



# Howard County

## RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046

Michael H. Milani  
Bureau Chief of Administrative Services  
mmilani@howardcountymd.gov

Phone: 410-313-4629 Fax: 410-313-1699  
www.howardcountymd.gov/rap Voice/Relay: 410-313-7275

### Field Guidelines (due to COVID-19)

**March 26, 2021 5PM Update**

The following are field guidelines for returning to play designed to help keep all participants (youth and adult) and our community safe.

#### **Part One: CDC Guidelines:**

- Please be vigilant in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus by practicing good hygiene as recommended by CDC guidelines. CDC guidelines can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Please stay home if you are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to someone who has had signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Please see CDC guidelines for specific COVID-19 symptoms.
- Players, participants, administrators and coaches etc., please check your temperature prior to leaving for scheduled practice/game/class/program on a HCRP field. If your temperature is 100.3 degrees or higher, you are not permitted to participate in an activity on a HCRP field for a minimum of 14 days. You may, however, return sooner if you have a Doctor's note for return to play.
- As per the CDC: If you are immunocompromised, the best way to prevent COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed to the virus. We strongly urge you to consider the risk that you would be taking by participating in programs on HCRP fields, as you will be putting your health at risk. Therefore, you may consider not participating at this time.

#### **Part Two: Field Permit Rules:**

- Field entry and exit gates to remain open to minimize surface touching.
- Restrooms are open to the public and cleaned regularly. Please use proper handwashing techniques after using the restrooms and before returning to the fields.
- All players, participants and coaches etc. must use hand sanitizer before and after participation.
- Players, participants, administrators and coaches etc. are to maintain a 6-foot distance between each other when off the field.
- Everyone is required to wear face coverings when walking to and from the field..
- Coaches are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Assign a "station" for each participant to place their equipment (bag, water bottle etc.), and that they should return to during breaks. Assigned space on the sideline for all participants should allow for adequate distance (6-feet) per CDC guidelines.
- For practices, each participant must utilize their own personal equipment, which must be disinfected before and after each session as well as during sessions when possible.
- All players, participants, administrators and coaches etc. cannot share water, towels, or any personal or playing equipment (e.g. cones).

- No centralized hydration stations are permitted on HCRP fields.
- We encourage parents/guardians to remain in their cars. However, if two parents/guardians/spectators per player would like to attend, they may not enter the field area, should maintain a 6-foot distance from other attendees and are required to wear a face covering.
- Bleachers are open at 50% capacity, everyone using the bleachers must social distance and wear a face covering.
- Dugouts are closed.
- No group celebrations, fist bumps, high-fives etc.
- Participants should remain in their cars until just before the beginning of practice/game/class/program, instead of forming a group.
- Anyone who is not on the playing field is required to wear a face covering at all times.
- No congregating before or after your permitted field/game time. Please maintain a 6-foot distance when walking to and from the field.
- All field users must communicate the new field guidelines to all players, participants, administrators and coaches etc. prior to field usage (e.g. via virtual web call or email).
- Teams must submit a safety practice plan on how they will adhere to the COVID-19 Field Guidelines. This plan must be approved by the Fields Coordinator prior to the first practice.
- All other field use rules apply.

### **Part 3: Team Recommendations:**

- Bring a filled water bottle as the water fountains in parks are not currently in use.
- Strongly recommend that parents/guardians bring their own participant(s) to practice/game/class/program and not carpool. Strongly recommend that adult participants do not carpool.
- Please ensure that all players, participants and coaches report to the field dressed and ready to participate.
- Recommend having sanitizing options available for your players, participants, administrators and coaches etc. This may include but is not limited to:
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Disinfectant wipes to be used to wipe down all equipment
- Recommend that each participant label his/her equipment that they are using for practice.
- Recommend that when players, participants, administrators and coaches etc. return home, they remove and launder their clothes and take a shower. In addition, they should sanitize any equipment (e.g. cleats, shin guard, gloves, balls etc.) before and after participating.

**Please Note: Failure to abide by Howard County Recreation and Parks Field Guidelines may result in forfeiture of current and future permits and the immediate removal from any park, program and event you are participating in, without refund. Players, participants, administrators and coaches etc. may be suspended or removed from programs/leagues/classes/practices without refund for not abiding by these guidelines. Parents/guardians/spectators may be removed from the park for not abiding by these guidelines.**