



2021 COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

Organizing, Playing and Watching Games

(All are subject to change according to State of Ohio Health Department Guidelines)

General Guidance:

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

Practice good hygiene:

- Wash hands frequently, if soap and water are not available use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Throw the tissue into the garbage.
- Do not allow spitting.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, face, or mouth with your hands.

Physical distancing and face covering:

- Maintain 6 feet distance when not practicing or competing.
- Facemasks should be worn by coaches, parents, and spectators. Face coverings are not intended to protect the wearer, but rather to reduce the risk of spreading COVID19 from the person wearing the mask (who may not have symptoms of the disease). At minimum, facial coverings should be cloth/fabric and cover the nose, mouth and chin.
- Wearing masks is most important when social distancing is not possible.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS Decreasing potential exposure to respiratory droplets is the guiding principle behind social distancing and the use of masks. The use of a mask is meant to decrease the spread of respiratory droplets. As the state and local COVID-19 prevalence decreases, the need for strict social distancing and masks will lessen. We will continue to seek guidance from the state and county government health authorities pertaining to social distancing, masks, and other mandates issued.

Covid-19 Waiver:

All athletes, coaches, buddies, and volunteers should complete a COVID-19 Waiver. Parent Reps will be responsible for making sure that waivers are completed prior to practicing or coaching. These waivers do not replace the Medical and Release Forms. Waivers should be kept on file with the Challenger Board.

Self-monitoring and Quarantine:

- All individuals should go through the **SCHD Daily Home Screen Checklist** prior to participating or attending each Challenger Baseball 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 Challenger 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 Challenger activities with permission from a medical professional.

What about a confirmed case?

- The affected person (player, coach, buddy) should seek COVID-19 testing as soon as possible.
- Team Manager/Parent Rep should notify the board of possible/suspected exposure within 24 hours.
- The team manager, parent rep must notify within 24 hours all athletes and parents/guardians associated with the affected team about the positive test.
- If the affected person participated in a competition, the team must notify all opponents played between the date of the positive test and two days prior to the onset of symptoms.
- The affected person can't return for 10 days and symptom free.

What if the person is asymptomatic?

- They should not return to sports activities until a documented medical exam clears them or they have a Release Letter from a health department or 10 days with no symptoms.

On-Field Guidance

Celebrations: No handshakes or high fives during or after games.

Food/Snacks: No shared drinks or team snacks. All players should bring their own drink containers, clearly marked with their name and kept in their designated spot or with their family at all times.

Dugouts: dugouts will not be used this season. Instead, players waiting for their at-bat turn will sit in a designated spot, in their own chair, with people from their household only. Non-family seating must be 6 feet apart.

PPE:

- All managers/coaches, volunteers, etc., should wear PPE whenever applicable and possible, such as cloth face coverings, when social distancing is difficult. However, in order to be heard, they are not required during games and practices when more than 6 feet apart.
- Players, especially certain medical conditions or disabilities, for communicating with the hearing-impaired, are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field during game play. 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.
- Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/ parent/guardian/caretaker.

Buddy Mentors:

- Buddies should be from the same household as the player whenever possible.
- Buddies should wear cloth face coverings whenever possible, and frequently use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Parents/Guardians of players with high-risk health concerns should consult a medical professional prior to having their player participate.

Player Equipment:

- We highly recommend (but not required) that your player have their own glove, bat, and helmet.
- For those players who don't own their own equipment, Canton Challenger will attempt to assign equipment to a specific player for the season. Assigned equipment will be labeled and cleaned between games.
- 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 sufficient time to dry before used by a new player.

Baseballs/Softballs:

Each team will supply their own balls for their at-bat rotation. Teams will be responsible for keeping their balls sanitized.

Public Restrooms:

- Canton Challenger will have rental port-a-johns at Barr Elementary and Stark DD Southgate fields. These will be maintained by Miller Sanitation Services and equipped with sanitation

supplies. Fields at Plain Township's Diamond Complex and Jackson's Fisher Park will be maintained by the township park departments.

- Families are encouraged to bring their own sanitizing wipes for restroom/personal cleanliness.

Spectator Guidance:

- All spectators should follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household; wear a cloth face covering when needing to communicate with others outside our family; avoid direct hand or other contact with players/managers/coaches during play.
- Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
- 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
- Those at higher risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a game and should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups include:
 - Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromise, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease.
 - Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
 - Those over 65

DURING THE ENTIRE SEASON, COACHES, PARENT REPS AND CHALLENGER BOARD SHOULD:

- Enforce the state-mandated wearing of face masks.
- Promote frequent healthy hygiene practices.
- Provide sanitation resources, such as disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer.