc. marking the area that is for players, coaches and umpires only.

F. Softball Spectators

- a. All spectators are encouraged to maintain 6' social distancing practices while at the field complex.
- b. SVGSA strongly discourages any spectator from the vulnerable population from attending.
- c. All spectators should provide their own seating and be seated at least half way down the foul line from the dugout/bench area.
- d. No spectators are allowed within the marked areas of the dugout/bench.
 - i. Absent a health or emergency situation and with Coach's permission.
- e. No spectators will be allowed to sit directly behind home plate at any park.
- f. It is recommended that spectators wear a protective mask when at the field complex when 6' social distancing practices can not be met.
- g. During rain or other scheduled delays spectators will be expected to sit out in their respective vehicles to avoid congregating in common areas for prolonged periods of time.
 - i. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the non-complying person(s) being asked to leave the field complex.

SVGSA will not expect our coaches / volunteers to enforce mask or social distancing of spectators. Coaches and volunteers will be responsible for their players and limiting

player contact with spectators throughout the event. (Maintaining a 6' perimeter around benches and dugouts.)

Should a coach / volunteer have repeated incidents with a particular parent or spectator, please notify Ryan Martin or Lindsay Eisenhower and SVGSA will address the matter with the person. If a situation arises during an event that places a coach, volunteer, player or other spectators in danger and requires immediate attention, please contact local authorities. Do not otherwise engage an uncooperative spectator and put yourself at risk of harm.

G. Sanitizing Measures

- a. Sanitizing supplies (hand sanitizer and/or wipes) will be provided by SVGSA for their own teams and should be available in the dugout/bench area at all times. Coaches/volunteers will be responsible for cleaning and sanitation of common areas (dugout/bench area, bathrooms) between games or practices.
- b. Anytime a player leaves the dugout/bench area and has contact with a spectator, they must use hand sanitizer upon return to the dugout area.

H. Softball Schedule

- a. Multiple events scheduled for the same venue on the same day will be scheduled to allow time for all spectators, players and coaches to clear out before the start of the next event to avoid overlap.
 - i. Games on the same field will have a minimum of 1 hour between projected end of first game (based on time limit) and start of the second game.
 - ii. Games scheduled on different fields at the complex will have a "stagger" start time of at least 1 hour.
- b. Players and/or spectators will not be able to arrive more than 30 minutes before the event is scheduled to begin. Coaches may arrive early to assist with sanitizing procedures and/or field prep needs.
- c. Teams waiting to play in the next game slot will not be allowed near or to enter the dugout/bench area until it is completely clear of players and gear from the previous game as well as benches/surfaces sanitized.
- d. Families and players will be encouraged to adhere to time limits and to leave the field promptly at the end of the event.

I. Softball Player / Volunteer Evaluation and Notification Procedures

- a. Parents are first and foremost responsible for monitoring the health of their player and reporting any potential health issues to their player's coaches. Coaches are not responsible to physically evaluate the player for symptoms (temperature check, etc.)
 - i. If a coach does notice symptoms or a player becomes ill during the course of an event, the coach will contact the player's parent/guardian and isolate the player until the parent/guardian arrives to pick up the player.

- ii. Should a player have any symptoms related to COVID - 19, they should not attend games or practices. Additionally, if anyone in their household has symptoms or tested positive for COVID - 19, they should not participate in any events. The player should not return to events until the following occurs:
 - 1. Symptoms (No Testing)
 - a. No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of fever reducing medicine)
 - b. AND Other symptoms have improved (cough or shortness of breath improved)
 - c. AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
 - 2. Symptoms (Testing)
 - a. You no longer have a fever (without the use of fever reducing medicine)
 - b. AND other symptoms have improved (cough or shortness of breath have improved)
 - c. AND player received 2 - negative tests in a row, at least 24 hours apart
 - 3. No Symptoms (Tested Positive) - Returned should be based on one of the following strategies:
 - a. Time-Based Strategy: At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive test without developing symptoms since the positive test. If symptoms develop within 10 days, the Test-Based Strategy should be used.
 - b. Test-Based Strategy: Negative results from at least two consecutive tests, administered at least 24 hours apart.
- iii. **If a player, family member or anyone who plans to attend an SVGSA practice, game or event has visited or been to any state currently on the PA State recommended quarantine list, SVGSA is asking those people to NOT attend until a self-quarantine of 14 days has been completed.**

Parents/Guardians will be advised to notify their coach should a player develop symptoms or test positive for COVID - 19. Coaches must notify Ryan Martin or Lindsay Eisenhower immediately so proper notification and action can be pursued in order to limit any possible transmission.

- J. The use of candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds is not permitted by players, coaches, umpires or spectators.
- K. SVGSA is NOT planning to operate a concession stand for the 2020 Fall season.

Contact Info: Ryan Martin (610-413-5698) // Lindsay Eisenhower (610-781-7974)