

Requirements for Baseball and Softball in Phase 4 -- (June 26, 2020)

Phase 4 of Restore Illinois is targeted for June 26th. Baseball and softball games cannot begin until Phase 4 begins. Practices and games during Phase 4 will be subject to requirements in order to comply with the order from the State of Illinois. These requirements must be communicated to all families. We expect all players, coaches and parents to abide by these conditions whether they agree with them or not. These are requirements not recommendations.

It is the manager's responsibility to ensure these requirements are communicated and adhered to for all applicable persons present at a practice or game. Please enlist your families to support you on this.

It is also very important that players and families work together to ensure everyone stays healthy. It is possible if a player gets infected and doesn't abide by the requirements, an entire team could be put at risk. We do not want that to happen so please work hard to be careful so the kids can play ball.

Checklist for Participation:

This checklist applies to players and coaches or anyone assisting with the team. Please review this checklist for everyone before coming to the field. Be a good teammate and do this for the team!

- Have you felt feverish?
- Do you have a cough?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Have you been experiencing difficulty breathing or a shortness of breath?
- Do you have head or muscle aches?
- Have you noticed a new loss of taste or loss of smell?
- Have you been experiencing chills?
- Have you been experiencing any other symptoms¹?
- Is anyone in your household displaying any symptoms of COVID-19?
- To the best of your knowledge, have you or anyone in your household come into close contact² with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

¹ Other symptoms: consider also runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting, or abdominal pain. For reported headaches: consider if new or unusual onset, not related to caffeine, dietary reasons (hunger), or history of migraines, cluster, or tension headaches, or headaches typical for the individual

² Close contacts include household contacts, intimate contacts, or contacts within 6-ft. for 15 minutes or longer (10 minutes or longer for ambulatory care services) unless wearing N95 mask during period of contact.

Post-screening:

If a player, coach or helper indicates having or experiencing any of the COVID-19 related symptoms above:

- Please stay home (as per CDC guidelines)
- Please contact your healthcare provider
- Please remain isolated at home for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset **OR** until feverless and feeling well (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 72 hours **OR** confirmed to not have COVID-19 via two negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with testing done at least 24 hours apart

If a player, coach or helper indicates having close contact (as defined above) with someone who has test positive for COVID-19:

- Please quarantine for 14 days after the last/most recent contact with the case when the case was infectious³.

³ Refer to case guidance above to determine when case is no longer considered infectious. Note that contact exposure timeframe would include the 48 hours prior to the case's symptom onset or positive test collection date, if applicable.

Practices and Games:

- Coaches must have face coverings with them, on their person, at all times when at the field.
- Coaches must wear face coverings when not able to maintain a six feet distance between players, coaches or fans.
 - Coaches on the field of play to assist players in Tyro and Rookie leagues must maintain physical distancing (6 feet)
- Players and coaches must maintain physical distancing (6 feet) at all times
 - No huddles, no high fives, no handshakes
- At most, three coaches are allowed in the dugout or on the field during a game.
- Coach's visit to the mound is limited to just the coach and the pitcher.
- Players can wear face coverings on the field if they choose however, we don't want face coverings to be a safety issue for players in the field, e.g.,
 - If the face covering does not fit well and it impedes a player's vision or attention
 - If the player has breathing issues like asthma, a face covering is not recommended when playing
- Player equipment is not to be shared (e.g., bats, helmets, softball face masks, gloves, etc.)
- No food, no snacks, no seeds, no gum, no common drink containers are allowed.
 - Post-game team snacks and drinks are not allowed.

- Players are responsible for bringing their own hand sanitizer.
- Each team will be provided with some hand sanitizer.
- Player equipment should be spread out (6 feet minimum) and outside of the dugout so as to maintain physical distancing.
- Each team will use their own game balls when in the field. Balls are not to be shared between teams.
- Each team will be provided with two catcher's masks. These masks should be sanitized every inning.
- Managers should minimize the number of catchers in a game that use the team's catchers equipment. Please keep the safety of the players in mind.
- Players are not allowed to play the catcher position for the Rookie and Tyro leagues this year.
 - A coach wearing face covering should catch for the pitcher
- Only three players (the next three players up to bat) are allowed in the dugouts to allow for physical distancing. Those players should have a face covering if not able to separate themselves by 6 feet.
- Players will be allowed to sit with their families outside of the dugout to provide physical distancing.
- At the conclusion of the game, players will line up on the baselines, 6 feet apart, and tip their caps or bow to the other team in lieu of handshakes/high fives.
- Teams should leave the field immediately after a game or practice has concluded to minimize crowds.
- All dugouts must be totally clean of trash after every game and practice.
- Managers should keep a log of which players attend each practice and game.

Umpires:

- Umpires will work from behind the pitcher (at least 6 feet)
- Masks are optional for umpires
- No players are allowed at pre-game meetings with the umpire; only one coach per team and physical distancing is required.
- Critical comments or complaining from anyone about officiating are strictly forbidden.
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR UMPIRES!!!!
- Managers are responsible for mandating good behavior for all of their players, coaches and fans. If you cannot behave, you will be asked to leave.
- If you feel you can do a better job of officiating, please contact us and we'll get you set up to work as a paid umpire.

General:

- Fans should bring their own seating and avoid using the bleachers. Please observe physical distancing.

- Please spread out along the fence line and do not crowd around the dugout and behind home plate.
- As always, it is a requirement for any field you use to be raked and dragged after use. This should be done by the coaches or other adults. Please place the field equipment back in the equipment box after use.
- Every person that will be helping at practice must be registered as a manager, coach or volunteer helper. This entails a background check and APS training. No exceptions. This is not new. Managers are responsible to ensure all helpers have gone through this process.

For further guidelines, please refer to:

<https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/youth-and-recreational-sports-guidelines/>