



WAA GIRLS SOFTBALL 2020 COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

DISCLAIMER: Participants, parents, family members, and spectators engaging in WAA Girls Softball activities at the Ridge Park Field Complex do so with knowledge of the risk and potential exposure involved and agree to accept any and all inherent risks to their personal health.

UNIVERSAL GUIDELINES

As per the CDC, [COVID symptoms](#) include shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, cough, fever, chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat and loss of taste or smell.

All those attending or participating in a WAA Girls Softball event shall perform a self-screening assessment prior to entering the Ridge Park Field Complex. DO NOT enter the Park or attend any WAA Girls Softball event if you, a family member(s), or player(s) answer(s) "YES" to any of the following questions:

1. Do you have a fever greater than 100° Fahrenheit or have you felt feverish in the last twenty-four (24) hours?
2. Have you had known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19?
3. Have you had a new cough or change in your cough in the last twenty-four (24) hours?
4. Have you experienced new shortness of breath within the last 24 hours?

If you or a member of your family becomes sick or begins experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, at any time during the season, notify your Primary Care Physician (PCP), or a qualified medical professional. Anyone experiencing COVID symptoms must self-quarantine and be symptom-free for fourteen (14) days and cleared to return by a medical professional.

If you or a family member becomes diagnosed with COVID-19, follow the directions of your PCP, the Monroe County Department of Health and notify the WAA Girls Softball coaching staff and [Board of Directors](#) that your daughter will not be participating or attending softball activities.

In the event of a COVID exposure, WAA Girls Softball will maintain event schedules, team and volunteer rosters/contact information, and will make this information available to local and state health officials as requested and required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). WAA Girls Softball will comply with all Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements and directives issued by the NYSDOH.

All those attending a WAA Girls Softball event are expected to adhere to the established social distancing guidelines, by maintaining a minimum of six (6) feet of distance between you and others, when you are not around your immediate family or household members. If you are unable to maintain six (6) feet of distance, a well-secured paper or cloth, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be worn, covering your nose and mouth.



The CDC advises that healthy hygiene practices include hand washing, using sanitizer, refrain from spitting, covering coughs and sneezes. This incorporates frequently washing your hands for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds, or using hand sanitizer, especially after touching surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, gate latches, fence posts, benches, handles, etc.

SAFETY MEASURES

While at Ridge Park, those attending or participating in a WAA Girls Softball event shall:

1. Provide their own hand sanitizer, masks and additional PPE. WAA Girls Softball will not be providing these items for players, coaches and/or spectators.
2. Be required to document player attendance at a WAA Girls Softball practice or game using the [Sports SignUp Play](#) app or the WAA Girls Softball website. This attendance record will serve as our primary source of documentation for player attendance and provided to our state and local authorities in the event of a COVID exposure event.
3. Provide his or her own seating. All benches and bleachers will be closed to spectators. Players will be spaced appropriately on the benches and bleachers. Families will be responsible for providing a lawn chair/blanket while attending games.
4. Be strongly encouraged to bring and use player's own softball equipment including gloves, masks, helmets and bats, whenever possible.
5. Parents/guardians are encouraged to drop off their players. If they must remain at the park, they should stay in their vehicles. Please, no congregating in parking lots or other on-site areas.
6. Abide by the Town of Webster's carry in, carry out policies and procedures for all town parks and fields. No waste receptacles will be available at any WAA Girls Softball events.
7. Avoid congregating in common areas prior to or following games and practices.
8. Use caution while entering and leaving your vehicle and maintain social distancing at all times in available parking lots.
9. Bring your own food and beverages including water bottles. Manager, coaches, players and families should refrain from sharing any food or drink at this time (No team snacks).
10. Sunflower seeds, chewing gum and similar products will not be allowed in the park.
11. A [carry-in/carry-out policy](#) is in place. Please plan to manage your own garbage removal.

Whenever possible, start and end times of events will be staggered so that participants who have finished their game or practice will have time to leave the park prior to the arrival of participants due to arrive for the next scheduled game or practice. This is meant to reduce the total number of people in the park at any given time.

All league/tournament meetings including player drafts, coaches, player, umpire, parent meetings and training sessions will be held in a virtual environment whenever possible.



WAA Girls Softball representatives, managers and coaches are to encourage but not enforce adherence to the social distancing and safety measures listed above. Parents, guardians should remain active and diligent in protecting yourself and your players. However, it is important to respect and be tolerant of others, and although we all have a personal responsibility to protect ourselves, it is not our obligation to police or discipline others.

COACH EXPECTATIONS

Coaches will communicate with players and families in days leading up to practices and games via email. The e-mail message should

- Encourage coaches, players, and parents/guardians to practice social distancing (6 feet minimum);
- Explain that any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be prohibited from attending the practice;
- Urge each player to bring a bottle of hand sanitizer to use prior to taking the field and intermittently during practice, and at the conclusion of practice;
- Encourage players to bring their own, personal cooler and water bottles instead of using a team cooler;
- Allow players to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) items if they choose, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants; and
- Make clear that all posted and published local- and state-regulated guidelines shall be followed.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Players:

1. Are **not** required to wear PPE when on the field of play but are allowed to if they choose.
2. Should remain within the player-designated areas and wear PPE, when proper social distancing cannot be maintained, or at any time, outside the field of play, a player is less than six (6) feet from others.
3. Avoid hands on contact with other players and coaches and the sharing of any and all personal and team equipment between players.

UMPIRE EXPECTATIONS

Umpires:

1. Will be calling balls, strikes and outs from behind the pitcher's mound and/ or within the areas designated by the local umpire association contracted for the event.
2. Shall be expected to wear PPE when proper social distancing cannot be maintained, or at any time an umpire is less than six (6) feet from others.
3. Should refrain from handling player equipment at all times. All pre-game equipment checks should be conducted visually.



SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Parents, guardians and family members:

1. Should limit attendance to a maximum of two (2) spectators per player, inclusive of adults and children, to any WAA Girls Softball event.
2. Will remain separate and apart from the player-designated areas, and wear PPE when proper social distancing cannot be maintained or at any time a spectator is less than six (6) feet from others, other than his or her own immediate family or household members.
3. Shall not enter into the player-designated areas or onto the field of play, unless invited by a WAA Girls Softball representative, manager or coach.
4. Are required to bring his or her own seating, (chairs/blankets), PPE, sanitizing and disinfecting materials.
5. Must refrain from retrieving foul or passed balls.

Those spectators at higher risk for severe disease should consult with a medical professional before attending any WAA Girls Softball event and ensure strict adherence to all guidelines regarding PPE, social distancing and handwashing. Such groups include:

- Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including immunocompromised, heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung, chronic kidney and lung disease,
- Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility,
- Those over the age of 65,

RESTROOMS

WAA Girls Softball is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting restroom facilities at the Ridge Park Field Complex. WAA Girls Softball has established a cleaning protocol that will be enacted at a defined period of time during games and tournaments.

Those choosing to use the available restroom facilities will occupy the men's and ladies' room two (2) persons at a time and will be expected to provide and use your own cleaning and disinfectant materials prior to and after use. Healthy hand hygiene practices should be used at all times. All restroom facilities will be available for use at your own risk.

CONCESSIONS

Concessions may be offered at specific events at the discretion of the WAA Girls Softball Board of Directors. Players, coaches, and spectators should fully understand that compliance with COVID-19 related regulations could result in delays in service and in long lines. Social distancing guidelines must be followed, and attendees are reminded to exhibit patience while awaiting service.

PRACTICE SESSION MANAGEMENT

- **June 22-July 5, 2020:** Teams are allowed to use **batting cages**. Follow social distancing requirements. Schedule batting sessions online.

Webster Girls Softball



- **June 26-July 5, 2020:** Teams are allowed to have **limited field training and use batting cages**. Follow social distancing requirements. Schedule batting sessions online. Field use should be in small groups (4-6 players) and could be done in conjunction with batting cage time when open fields are available.
- **July 6-until further notice:** Teams are allowed to practice with full rosters at cages and on fields (contingent upon continued smooth transition to NY Forward Phase 4).

To ensure the health and safety of our players, coaches, and spectators:

1. Teams should arrive at Ridge Park a maximum of thirty (30) minutes prior to any scheduled practice and leave the park no later than fifteen (15) minutes upon conclusion of the event.
2. Parents/guardians are encouraged to drop off their players. If they must remain at the park, they should stay in their vehicles. Please, no congregating in parking lots or other on-site areas.
3. Players and coaches should maintain 6-foot spacing at all times at batting cages and on fields. If spacing cannot be maintained, then mask use is required.
4. Players should place their bat bags and equipment on ground or the inside of field fences, spaced at 6-foot intervals.
5. Pitching machine, and other high-touch surfaces, must be sanitized according to CDC guidelines after each cage session and players must use hand sanitizer after cage hitting and ball retrieval ([Lysol-branded](#), [Chlorox-branded with approved contact times](#)).
6. Teams should minimize the use of dugouts during practices.
7. Teams should minimize player contact by eliminating team handshakes and high fives.
8. Spitting, gum chewing, and sunflower seed chewing are not permitted.
9. Coaches should create a plan to keep social distancing between players/teams in effect beyond the field of play. Suggest other means of interactions (e.g., ask players to wave, tip their caps/visors, or have teams bow to each other from across the fields).

Coaches/teams failing to follow these guidelines should understand that by doing so they are needlessly jeopardizing the health and safety of our players, families, and our other coaches and teams. Reports of coach/team non-compliance with these guidelines will be reviewed by the WAA Girls Softball Board, discussed with implicated coaches/teams, and acted upon accordingly to rectify any issues perceived to undermine public health and safety.

GAME MANAGEMENT

July 6-until further notice: Teams are allowed to play in competitive games (contingent upon continued smooth transition to NY Forward Phase 4).

To ensure that health and safety of our players, coaches and spectators:



1. Teams should arrive at Ridge Park a maximum of ninety (90) minutes prior to any game and leave the park no later than fifteen (15) minutes upon conclusion of the event.
2. Coaches must:
 - Encourage coaches, players, and parents/guardians to practice social distancing throughout the 8-field softball complex, on and off the fields (6 feet minimum);
 - Inform team parents that any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be prohibited from participating;
 - Encourage parents to supply their players with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared playing equipment and cleaning hands between innings;
 - Encourage players to bring their own personal cooler and water bottles, as team cooler use is prohibited; and
 - Make clear to coaches, players, and family members that all posted and published local- and state-regulated guidelines shall be followed. Signage will be posted throughout the field complex reminding people to practice social distancing
3. Prior to a team arriving at a dugout for the first time, WAA Girls Softball-appointed cleaning teams will disinfect hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, other high-touch surfaces, etc., using [Lysol-branded](#), [Chlorox-branded with approved contact times](#)).
Note: Procedures #3 and #14 here comply with the CDC recommendation of a two-step process for cleaning and disinfecting.
4. Players/coaches/umpires MUST wear a mask at all times except when inside the field of play or when social distancing cannot be maintained.
5. The managers meeting at home plate will be limited to one coach from each team plus the umpires. No players will be allowed at the meeting.
6. Foul balls should be retrieved by team designee who will return them to the umpire to put into play.
7. The home plate umpire will be socially distanced, approximately 6 feet behind the catcher or pitcher, or with PPE (umpire association-dependent).
8. Mound visits by a coach will honor social distancing guidance. Only the pitcher and catcher can join the coach for visits.
9. Base coaches will not be allowed to make contact with baserunners (high-fives, helmet taps, fist bumps, etc.) and will be required to maintain 6 feet of distance between and players on the field.
10. Teams will be allowed to spread players out; expand the dugout area when room permits and only if player safety is not compromised. Expansion of the team dugouts should not be done into foul ball areas. Bench personnel should be limited to essential team personnel.
11. Players will be allowed to wear PPE items on the field if they choose, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game.
12. Spitting, chewing gum, and the use of sunflower seeds is not permitted in order to diminish potential sources of aerosols.



13. A carry-in/carry-out policy is in place. Please plan to manage your own garbage removal.
14. Upon the conclusion of the game, players and coaches will line up along the first and third baselines, while maintaining a safe social distance, and acknowledge the opponent in a sign of good sportsmanship. End of game handshakes/fist bumps are not permitted.
15. At the end of the game, teams will be required to clean their dugout of all trash and other items, and to wipe down (clean) hard surfaces such as benches, bat racks, etc. with cleaning supplies provided by WAA Girls Softball ([Lysol-branded](#), [Chlorox-branded with approved contact times](#)). *Note: Breaks between games will be increased to provide sufficient time for this cleaning to occur.*
16. Subsequent teams must wait beyond the homerun fence to allow the previous team to complete the cleaning procedure.
17. Award ceremonies will be contact-less, with a team representative designated to receive and distribute awards to players.

Coaches/teams failing to follow these guidelines should understand that by doing so they are needlessly jeopardizing the health and safety of our players, families, and our other coaches and teams. Reports of coach/team non-compliance with these guidelines will be reviewed by the WAA Girls Softball board members on-site, discussed directly with implicated coaches/teams, and acted upon accordingly to rectify any issues perceived to undermine public health and safety.

PLAYER INJURY

In the event of player injury:

1. The coach will be the initial assessor on scene and will be required to wear a mask while examining the injured player.
2. In the event a coach is unable to attend to the player's needs, and/or determines the player to be in need of physical attention, or bleeding, the game will stop, and the injured players parents or guardians will be invited on to the diamond to escort their daughter to a spectator-designated area within the park.
3. Once the injured player is safely removed from the field of play, the game will resume.

COMMUNICATION

As previously mentioned this plan is subject to change, as our community proceeds through the four phases of reopening outlined by the New York State Governor's office and the NYS Department of Health ([NY Forward](#)).

This document shall serve as the primary communication tool for COVID-19 play; any changes to this 2020 Return to Play Plan will be updated and published within subsequent versions of this document.

COVID-19 signage will be available at the park as a reminder to all the obligations we have in keeping each other healthy and safe.