



KINGWOOD GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Kingwood Girls Softball Association
4302 Woodland Hills Dr.
PO Box 5166
Kingwood, TX 77339

KGSA COVID - 19 Covid Response

KGSA will be operating the remainder of this season under the guidelines set by the governor in the OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Sports-Operation, The link for the document is listed below.

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Sports-Operators.pdf>

The league has spent many hours working toward implementing the best practices to make the park safe for your daughters and loved ones to finish the softball season in a safe and responsible manner. Although we realize that many of these procedures that will be implemented will seem outside the norm of youth sports operations, we must stay within the governmental recommendations

In addition to the COVID-19 threat, the hot June and July weather in the Houston area is also a major concern. Please ensure that all players and spectators are prepared to endure the heat, humidity and direct sunlight they will encounter while finishing this extended season.

STAFF Procedures

All KGSA Board Members, Umpires, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team parents (Which will be considered Staff for the remainder of this Document) must familiarize themselves with the possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The Governor listed them as follows:

- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Chills
- Repeated Shaking with Chills
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Loss of Taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19.

Staff that have these symptoms should avoid the park.

We encourage, but do not require, that personnel that will have direct contact with players to wear masks while in the park.

Staff members should follow the guidance that is presented later in this document to ensure that we are cleaning and disinfecting high traffic areas before and after games and practices.

If someone shows signs of COVID - 19

- Isolate and Contact the Local health Department.
- No players or staff members with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 may return to the park until they meet the criteria that is listed in the governor's guidance.

Spectators

Spectators will have designated areas in the park where they can watch the games. They are asked to stay inside of these areas and not wander outside of them. They should not gather in groups larger than 10. In addition, please maintain at least 6 feet of separation from anyone that does not reside in your household. It is also recommended, but not required, that spectators wear masks that cover both the nose and mouth while inside the park.

Park Rule Changes

- All Games will be 55 minutes with drop dead finish. At 55 minutes the Umpire will call the ball game. The score from the last completed inning will be the official score. No further discussion of scores. The Official time is kept by the Home Plate Umpire.
- All Spectators will watch games from the areas designated beyond the dugout extensions (marked with caution tape) along the outfield fences. There will be no spectators behind the 1st base dugout to the 3rd base dugout. This includes the stands behind the plate.
- The Concession stand will be closed except for water/drink sales. The picnic tables for the concession stand will be taped off to limit crowds in that area.
- There will be hand sanitizer in both dugouts for the players and coaches to use during the games. However, it is recommended that players bring their own sanitizer as well..
- Coaches are encouraged to supervise players cleaning and sterilizing their own equipment at the end of the game. Cleaning supplies will be furnished.
- All spectators are asked to place their trash in the closest garbage can. If the can is full, please take your trash with you instead of over filling trash cans.

Responsibilities before, during, and after Games and Practices

Practices:

Parents

- Ensure that any player that is feeling sick does not attend practice or games (no matter how slight the symptom).
- Stay in your vehicle as much as possible during practices. If you need to get out, stay in the designated observation areas (These are described later).

Coaches

- Remind the entire team to check on daughters and others in the household prior to practice. Ensure that the player, or anyone in contact with the player, is free from the symptoms described above.
- Under no circumstance will two girls use the same catcher's gear on the same day.
- Sanitize both dugouts before and after all practices.
- Use the provided wipes to wipe down the players equipment prior to departing the field.
- Disinfect the following list of equipment and areas before leaving. Supplies will be provided.

Softballs

Tees

Catcher's gear

All Gates

All Benches

The Coach that has the first practice (6 pm) will spray down all items that are touched in the bathrooms to include toilet seat, toilet handle, sink, sink handles, and the door to the bathrooms. Disinfectant spray will be provided. This action is intended to sanitize hot spots, not clean the entire restroom. Sanitization should also be conducted after the last practice of the evening.

Games:

Coaches

- All cleaning requirements for practices will be applied to games.
- Bathrooms will be sanitized/sprayed before each game due to the increase in number of people sharing the park.
- NO TEAM SNACKS ALLOWED AFTER THE GAME. Please encourage parents to bring snacks for their child only.
- Have all players exit the dugouts and go immediately to their parents.
- Players will utilize the extended dugouts to ensure that a 6 foot distance is maintained while their team is batting.
- 6U and 8U will not utilize a catcher due difficulties exchanging and sharing gear.
- 10U, 12U, and 14U+ will have a maximum of 2 catchers per game. When the catcher is changed, the head Coach will ensure that gear is cleaned thoroughly. The coach should get parental approval to share gear.

Umpires

- The umpire will ensure that there are at least 5 game balls for each game.
- The Umpire will monitor the player's appearance due to the increased heat in the summer months. Any player that the umpire deems in danger of overheating will sit out the remainder of the inning until further evaluation.

Spectators

- Stay in designated areas to observe games.
- Do not congregate in the park after the game. Everyone should depart the complex to allow preparations for the next game and to limit the amount of people in the complex.

As government officials change their policies, we encourage you to be flexible as we adapt to this difficult and unprecedented time.