

NGSSA Health and Safety Waiver
2021 Season

**Safe Return to Play**

To help protect all NGSSA players, volunteers and family members, we ask everyone to adhere to and follow the protocols outlined in the **NGSSA Health and Safety Guidelines for the 2021 Season**, and the specific protocols outlined below. You may not agree with the necessity of these protocols, or their effectiveness, but we believe these safety measures are a critical component of our safe return to play. We hope our ability to return to softball will outweigh any inconvenience.

Returning to play is a personal choice. Each family should make their own decision on whether they want their player to resume softball in this environment. If players, or their families, do NOT feel comfortable returning to play at this time, it will not affect their position, status or ability to be placed on the appropriate team in a future season. These protocols are not intended to be a substitute or alternative to professional medical advice.

**Non-Contact and Social Distancing**

At practices, coaches and players will execute small group training sessions without physical contact during all activities and drills. All players and coaches will maintain 6 feet of distance from each other, at all times.

At games, coaches will maintain 6 feet of distance from each other, and from all players. Players will maintain 6 feet of distance from each other whenever possible, unless a closer distance is required during game play.

No handshakes, high-fives, or fist bumps, at any time.

**Symptoms**

Symptoms of Covid-19 can include:

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| * Fever
* Tiredness
* Sore throat
* Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
* Rash
* Loss of taste or smell
* Chest pain or pressure
 | * Cough
* Aches and pains
* Diarrhea
* Headache
* Discoloration of fingers or toes
* Difficulty breathing / shortness of breath
* Loss of speech or movement
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If any player, volunteer, or family member is experiencing any of the above symptoms, they must not attend any contest or training event. Please stay home regardless of what is causing your illness.

Each family/player must use the symptom checker on TeamSnap before attending any contest or training event, and record as appropriate.

**Masks and Facial Coverings**

All coaches, players, umpires, and other volunteer staff must wear face coverings at all times. NGSSA will provide all players and coaches with a face mask as a part of their uniform. Participants are not required to wear the NGSSA provided mask, as long as they wear appropriate facial coverings.

Spectators must follow any Department of Health facial covering order in effect at the time of the activity.

**Hygiene and Hand Sanitizer**

All players should have hand sanitizer in their bag. Players should use hand sanitizer before practices and contests, and should avoid touching their face during the activity. Players should immediately use hand sanitizer after practice and contests. Player’s clothing should be washed after every practice or contest. Players should use the restroom at home before leaving for any event. If a player needs to use the restroom during practice or game, they will need to be escorted and will need to use hand sanitizer before and after, following social distancing guidelines.

**No Shared Equipment**

Players should bring their own labeled water bottle. There will be no sharing of water bottles.

Coaches will handle all equipment. Players are encouraged to provide their own bat, but bats may be shared if properly wiped down by a coach between each player, or if all players wear batting gloves.

**No Huddles**

Drills with technical demonstrations, and team-talks, will be executed from a distance.

**No Gathering, No Delay for Players**

Players should avoid social gatherings before and after practice to maintain appropriate social distancing of 6 feet. Players should come to the field with their shoes on and gear bags should be placed 6 feet apart. Personal items should be kept in bags at all times.

Carpooling is discouraged. Please notify your coach prior to the start of practices if you believe carpooling will be necessary.

**Parents Sideline Distance**

Parents should not gather or socialize on the sideline and are encouraged to remain in their cars if staying at the practice site. Parents of younger children that must come to the field for pick up or drop off should wear a mask and maintain distance from the group, coaches and other parents. No spectators are allowed on the field of play, or on practice fields.

**Reporting Illness and Quarantining**

Any Player, Coach, Umpire, or Spectator who tests positive for COVID-19 must report their positive result to their team’s coach and the appropriate Division Director within 12 hours of receiving their results.

Those who are excluded from training or contests due to a positive COVID-19 test result or diagnosis, or because they have been in close contact with someone receiving a positive COVID-19 test result, must follow all DOH and local public health isolation and quarantine guidance before returning to training or contests. NGSSA will require a negative COVID-19 test result and clearance from a medical doctor before they are allowed to return to any league event, including practices and contests.

If any player/coach/volunteer reports a positive test, all team members and coaching staff exposed to the individual must also pause play and/or quarantine, according to the CDC guidelines. Games canceled due to teams quarantining may be rescheduled, at the sole discretion of NGSSA.

**I have reviewed this plan, and the NGSSA Health and Safety Guidelines for the 2021 Season. I acknowledge that I will do my best to adhere to the protocols as outlined in both documents.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**If the participant is a minor, the following section must be completed by the participant’s parent or guardian.**

**I have reviewed this plan, and the NGSSA Health and Safety Guidelines for the 2021 Season with the participant. I acknowledge that we will do our best to adhere to the protocols as outlined in both documents.**

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_