

SIERRA MADRE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

RESPONSIBLE RESTART PROTOCOLS

SIERRA MADRE GIRLS SOFTBALL SAFETY PLAN Enhancement Version 3 Updated September 17, 2021 for Fall Season Operations

This Safety Plan Enhancement establishes new requirements for SMGSA Players, Coaches Officials and Staff in line with CDC, California and Los Angeles County mandates regarding the mitigation of infectious diseases.

HIGHLIGHTS:

RSVP with PRE-SCREENING for all Events, plus
Additional Screening upon Arrival

SAFE PLAY PROTOCOLS
Equipment Safety and Safe Spacing at all Times

FIELD & FACILITY MAINTENANCE PROTOCOLS
Ensuring Sanitation and Safe Practices throughout League events

The core Safety Plan of the League, including customary athlete safety, concussion and weather protocols, and general emergency situations management, is provided to all families and may be accessed through the SMGSA Board.

THE PROTOCOLS HEREIN ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNDER STATE, LA COUNTY, or SIERRA MADRE CITY REQUIREMENTS, BASED ON THE STATUS OF COVID-19 IN THE REGION.

SM SOFTBALL RESPONSIBLE RESTART PROTOCOLS

SIERRA MADRE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION – ACCESSIBILITY MANDATE

The information herein must be provided to all players' families, coaches, officials, and employees as part of their registration to participate. It must also be maintained by team managers and available on the League website. A condensed version is intended to be posted onsite at Heasley Field. Any updates or amendments shall be promptly distributed to participating families, coaches, employees, and officials.

MANDATORY PRACTICES

SCREENING & RECORDS

- As per County Requirements, participants under 12 may attend events subject to the pre-screening and safety requirements herein. All participants 12 or over must provide the league either a valid vaccination card, or a weekly NEGATIVE covid test.
- SCREENING: All individuals, whether players, coaches, staff, umpires or family members must pre-register/RSVP online for planned attendance at all team events.
- As part of this registration, each attendee must complete an online confirmation of healthy (NO-RISK) assessment as prior to attending any team event.
- All such pre-registration shall be accessible to the League for immediate use in contact tracing, quarantine actions, and reporting to local Health dept. Mobile "apps" such as Game Changer smoothly facilitate the above protocols, including real-time contact data access.

COVID-19 Symptoms & Risk Questions

- Body temperature above 99.5 (regardless of weather or exertion)
- Sore throat or cough
- Muscle or head aches
- Shortness of breath and/or loss of energy
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Have you had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or have you been notified that you may have been exposed to it?

SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES

- **Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any player, coach, umpire or employee who, or who has a person residing in their primary residence who develops symptoms.**
- Each team, and the League, shall maintain a complete list of coaches and players present at each practice or game. These records must include the date, beginning and ending time of the event, plus name, address, and phone contact to be made available upon request from the local health district.

LEAGUE - PREPARING FOR PLAY

- **Formidable signage, furniture adjustments, and foot-traffic markings shall be prepared to ensure participants, spectators, and employees can maintain six-foot distancing while at the facility.**
 - Sanitizer and backup PPE shall be maintained in stock at the DINER for use by all attendees
 - All Teams must be equipped with a thermometer, sanitizer and backup PPE, and all such supplies must be maintained and accessible as needed for each team.
 - Restroom and foodservice facilities to be operated or overseen by the League must be prepared and maintained as per State, County and City health department requirements.
 - Due to newly limited capacity for attendees in various areas, such as reduced seating in the bleachers, spectators are advised to be prepared (including bringing personal seating) to view games from locations other than the bleachers at the facility.
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EVENT SCHEDULES

- The League will schedule sufficient time between practices and games to minimize interaction between the teams exiting and entering the facility.
- Upon arrival during or after a prior event, players, coaches, spectators and umpires are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their event to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways while the participants in the prior event exit the facility.
- All visiting teams coming to Sierra Madre fields must be informed on the Safety Protocols herein, and be prepared to practice full compliance to all aspects of the Plan.

ARRIVAL TO FACILITY

- Athletes are strongly advised to travel to the facility with one member of their immediate household.
- All suspended individuals due to symptoms or potential exposure must be cleared by a CDC standards to return to the facility.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms or having known exposure to a positive COVID case must stay home and immediately notify the given team manager, and/or the league President.
- All individuals attending at the facility must prepare and maintain their own hydration. There will be no team water coolers or shared stations for food or beverage at the facility.
- To limit interaction between events (game or practice), coaches, players and players' family members are to arrive at the facility no earlier than 40 minutes before the time of any event.

PLAYERS & COACHES

- **Coaches and players must maintain safe distancing at all possible times.**
- Coaches and players must wear face coverings when in dugouts, team huddles, or any similar situation when not on the active field of play or safely spaced.
- All players should use only their own equipment and personal items and shall be separated from other players' items. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between every user.

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- A player's family member must conduct symptom and exposure assessments (self-evaluation) for the player upon arrival at the facility.
 - Any participant who has documented a direct exposure risk, a symptom, or a positive test result, must be cleared by a negative test and/or medical doctor to return to the facility.
 - Players must quickly clear from the site of occasional plays where other players are in close proximity (i.e., "vicinity plays" as they are traditionally called in the sport), such as baserunners passing fielders, tagging of runners by a fielder, and balls hit between defensive players.
 - No participants may share personal items, including, but not limited to, water bottles, gloves, batting helmets, hats, and other on- and off-field gear.
 - Hand washing or hand sanitizing is recommended strongly at all possible break times.
 - Players must abide by a "no touch rule" – players must refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans. (A "tip the cap" can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.)
 - Participants must refrain from spitting on the field or any other part of the facility.
 - Players will not eat in the dugout or on the field of play (including, but not limited to, sunflower seeds, candy, gum, or similar products).

OFFICIALS/ UMPIRES

- **The primary umpire calling balls and strikes shall be positioned between shortstop and the pitcher's mound, instead of behind the plate with the catcher.**
 - Must conduct symptom and exposure assessments (self-evaluation) prior to arrival at the facility. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home and notify the League.
 - Any official or umpire exhibiting symptoms or exposure risks for COVID-19 must be cleared by a negative test to return to the facility.
 - Coaches and umpires must avoid exchanging documents or equipment with players, coaches, spectators, and the opposing team.
 - Plate meetings shall be conducted at safe distance and should only consist of one coach from each team and game umpires.
 - Hand washing or hand sanitizing is recommended strongly during any breaks.
 - Umpires are encouraged to shower and wash their uniforms immediately upon returning to home.
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SNACK BAR ("THE DINER")

- ****To limit sanitation and exposure concerns, during the Fall Season 2021, SMGSA elects NOT to operate the GRILL and shall limit all Diner offerings to PRE-PACKAGED food and beverages.**
- **All employees must wear face coverings and gloves at all times, and maintain safe distancing.**
- **Patron traffic plans must be designated with signage to maintain 6-foot distancing.**
- Each employee must conduct symptom and exposure assessments (self-evaluation) PRIOR TO arrival at the facility. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home, and notify the League, and be cleared by a negative test to return to the facility.
- All guidance from local municipalities will be implemented and strictly enforced. All relevant guidance documentation shall be maintained by the League and available to Staff for reference.
- Hand washing / hand sanitizing is required with regularity according to Health Department protocols.
- Cleaning schedules must be maintained for all Diner appliances, fixtures and surfaces.

SCOREKEEPING & ANNOUNCING

- **Scorekeeping should be done by the home team's official scorekeeper, without exchanging physical documents (use lineup screen-shots & game-changer to facilitate)**
- **Scoreboard operators and/or announcer in the press box must maintain 6 foot spacing**
- Any scoreboard or announcing equipment must be sanitized between all users.

EQUIPMENT

- If equipment inspection is required, players should space out equipment for inspection. Umpires should avoid direct contact with equipment where possible but, when required, sanitize hands and equipment after inspection.
- All player and coaching equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- Players shall use their own hat, batter's helmet, glove, bat and other equipment.
- Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each game or practice.

FIELD MAINTENANCE

- League officials will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., seating, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, and dugout and batting cage entrances) daily and in between practices and games. Long-term surface protectants are recommended.
- Field preparation equipment will be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.

KEY SMGSA BOARD CONTACTS:

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