

# 2020 Tri-County and Big 4 League Return to Play Guidelines

Baldwin City De Soto Eudora Gardner Spring Hill Wellsville

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Effective July 6<sup>th</sup> the following protocols & recommendations will be in place for youth baseball and softball games for the 2020 summer season. The purpose of this information is to provide as best as possible, a safe environment at all our league Sports Complexes and to comply with local government recommendations. Every attempt was made to uphold the integrity of the game in its original form as much as possible.

**\*Disclaimer: These guidelines can change before or during the season and are contingent on the Kansas Recreation and Park Association's Reopening Guidelines.**

## SAFETY PROTOCOLS:

- 1) Dugouts – The teams will **NOT** be allowed to use dugouts for seating or storage of equipment.
  - Teams will have the option to sit with their parents or teams will be allowed to set up areas for players to sit if they don't want to use the dugout. These areas would include down the foul lines, or beyond the dugouts outside of the fence.
- 2) Equipment – Players will be required to provide their own equipment with the exception of catcher's equipment. League towns will provide their teams with catcher's gear. The league towns will try and provide equipment for individuals to use (based on current availability). Coaches will be contacted about times to check out equipment if needed. Equipment should not be shared.
- 3) Teams in coach pitch leagues (8U&7/8) will not use catcher's equipment. The catcher should wear their batting helmet and stand off to the side by the backstop. Catchers gear may not be shared during a game.
- 4) No team huddles. Communication with the team needs to follow social distancing guidelines.
- 5) At the conclusion of the game, no handshakes. Instead, teams should line up on the first and third baselines and give a tip of the cap to their opponents. This act of sportsmanship should be initiated by the coaches & umpires.
- 6) No sunflower seeds will be allowed at the complex.
- 7) Bathrooms will be open and cleaned frequently. Water fountains will not be available.
- 8) Athletes are exempt from the mask order.
- 9) Fans are strongly encouraged to wear masks where 6' of social distancing is not possible.
- 10) Coaches are not required to wear masks **unless** they cannot provide 6' of social distancing to players.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) The wearing of face covering is encouraged for spectators at the Sports Complex. Players, coaches and staff may wear face coverings if they choose. Face coverings may be homemade, or store bought.
- 2) Participants should wash/sanitize their hands and equipment after each game.
- 3) Players are encouraged to provide hand sanitizer for use before, during and after the game.
- 4) Social distancing is recommended whenever possible. Teams are encouraged not to gather as a group within close proximity of one another for pre or post game meetings.
- 5) Once your games have concluded, please leave the Sports Complex. Do not remain to watch other games.
- 6) We strongly encourage those individuals who are at high risk (Senior Citizens and those with underlying medical requirements) to avoid the ballpark.
- 7) All participants, fans and staff are encouraged to look for any signs of illness and do not come to the Sports Complex if you are showing any symptoms of Covid-19.

## **RULE CHANGES:**

- 1) Pre-game meeting with umpires should be held with 6 ft social distancing guidelines.
- 2) Base coaches are allowed as normal. Social distancing rules apply.
- 3) Offensive conferences are allowed per normal rules. Social distancing rules apply.
- 4) Coaches will be allowed to meet with their pitcher for a conference per normal rules. Social distancing rules apply.
- 5) In the event of an injury only the coach or parent may attend to the player unless medical attention is required.
- 6) Coaches may request a time out to talk to an umpire. Social distancing rules apply.
- 7) A minimum of 1 umpire will be provided per game. The home plate umpire will be positioned behind the pitcher.