



# Back to the Fields

## CTAA COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

Version 1.1

Date: 06/03/2020

\*subject to change\*

The guidelines below are intended to provide CTAA members, organizations and members of the community information how the CTAA is intending to alter youth baseball and softball by implementing safe and healthy social distancing guidelines. Being mindful of the factors of public health, social distancing, and community well-being this will allow the youth of Cranberry Township to establish some semblance of normalcy as we continue to move forward safely. The safety guidelines listed below are proposed additional measures to be taken before, during, and after a youth baseball and softball event. All other key prevention strategies by the CDC and PA Dept of Health will be strictly followed, in order to promote a safe environment. In the end we all need to take some personal responsibility in order to help establish and more importantly maintain a safe environment for our kids to PLAY BALL!!

### **Personal protective measures:**

- ❖ It is not recommended that players wear masks on the field of play. It is believed to be a safety hazard due to distractions. However, players may at their choosing, wear a mask on the field at the directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian.
- ❖ Players may wear face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts. CTAA is instituting 'Player Only' areas to ease social distancing

concerns in/near the dugout. It is noted that face coverings other than cloth that are more ideal for athletics are available.

- ❖ All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., may wear a mask whenever applicable and possible. Coaches conducting drill during practice or coaching on the field are not required to wear mask.
- ❖ Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
- ❖ Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

**Equipment (non-baseballs and softballs):** Personal player equipment is prohibited from being shared at any time (bats/helmets/gloves, etc.)

- ❖ Player equipment will be placed in a designated area for each player inside the dugout (including the designation 'extended dugouts'). Bats, helmets, etc., should remain in the players bag when not in use.
- ❖ Designated set(s) of catcher's equipment per player that has identified as being a Catcher, per team should be available.
- ❖ When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed enough time to dry before used by a new player.
- ❖ Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets)
- ❖ Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable.
- ❖ Player equipment will be placed in a designated area for each player inside the dugout which included the designation 'extended dugouts.
- ❖ Bats, helmets, etc., should remain in the players bag when not in use.

**Field Maintenance Equipment:**

- ❖ Any shared field preparation equipment will be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.
- ❖ Rubber gloves are to be placed in maintenance garages and sheds to be used for all field maintenance and equipment use. Gloves are to be disposed after use.

**Baseballs and Softballs usage:**

- ❖ Baseballs and softballs should be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact. Additionally, designated baseballs for each team (home/away) will be used.
- ❖ Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.
- ❖ Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container.
- ❖ Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players and coaches. No spectators should retrieve the ball.
- ❖ Umpires will not retrieve any foul ball or ball not deemed in play

**Dugout (Team Personnel):** Extended dugouts in player only areas are to be designated on each field. The dugout will be extended to behind the dugout to the backstop for both teams. That is, 6 ft social distancing will be implemented by utilizing space near dugouts.

- ❖ Each player will be assigned a designated location in the extended dugout. Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat
- ❖ Player equipment will be placed in a designated area for each player inside the dugout area. Bats, helmets, etc., should remain in the players bag when not in use.
- ❖ No food allowed in dugouts (or on the playing field), including sunflower seeds, gum, etc.

- ❖ Players, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- ❖ Teams should not share any food or drinks.
- ❖ All players and coaches are always to refrain from spitting, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.
- ❖ Increase number of coaches from 3 to 4 per team. The 4<sup>th</sup> coach, if available will act as a helper to ensure players in the extended dugouts are following the guidelines
- ❖ Score keeper will remain outside of dugout
- ❖ Players and managers/coaches are encouraged to should wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts.

**Spectator Seating and Social Distancing:** Parents and spectators have separate seating away from the backstop or dugout. Spectators will not be allowed around the area of the backstop or dugouts. This means for most places the game may be viewed along the foul lines starting at 1st/3rd base extending to the outfield and in the outfield area. (Please see Figures 1-3 for diagrams)

- ❖ State-issued and CDC guidelines for social distance must be followed.
- ❖ Practices will be limited to the managers/coaches and players only. There shall be no fans/parents/spectators in and around the facilities during practice. Parents should drop off and pickup their players or remain in their vehicles during the entire practice. This is to ensure we can limit the number of people at fields and be able to schedule all fields for operations.
- ❖ There will be no seating in bleachers for fans anywhere in the facilities.
- ❖ Fans to sit in designated areas only. Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
- ❖ Fans are not permitted to enter the areas designated as 'Player Only.'
- ❖ CTAA may choose to minimize the exposure risk to spectators by limiting attendance to only essential volunteers and limited family members
- ❖ Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact

with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game. The next event will not begin until the previous event is cleared of all participants

**Concession Stand:**

- ❖ No player/coach/manager/umpire or spectator will be allowed to sit at the concession stand
- ❖ Concession stand to operate with additional training and safety protocols to be defined under separate cover.

**Umpire Placement:** Umpires will be asked to officiate the game while practicing social distancing with all fielders to the best of their ability. Game Play has rules in place to help facilitate the interaction of umpires. Note: Younger age groups do not have umpires.

- ❖ Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes.
- ❖ If physically able, umpires are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.
- ❖ Umpires are permitted to wear gloves

**Game play:**

- ❖ There will be no shaking of hands post game. Other ceremonies and acts of sportsmanship can be submitted that involve social distancing and non-contact
- ❖ Coach's mound visits are limited to the area around the mounds. Social Distancing to be maintained between coach and pitcher. If the coach just wishes to make a pitching change, they can do so without going to the mound by simply informing the umpire of such a change. Mound visits limited to coach and pitcher only
- ❖ Pregame meeting shall consist of umpires and 1 adult coach from each team, socially distancing. No players as part of pre-game meeting. Home Cranberry team will reinforce the seating arrangements for players and fans to the other coach and umpires. Everyone is expected to help enforce this requirement
- ❖ No team meetings after game has concluded

## Scheduling

- ❖ League administrators will schedule enough time between practices and games to facilitate the complete evacuation of individuals from a previous practice or game from the premises before the next group enters.
- ❖ If there is a game or practice prior to your event, all players, families and spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
- ❖ No teams' activities will start until their scheduled arrival time. No one should be warming up until they enter their designated field for play.
- ❖ CTAA will work to ensure that practices and games follow all local and state directives regarding the number of people allowed to gather in one place.
- ❖ No warmups, practices or team activities on the All-Purpose field (area between fields 2 and 5) or any grassy area.
- ❖ Arrivals to the complex will be scheduled to help ensure many individuals are not arriving at the same time. All five fields in either park will not be scheduled at the exact same time with game type events at the same time
- ❖ Scheduled timeslot for games will include warm-up\arrival time + Game play time + game conclusion\wrap-up time. Different leagues will have different durations
- ❖ Practice only events will have a scheduled an arrival time. The intent of the arrival time is to ensure the team completely vacates the facility before the next team starts practice. All fields can be used for practices without staggering the scheduling
- ❖ Batting cages will be scheduled for one team per set of cages. Duration of cages will be reduced because there will be two tunnels per team in Cranberry park.

## **Outside teams**

- ❖ Teams outside of the CTAA that play within CTAA events are expected to comply with these guidelines.
- ❖ Individual leagues that required additional procedures will be incorporated upon approval from the CTAA Executive Board
- ❖ Outside teams\individuals that do not comply or refuse to comply will be removed from the facilities and their respected teams may forfeit the event at the discretion of the CTAA officials
- ❖ Teams from active “Hot Zones” of COVID-19 or counties within PA that are not in a green status are not permitted to participate in CTAA events
- ❖ All guidelines and rules and regulations will be distributed to various leagues the CTAA is a partner with and reviewed prior to game events in CTAA operated facilities

## **Self-monitoring and quarantine guideline:**

- ❖ All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each CTAA activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any CTAA activity until cleared by a medical professional.
- ❖ Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend CTAA with permission from a medical professional.
- ❖ A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
  - Active COVID-19 infection
  - Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Waiting for a COVID-19 test result

## Appendix items:

### Governor Wolf's 'Green Phase' which covers the scope of this document

Green Phase
<b>Work &amp; Congregate Setting Restrictions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· All Businesses Must Follow CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>Social Restrictions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Aggressive Mitigation Lifted</li> <li>· All Individuals Must Follow CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Monitor public health indicators, adjust orders and restrictions as necessary</li> </ul>

Caption taken from: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>

## Spectator seating

- Red – Player Only
- Blue – Spectator Seating
- Yellow – Overflow seating
- No seating on concrete cart paths at any time



**Figure 1 - Community Park Fields 1,2,3,4 and 5**

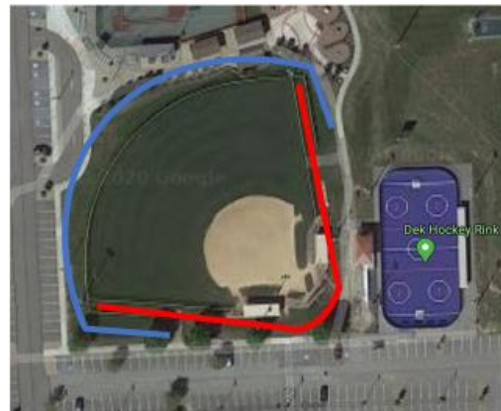


- Red – Player Only
- Blue – Spectator Seating
- Yellow – TBD
- Social distancing between fans and bull pens must be maintained
- No seating on concrete cart paths at any time



**Figure 2 – Graham Park Fields I, J H, and K (Tball)**

- Red – Player Only
- Blue – Spectator Seating
- Yellow – TBD
- Social distancing between fans and bull pens must be maintained
- No seating on concrete cart paths at any time



**Figure 3 – Graham Park Fields L**

- Red – Player Only
- Social distancing between fans and bull pens must be maintained
- No seating on concrete cart paths at any time
- No Bleacher seating



**Figure 4** – *North Boundary Park Veterans Field*

**Authors:**

- Cranberry Township Athletic Association  
Kevin Barber, VP of Operations  
Anthony Storti, President

**Resources:**

CDC Guidelines - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

PA Governor's office: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>

Ohio Guidelines: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Baseball-Softball.pdf>

Little League Baseball - <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/>

Minnesota Youth Athletic Services - <http://myas.org/media/5456/baseball-and-softball-restart-1.pdf>

Ripken Baseball - [Return To Play](#)

**Document Control:**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
Kevin Barber	V 0.1	5/26/2020	Initial Creation
Kevin Barber	V 0.1	5/27/2020	Added Little League resource
Kevin Barber	V 0.2	5/27/2020	Submitted to CTAA Executive Board for initial comments
Kevin Barber	V 0.3	05/28/2020	Additional updates; images etc.
Anthony Storti	V 0.3	05/30/2020	Marked version DRAFT
Anthony Storti	V 0.4	5/31/2020	Added Comments from President
Kevin Barber	V 0.4	5/31/2020	Reviewed and presented to CTAA Board for Directors
Kevin Barber	V 0.5	6/01/2020	Updated to reflect the direction of the Board of Directors
Anthony Storti	V 1.0	06/02/2020	Formatted; Added resources; cleaned up text for easier understanding
Anthony Storti	V 1.0	06/02/2020	Marked for Final Review and submitted to Board of Directors for last comments
Anthony Storti	V 1.1	06/03/2020	Final changes
Anthony Storti	V 1.1	06/03/2020	Released version - FINAL