



COVID-19 SAFETY AND HEALTH PRACTICE PLAN

***AZ PLAYBALL PONY BASEBALL
PROTECT OUR NATIONS YOUTH***

EFFECTIVE JULY 19, 2020

INDEX

SECTION	0.0	MISSION STATEMENT	1
SECTION	1.0	RISKS	1
SECTION	2.0	IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES	1
SECTION	3.0	RESOURCES	2
SECTION	4.0	DEFINITIONS	2
SECTION	5.0	SYMPTOMS CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL	2
SECTION	6.0	SELF ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION	2
SECTION	7.0	CONTACT TRACING	3
SECTION	8.0	PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENT	3
SECTION	9.0	GLOVES	3
SECTION	10.0	HAND WASHING	4
SECTION	11.0	SOAP/WATER/TOWEL	4
SECTION	12.0	FACE COVERINGS	4
SECTION	13.0	COVER COUGH/SNEEZES	5
SECTION	14.0	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PHASED APPROACH	5
SECTION	15.0	POINT OF EMPHASIS	6
SECTION	16.0	EDUCATION/TRAINING	6
SECTION	17.0	PRACTICE BASEBALL SAFE HANDLING	7
SECTION	18.0	GAME BASEBALL SAFE HANDLING	8
SECTION	19.0	FOUL BALL SAFE HANDLING	9
SECTION	20.0	TEAM WORKOUT/GAMES	10
SECTION	21.0	ATTENDANCE	10
SECTION	22.0	PROCEDURES FOR POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST	11
SECTION	23.0	SEASON CANCELLATION REFUND PROCEDURE	11
SECTION	24.0	TEAM WORK OUT/PHYSICAL DISTANCING	12
SECTION	25.0	BATTING CAGES	13
SECTION	26.0	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY/EQUIPMENT	13
SECTION	27.0	HYDRATION	14
SECTION	28.0	EQUIPMENT	14
SECTION	29.0	PHYSICAL BEHAVIOR	15
SECTION	30.0	POST WORKOUT/GAME PROCEDURE	15
SECTION	31.0	GAME DAY	16
SECTION	32.0	PRE-GAME PLATE MEETING	17
SECTION	33.0	BATTING ORDER/LINE UP CARDS	18
SECTION	34.0	IN-BETWEEN INNINGS	19
SECTION	35.0	COACHES/GAME DAY	19
SECTION	36.0	PLAYERS/GAME DAY	20
SECTION	37.0	PITCHERS	21-22
SECTION	38.0	BATTER	22
SECTION	39.0	BASE RUNNER	22
SECTION	40.0	CATCHER	23
SECTION	41.0	FIELDERS	23
SECTION	42.0	BULLPENS	24
SECTION	43.0	UMPIRES	24-25
SECTION	44.0	BASE COACHES	25
SECTION	45.0	DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES	26
SECTION	46.0	OFFENSIVE CONFERENCES	26
SECTION	47.0	INJURED PLAYER	27
SECTION	48.0	POST-GAME	27
SECTION	49.0	LEAGUE STAFF	28
SECTION	50.0	SPECTATORS	29
SECTION	51.0	AZ PLAYBALL FIELD MANAGEMENT	29
SECTION	51.0	AZ PLAYBALL FIELD MANAGEMENT	30

0.0 MISSION

It is the mission of the AZ Playball Baseball League to provide a set of health practices in association with the guidelines as established by Maricopa County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and PONY Baseball that are designed to prepare and protect the participants and guests that will offer the opportunity for the season to be played during COVID-19 pandemic.

1.0 RISKS

The AZ Playball PONY Baseball League (The League) wishes to be clear of the fact that it is understood that there is no obligation to play, participate or attend as a spectator. Participants, coaches, parents, family, officials and spectators engaging and attending AZ Playball Baseball games do so with the knowledge of the risk and potential exposure involved and agree to accept any and all inherent risks to their personal health.

Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend and/or participate with the permission from a medical professional. This is strictly on the individual, the league will not be involved with or requiring medical notes from physicians.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST SAFE AND HEALTH PRACTICES

It is the position of the league that the safe practices and guidelines set forth are to be monitored and practiced by the individual team coaching staffs and league officials to assure that the team members and guests are following the best safe and health practices. The guidelines are set to not be punitive in action, but if an individual becomes belligerent when reminded to follow the established guidelines that are set to protect those individuals around, and themselves, then the league, county or city officials have the authority to have such an individual removed from the facility.

It is the position of the league that this plan will outline recommendations and actual required actions and is not for ideological or political reasons. It is about following the medical professionals in the protection of all that participate and to prevent further spread of the virus within the community while still having the ability to play the game.

3.0 RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov

National Federation of High Schools: www.nfhs.org "Guidance for State Associations in Re-opening High School Athletics and Activities (dated 5/19/2020)

PONY Baseball and Softball: www.PONY.org "PONY Organization Restart and Suggested Protocol"

4.0 DEFINITIONS

The following are the definitions of the various terms and phases used during the COVID-19 pandemic that are noted in parts of this plan. The state and county health department will make the determination and announcement of what phase a community is in at the time.

5.0 CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) COVID19 SYMPTOMS

The following are symptoms that have been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If any individual has such symptoms they are to stay home:

- Cough, congestion or runny nose, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, fatigue, repeated shaking with chills, muscle or body aches, diarrhea, headaches, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, new loss of smell and taste or any known exposure to a person(s) with COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

6.0 SELF ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

In addition to temperature checks, it is recommended that players, coaches, umpires, league representatives, and attendees, do a self- assessment evaluation of their condition prior to coming to practice or a game according to the symptoms defined (See Section 5.0) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If an individual affirms "Yes" to one or more symptoms on the self-monitoring list, they are to remain home.

7.0 CONTACT TRACING

This is when the health department is notified of an individual or group of people that has tested positive and providing information is available of whom the positive individual(s) came in contact with, the health department can then in turn contact those individuals that may have come in contact with the individual(s) that tested positive for COVID-19 to reduce spread within the community.

8.0 PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people
- Do not gather in groups

In addition to everyday steps to prevent COVID-19, keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread locally and across the country and world.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

9.0 GLOVES

For the general public the CDC recommends wearing gloves when you are cleaning or caring for someone who is sick.

In most other situations, like running errands, wearing gloves is not necessary. Instead, practice everyday preventive actions like keeping social distance (at least 6 feet) from others, washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol).

It is recommended that individuals disinfecting equipment to use gloves while using disinfectants.

Wearing gloves is optional for players, coaches, umpires, and league staff.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/gloves.html>

10.0 HAND WASHING

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer (if available) that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Players and coaches are recommended to bring a container of soap and water with a cloth towel if hand sanitizer is not available.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

11.0 SOAP/WATER/TOWEL

- In lieu of hand sanitizer, players and coaches are recommended to bring a container (water jug) of soap and water with a cloth or paper towels to **wash hands and the cleaning of personal equipment**. The container is to be labeled with the individual name and identified with the contents inside the container "Soap/Water."
- The cloth towel used for drying hands should not be used for any other purpose than the purpose of cleaning the equipment.
- Paper towels are to be disposed of after each use.

12.0 FACE COVERINGS

- COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Studies and evidence on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arms lengths).
- A face covering may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others.
- In this safety and health plan face coverings will be identified for certain applications for team workouts and during a game.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

13.0 COVER COUGH AND SNEEZES

- **If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

14.0 PHASED APPROACH

The following are the definitions of the three phase processes as defined by the Federal Government and the CDC to be implemented at the state and local levels:

- Based on up to date data of readiness
- Mitigation risk of resurgence
- Protects the most vulnerable
- Implemented state- wide and county by county basis at the Governor's discretion.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

15.0 POINT OF EMPHASIS

“Vulnerable individuals” are defined by the CDC as people age 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

Until a cure, vaccine or very effective treatment is readily available, or so-called “herd immunity” is confidently reached, social distancing and other preventive measures as outlined in this plan will be the “New Normal” for teams that participate in the league.

It shall be noted that this plan will follow the three phases of the pandemic. Phase I, II and III as designated by state and county health officials. This plan is fluid and results and changes to the plan may be required to be implemented as expanding knowledge of COVID-19 transmission is determined.

16.0 EDUCATION/TRAINING

The league COVID-19 plan will be posted for reference on the AZ Playball Baseball League website www.azplayball.com for public reference.

It is recommended that coaches conduct “virtual” education and meetings take the place of “hands-on” or in-person training, whenever possible on the safety and health plan.

17.0 PRACTICE BASEBALL SAFE HANDLING

Practice Baseballs:

- Materials to be used to wipe down baseballs:
 - Spray bottle with soap and water
 - Spray bottle with water only
 - Cloth or paper towels
- Steps to wipe down baseballs:
 - Spray soap/water into paper or cloth towel to rub the baseball in.
 - Spray water only onto paper or cloth towel to rub the baseball that will remove any soap residue.
 - Let baseball air dry before using again.
 - Repeat process as baseballs are being used.
- Do not use hand sanitizer or any disinfectants on a baseball.
- Coaching staff is **required** for periodic cleaning of baseballs, whiffle balls, weighted balls during practice.
- Balls used are recommended to be rotated through the practice.
- Upon completion of practice the balls used are required to be cleaned with the soap and water process before putting back into the bag or bucket.
- Wash hands after cleaning the baseballs.

18.0 GAME BASEBALL HANDLING

- All divisions
 - The team that is on defense is required to provide the home plate umpire with four (4) game baseballs prior to the start of each ½ inning.
 - If additional game baseballs are required during the inning, the defensive team provides.
 - Game baseballs are **required** to be separate from the practice balls.
 - Foul balls hit out of play that are returned are required to be given to the defensive team to be wiped prior to being put back into play
 - At the completion of the inning, the home plate umpire will return whatever number of baseballs he has remaining to the defensive team that are required to be wiped down by the defensive team before being re-used the next inning.
 - The defensive player that has the baseball from the 3rd out will be **required** to give the ball to the coach that is **required** to be wiped down.
 - Steps to wipe down game baseball:
 - Spray bottle with liquid hand soap (dish detergent is an option)/water onto cloth or paper towel to rub the baseball in.
 - Spray bottle with water only onto cloth or paper towel to rub the baseball in. This will remove any soap residue off the ball.
 - Let ball air dry before using.
 - Repeat this procedure throughout the game.
 - Wash hands after cleaning the baseballs

19.0 FOUL BALL HANDLING

- All Divisions
 - Individuals handling retrieve foul balls within the confines of the Playing Field (Inside the fence area) will return the ball directly to the defensive team for sanitization process.
 - Individual handling the retrieved foul ball shall be required to immediately wash their hands with soap and water or hand after throwing the ball back in.
 - Teams are responsible for batted foul balls that go out of play on their side of the field.
 - Foul balls returned to the field must be wiped down with disinfectant before being placed back in play. **Example: If the team on the first base side is on defense and providing the balls and a batted ball goes out on the third base side of the field and the ball is returned to the team on third base side, the coach of that team is to wipe down the baseball following the steps to wipe down baseball with soap and water before the is returned to the defensive team. The defensive team receiving the ball from the opposing team is to be wiped down with the soap and water process as outlined.**
 - It is recommended and encouraged that foul balls handled by the public are to wash their hands.

20.0 TEAM WORKOUT AND GAMES

SELF MONITORING/HEALTH EVALUATION (*Be A Good Teammate*)

- Prior to coming to the field for a team workout or game day, each coach, player, is **required** to do a self- assessment (evaluation) for any of the symptoms as identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). If there are one or more symptoms the individual is to remain home and not come to the field and contact their health provider.

21.0 ATTENDANCE RECORDS (REQUIRED)

- Team Manager or designee is **required** to maintain attendance records that lists all players and coaches that attend every practice and game. The purpose of the attendance record is that in the event an individual test positive for COVID-19 the attendance record can assist the health department in contact tracing of those that were potentially exposed.
- Attendance form should include information of each attending player and coach, and their email address and phone number
- Individuals (players, parents) not part of the team roster are not permitted to be on the field with the team during a team workout or game.

22.0 PROCEDURES FOR POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

- If a player, coach, or parent associated with the team test positive for COVID-19, the team manager must be notified. Upon receiving notification of a positive case of COVID-19 on the team, the team manager is **required** to immediately notify the league of the situation.
 - The league will notify the Maricopa County Health Department.
 - The manager will provide digitally via email to the league the attendance record that shows workout and game played so that it can be forward to the county health department for the purpose of contact tracing.
 - The team will not be allowed to have any AZ Playball practices or games for a period of 14 calendar days from the date that the player contracted the virus or came into contact with another person who had contracted the virus.
 - Any games or practices that are missed due to the COVID-19 situation or governmental requirement will be made up if feasible, but the possibility exists that they will not. However, games may be re-scheduled through December or even into January 2021 if necessary or if that helps a team's situation.

23.0 SEASON CANCELLATION REFUND PROCEDURE

- Once practices begin, if the season is not completed due to Covid-19 or governmental requirement, any team refunds/credits will reflect deductions for league overhead (approx. \$650 per team) and \$30 for each assigned practice and \$110 for each game played prior to shut down.

24.0 TEAM WORKOUT PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Coaches, players, and spectators are **required** to adhere to the six-foot physical distancing. Exception: When multiple players converged to retrieve the ball.
- For team workouts, the coaches are to establish and identify the six-foot physical distancing protocols at the workout site.
- The league has established and notified all teams that the six-foot physical distancing protocols for practice and game site fields and facilities, must be followed, per guidelines as established by governmental officials.
- It is the responsibility of the team coaching staff for continual monitoring and is to interact with the players if distance adherence is not being met.
- **Workouts are required to be conducted in “pods”** with the same 5-10 athletes always working out together. This practice limits the exposure if someone develops an infection. Coaches are required to document and identify the players assigned to pods during the workout and maintain this record for the duration of the league season.
- Coaching staff members are **required to wear face covering** when conducting individual instruction that is less than the six-foot physical distancing requirement.
- Coaching staff members are **required to wear face covering** when conducting a group meeting of the players.

25.0 BATTING CAGES

- Only one (1) batter and one (1) coach permitted in the cage. No catcher is permitted in the cage.
- Players waiting to hit are to maintain physical six-foot distancing. Coaches outside of the cage are **required** to monitor this and interact with the player(s) if not adhering to the regulation.
- Prior to another player using the same balls, they should be collected and required to be cleaned with disinfectant by a coach.
- When done hitting in the cage the balls are required to be disinfected by a coach before they are placed in the ball bucket or bag.

26.0 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND EQUIPMENT

- Players are recommended to travel to the workout and game venues alone or with member(s) of their individual household if possible.
- Personal player bat bags/equipment bags are **NOT** permitted in the dugout. Coaches are **required** to direct the players to place equipment bags not clustered together outside of the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- Coaching staff equipment bags/buckets are **required** to be separate from any contact with the players bat/equipment bags.
- Player warm up of throwing, hitting, stretching, running is **required** to be done following the physical distancing of six-foot requirement.

27.0 HYDRATION - DRINKING WATER/BEVERAGES

- Players and coaches are to bring their own drinking water container/jug/bottle with their name on the container.
- Other type of beverages are permitted.
- Coaches are to check to see if player names are identified on the water container/jug/bottle and on other beverage containers. If there is a container or another beverage with no individual identification it is to be removed and not disposed of into the nearest trash receptacle.
 - Sharing of drinking water containers or any other beverage of any kind is strictly prohibited.
 - Use of large water coolers/drinking stations are prohibited.

28.0 EQUIPMENT

There is to be **NO** shared equipment among the players (towels, clothing, shoes, bats, caps, batting helmets, glove, batting gloves, catcher equipment, etc.).

After each individual use of equipment, it is recommended that the player wipes down the equipment with the soap/water and cloth or paper towel (not used for hand drying).

- Players are **required** to:
 - Wipe down their equipment (bats, batting helmets, catcher equipment, glove, batting gloves, etc.) after each use with soap/water or sanitizer (60% alcohol or more) and dry off with either a cloth or paper towel.
 - Wash their hands with soap/water or hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or more) after cleaning their equipment.
 - Coaches are **required** to monitor this process during a workout or game.
- **Coaches are required to:**
 - During team workouts are to periodically wipe down baseballs (do not use hand sanitizer) with disinfectant or damp cloth towel of soap and water.
 - Practice baseballs, whiffle balls, weighted balls, or any other type of ball used during pre-game warm up are to be wiped down with disinfectant or with a damp cloth towel of soap and water prior to being put into the bucket.
 - Disinfect/wipe down any other equipment, pitching screens, chairs, buckets, etc. that was used during the workout or game.
 - **DO NOT USE** hand sanitizer on the baseball it will create a "slick" film on the baseball.

29.0 PHYSICAL BEHAVIOR

This will be the most difficult and challenging aspect of the COVID-19 safety and health plan. The behavior of touching other individuals can result in contact of potential transmission of infection between individuals. Spitting results in the potential aerosol spray of the infection that can travel in the air and land on another person, clothing or piece of equipment. Putting finger to the mouth is another behavior that is going to be challenging to change.

- Sunflower seeds, gum, tobacco (prohibited) are not permitted in the team designated physical area or on the playing field.
- All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times whether they are on or off the field during a workout or game.
- No touch rule: no high fives, fist pumps, handshakes with other players, coaches, officials, umpires and spectators.
 - After the game is over tip of the cap to the opposing team is recommended.
 - Teammates can create innovative ways to celebrate a success without having skin to skin contact, i.e. foot touching, etc.
- Players and coaches are to be disciplined with no spitting or eating seeds or any other similar products. Coaches are to monitor and interact when they see such an action.

30.0 POST WORKOUT/POST GAME

- Post practice meetings are to be limited in time and players and coaches must adhere to the physical six-foot distancing requirement. The meetings are to be brief. The longer meetings, the longer potential of exposure.
- After a game, there are no meetings to be conducted on or off the field. There is to be no congregation of individuals at the field, common areas or in the parking lot.
- Coaches are recommended to conduct virtual meetings in lieu of post workout or game meetings. Get home and it is recommended that the uniform or workout clothes worn are to be washed separately from other family clothes.

31.0 GAME DAY

- **SELF ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION:** Prior to coming to the field each coach, player and spectator must do a self- assessment (evaluation) and temperature check, for any of the symptoms as identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). If there are one or more symptoms identified, or the coach, player, or spectator has a temperature of 100.5 degrees or greater this individual is to remain home and not come to the field and they are recommended to contact their health care provider.
- **DUGOUTS:** Coaches and players together in the dugout where physical distancing requirement cannot be met, face covering **MUST be worn by the players and coaches**. Only roster players and coaches are permitted in the team area.
- **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Pre-Game Warm up of throwing, hitting, soft-toss, stretching, running is **required** to be conducted adhering to the physical distancing six feet requirement. Exception: When the ball is in play or needs to be retrieved.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Team manager or designee are **required** to maintain attendance record of all players and coaches present at the game. The attendance records is to be maintained by the team manager for the duration of the season, up to six (6) months after the teams last game.
- BAT BOYS/GIRLS are **not permitted**.

32.0 PRE-GAME PLATE MEETING

- There will be no exchanging of line up cards between the coaches and umpires.
- Purpose of the pre-game meeting is to go over the ground rules and to assure that each team is properly equipped.
- One (1) coach per team only at the pre-game plate meeting with the umpires.
- Players are **NOT** permitted to be at the pre-game plate meeting
- Each coach is **required** to stand outside of the left and right-handed batter's box in maintaining the six-foot physical distance requirement.

Both umpires are **required** to maintain the six-foot physical distancing requirement. The base umpire is to be standing between home plate and the pitcher mound, and the umpire calling balls/strikes will be positioned in the catcher's box.

- There will be no exchanging of line up cards between the coaches and umpires.
- Purpose of the pre-game meeting is to go over the ground rules and to assure that each team is properly equipped.

33.0 BATTING ORDER/LINE UPS

- **No** exchanging of paper line up cards to opposing coach, scorekeeper, or umpires.
- Each team manager will be **required** to post on a clipboard (or white board) their lineup card that is to be hung on the backstop fence that is close to the team dugout.
 - The posting of the lineup on a clip board or white board is **required** to be accomplished 30 minutes prior to game time. This will allow for both teams to enter the line ups into their respective game changer, I-Score, etc. application or scorebook.
 - The purpose of posting in a central location is so the line-up card can be referenced hands free during the game and to reduce any possible issues that may come during the game regarding the batting order, player game eligibility, etc.
 - Changes to the line-up by the team manager will be noted on the posted line-up card and **require** a verbal announcement to the opposing team coach, umpire, and official scorer (if applicable). When giving the verbal communication of the line-up change, the coach is to adhere to the six- foot distance regulation.
 - All Age Divisions the HOME TEAM is the game official record of the game. HOME TEAM is determined by coin flip, reverse next time the same two teams meet.
- Game Changer, I-Score or any other scoring app is recommended to be use lieu of a paper scorebook.

34.0 IN-BETWEEN INNINGS

- Teams are **not permitted** to “huddle” prior to going out onto the field to play defense or when they come into hit.
- Players that played on defense or where batting, base running it is recommended that they wash their wash hands or use hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or more).

35.0 COACHES GAME DAY

- Adult base coaches are **required** to wear a face covering.
- When coming out from the dugout to the mound to meet the pitcher or any other player on the field, face covering is **required** to be worn.
- The coach when coming to the mound they are **not permitted** to go onto the dirt portion of the mound. They are to remain on the grass and are **required** to maintain physical distancing from the catcher, pitcher and any other fielder that comes into towards the mound. Face masks must be worn by coaches.
- When attending to an injured player the coach is **required** to be wearing a face covering. All other players must return to their position or maintain six-foot physical distancing.
- When meeting with the players that are not on the field, it is **required** they maintain the six-foot physical distance requirement and it is **required** to wear a face covering.
- Each coaching staff member is **required** to bring their own individual hand sanitizer (if available) or container of soap and water with a cloth towel to wash hands periodically during the game and after handling baseballs or equipment. The container is to be labeled with the individual name and the contents inside the container.
- **Required:** following the steps of wiping game baseballs with soap/water with cloth or paper towel. (See Practice/Game Baseball Section)
- Coaches are to monitor during the game the safety and health plan and are to interact with the player(s) when adherence of the plan is not being met.

36.0 PLAYERS GAME DAY

- Required to bring hand sanitizer (if available) or container (water jug) of soap and water with cloth or paper towel to wash hands and personal equipment.
- Bring a cloth or paper towel to be used to dry hands and another cloth towel or paper towel to wipe down personal equipment.
- Cloth towels are not to be shared among individuals.
- Players are not permitted in the dugout unless they are scheduled to hit in an inning.
- Players will be in a designated area that adheres to the six-foot physical distancing requirement.
- Players are not required to wear face covering. If a player decides they wish to wear a face covering while in the game, they may do so.
- Players not active in the game are prohibited from going to visit players at other fields, nor are they permitted to be sitting directly behind the backstop during the game.

37.0 PITCHERS

- To avoid putting fingers to mouth or blowing into the hands to grip baseball, pitcher is permitted to have a damp wash- cloth with water that can be brought to the mound and kept in the back pocket to dampen fingers or wash hands as needed.
- Pitcher that uses the wash- cloth to dampen fingers or clean hands, is **required** to wipe off on the uniform jersey before throwing a pitch.
- **COVID 19 is a dangerous communicable disease.** Pitcher that goes to the mouth with his fingers or blowing into his hands:
 - **Warning is issued to the pitcher and any subsequent pitchers in the game for both teams. PENALTY: If repeat offender in the same game, then the pitcher is removed from the game as a pitcher.**
 - The ball is immediately removed from play and is returned to the defensive team who will be **required** to take the ball out of play and not returned it to the game.
 - The pitcher that is either warned or removed as a pitcher is **required** to immediately go and wash his hands before being permitted back into the game if eligible to return. For games with a time limit, the umpire in chief will stop the clock and will re-start the clock when the pitcher returns to the mound to pitch. Pitcher returning to the mound after washing hands is not permitted any warm- up pitches.
 - Subsequent violation in the same game by any pitcher will result in the pitcher being removed from the mound for the remainder of the game.
 - The ball is immediately removed from play and is not be used again.
 - A ball will be called in favor of the batter.
 - The pitcher that is removed may play on defense.
 - All Divisions: The Pitcher, if a starter can be physically removed from the game as a pitcher, and if eligible to return may do so in another defensive position but must remain in the same spot in the batting order.

37.0 PITCHERS

- In the instance of removing the pitcher, the removal is treated like an injury or ejection to the pitcher, and the pitcher coming in will be allowed adequate time to warm up by the umpire in chief. 3-4 minutes is a normal time frame to be ready to pitch.
- For all games that have a time limit, the umpires will stop the time limit clock when the violation is called. Once the new pitcher is ready, then the time limit clock starts.
- If pitcher has personal rosin bag, they can bring it to the mound to use. When they leave the mound, they are to pick up the rosin bag. It is not to be left on the mound for other individual use.
- When the pitcher comes off the mound, it is **required** they wash their hands with hand sanitizer or with soap/water and cloth towel. Coaches are **required** to monitor this practice.

38.0 BATTER

- Each player must have and use their own bat and helmet
- Recommend that personal equipment after each use is wiped down with disinfectant or soap and water.
- **Required** washing hands or use hand sanitizer after using equipment.
- **Required** that individual helmets and bats not to be clustered together and are kept a distance apart.

39.0 BASE RUNNERS

- Each player must wear their own batting helmet while on the bases.
- Required to wash hands down or use hand sanitizer after returning to the dugout.

40.0 CATCHERS

- Catcher must wear their own personal equipment (mask, shin guards, glove, throat guard)
- No throwing the ball around the infield after an out. Get the ball back to the pitcher.
- Retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
- Recommend wiping down equipment between innings with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- **Required** to wash hands when the inning is over with either hand sanitizer or soap and water.

41.0 FIELDERS

- When applicable do not stand close to the base runner for any length of time. Holding runners on is part of the game and in most cases the actions are swift in nature. If players need to talk to a teammate or chat with runners do so at the required six-foot physical distance regulation.
- Hand signals highly recommended.
- No throwing the ball around the infield after an out. Get the ball back to the pitcher.
- When the inning is complete, all fielders are **required** to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. Coaches are to communicate this reminder to the players when they come in off the field.

42.0 BULLPENS

- The pitcher, catcher warming up in the bullpen are not required to wear face covering.
- If bullpen is within the field of play, a "safety protector" is required to protect the pitcher/catcher from any batted ball. The safety protector if a player is required to wear a batting helmet. Face covering is not required.
- When done with the baseball, the ball is to be given to a coach to be wiped down with soap and water before being placed in the bucket. The ball is to be separate from the game balls.
- Pitcher and catcher are recommended to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after the bullpen session.

43.0 UMPIRES

- Are required to conduct and document their self- assessment/evaluation on/or before 3:00 PM on the day of their assignment
- Appendix I – Self Assessment Form can be accessed through the league website at www.azplayball.com click on the "COVID-19 Protocols" tab on the main menu.
 - Complete the information and submit this form digitally, or email league director with confirmation that self-assessment has been completed. If submitted digitally we will receive the evaluation form and maintain individual confidentiality.
 - The league will maintain self-assessment evaluation form for up to to six (6) months after the season has been completed.
- Recommend bringing a container or water jug of soap/water with a cloth towel or hand sanitizer if available to wash down hands.
- Face Cover is **required** to be worn if working behind plate.
- Wearing a face covering for the base umpire is optional.
- For all divisions the umpire may choose to stand behind the pitcher keeping the physical distancing of six-feet requirement to call balls and strikes. For an umpire standing behind the pitcher, the wearing of the face covering is recommended.

43.0 UMPIRES

- Umpires are to maintain six-foot physical distance regulation at the pre-game plate meeting, in between innings, and if they are required to meet between innings or during the game to discuss a ruling.
- No batting order line ups are exchanged (See Practice 33.0 Batting Order Line Up Plan)
- Umpires should limit their contact with the baseball and where possible the catcher should retrieve foul balls and passed balls.
- Team that is on defense will provide the game baseballs. The pitcher will come out to the mound with a baseball and as baseballs are needed as they go out of play, a coach from the team on defense will throw in a ball to the pitcher.
- As soon as the game is over egress off field through an area where there is not a large congestion of individuals.

44.0 BASE COACH (PLAYER OR ADULT)

- Face covering is **required** to be worn by adult or player when on the coaching lines.
 - Player is **required** to wear batting double ear flap batting helmet.
 - Adult coaches **recommended** to wear batting helmet.

45.0 DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES

- PITCHER:
 - Pitcher is **required** to remain on the dirt portion of the mound.
 - Coach **required** to wear a face mask when they visit the mound to confer with the pitcher. Not permitted to go onto the dirt portion of the mound.
 - Catcher if involved with the coach visiting the pitcher follows the same procedure as the coach and is not permitted to go onto the dirt portion of the mound and is **required** to adhere to the physical distancing six-foot requirement.
 - Any additional infielders to the mound during the visit are **required** to adhere to the six-foot physical distancing regulation and not be on the dirt portion of the mound. The umpires will monitor this and will remind the players of their distance.
 - If during the game the catcher or an infielder needs to visit the pitcher, they are not permitted to go onto the dirt portion of the mound. The pitcher is permitted to come down to meet the catcher or the infielder(s), but they are **required** to maintain the six-foot physical distancing requirement.
 - The umpires will remind the players if they get close within the physical distance requirement.

46.0 OFFENSIVE CONFERENCES

- Coach is **required** to wear a face covering if they meet with a batter or runner(s).

47.0 INJURED PLAYER

- There is always great concern among the players and coaches when an on the field injury occurs that the immediate reaction is rush to the fallen player and congregate around the player.
 - The safe and health practice for attending to an injured player still **requires** the six-foot physical distancing must be adhered to and the remaining players must return to their positions when a member of the coaching staff gets to the injured player.
 - Coaching staff that is attending to the injured player are **required** to wear face covering.
 - Coaching staff and umpires are to monitor and move players back to physical distance as **required**.

48.0 POST-GAME

- **No** handshake lines, no fist bumps, or any physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, spectators is permitted.
- There are to be no team meetings on or off the field after the game.
- When the game is over, all individuals pick up their own equipment, clean up the area and dispose of any trash generated and leave the facility.
- There is to be no congregation in common areas or in the parking lot permitted when the game is over.
- Recommend virtual meetings to review the game.
- Get home take uniform off to be washed. Recommend that the uniform is to be washed separately from the rest of the family clothing. Take a shower, drink fluids, and relax.

49.0 LEAGUE STAFF

All assigned league staff and officials will be **required** to:

- To conduct and document their self- assessment/evaluation on/or before 3:00 PM on the day of their assignment
 - Appendix I – Self Assessment Form can be accessed through the league website at www.azplayball.com click on the “COVID-19 Protocols” tab on the main menu.
- Complete the information and submit the form digitally or email league director with confirmation that self-assessment has been completed. If submitted digitally we will receive the evaluation form and maintain individual confidentiality.
 - The league will maintain self-assessment evaluation form for up to to six (6) months after the season has been completed.
- Wearing face covering when dealing directly with public is **required**.
- Maintaining six-foot physical distance is **required** when dealing with the public.

50.0 SPECTATORS

For games at AZ Playball practice and game fields, AZ Playball will follow all governmental requirements regarding the number of people permitted in any one area.

- **To clarify: The determination to permit spectators and the number of people permitted in any one area, will be determined by the county, and notification of determination will be posted on the league web site.**

51.0 AZ PLAYBALL FIELD MANAGEMENT

Maricopa County at this time is still reviewing to determine if spectators will be permitted to attend games at any AZ Playball field.

When Maricopa County has made the determination regarding attendance at the AZ Playball Fields, this information will be updated, and notification will be posted on the league web site.

51.0 AZ PLAYBALL FIELD MANAGEMENT

For practices and scheduled games at AZ Playball fields, it is responsibility of the team manager to monitor and adhere to all safety and health protocols as outlined in this plan when it comes to player dugout occupancy, face coverings, physical distancing, hygiene and sanitization of equipment.

SPECTATORS

Spectators are responsible for practicing physical distancing.

The guidelines in the plan are set to not be punitive in action, but if an individual becomes belligerent when reminded to follow the established guidelines that are set to protect those individuals around, and themselves, then the league, county or city officials have the authority to have such an individual removed from the facility and law enforcement shall be called to provide assistance in the removal of the individual(s).

BLEACHER SEATING:

At all AZ Playball fields,

Sitting in bleacher seating is prohibited until further notice.

INDIVIDUAL SEATING:

Bringing of lawn chairs, pop up tents, etc. with family members sitting together as a group is permitted.

No more than 10 in a group is permitted.

When setting up your lawn chairs make sure you establish the six- foot physical distancing between groups.

There is no sitting with lawn chairs, nor standings behind or on the side of the dugouts. The dugout area is for only the players and coaches.

POST GAME

Pick up and dispose of any trash generated during the game into the nearest trash receptacle.

Please leave as soon as possible. If a night game lights will go out 10 minutes after the game is over.

