

# KCMSSL COVID 19 special rules

KCMSSL's primary concern is the health and welfare of players, officials and their families. These COVID 19 rules apply to all league members and their guests until further notice. Everyone should embrace them -- not only to keep our teammates, friends and family safe, but also so that we can still play at area ballparks.

Managers are responsible for enforcing these rules among their players and fans. They should send home any player or spectator who refuses to observe these rules. Any league member unwilling to follow the rules could face suspension from league play. Meanwhile, it's vital that all sick or quarantined players stay home. Managers aware of such players should deter them from visiting the ballpark. If we as a league do not embrace and follow these rules, parks departments can evict us from their complexes. Everyone should do his or her part to keep us in the game -- and safe from COVID 19.



## Sign the waiver

- The league will be providing new waiver forms that each player and manager will need to sign before playing or managing. By signing, members are saying they understand that softball is a game of risk and that there is a risk in group activities of contracting viruses or other illnesses.

## Social contact before, during and after games

- The league has instituted a “no-contact, no-handshake policy.” This includes all physical contact and extends to customary game-related activities, umpire-coach introductions, and post-game handshakes between opposing teams. Players and coaches should say “good game,” without shaking hands, high-fiving or fist-bumping.

- Players will be expected to maintain social distancing before and after the game – and during the game when possible. Umpires are to enforce social distancing within the field of play and eject players/managers as needed for failing to distance. Managers, with help from conference coordinators if needed, are to enforce social distancing everywhere at the ballpark, and to make sure catchers wear a cloth mask while catching.

- No team huddles are allowed.

- Spectators should practice social distancing, bring their own disinfecting wipes, and bring their own chairs. Spectators should wait to enter the ballpark until game time.

- Spectators, players and managers are asked to leave the facility, including the parking lot, immediately after completion of their game(s). No tailgating.

## Dugout area

- Keep 6 feet of distance between players in and out of dugout. Players will be required to separate and in most cases be in and out of the dugout on the outside of the field fences to maintain space.

- Players will NOT be allowed to spread out on the field of play because of the inherent danger of being hit by a foul ball.

- When one team is leaving the dugout, the next team will need to wait until all players have exited, then enter. The departing team will need to police the dugout and take trash, especially empty drinking containers, to the nearest trash receptacle.

- Park personnel will be asked to disinfect the dugouts between a change of teams. If no park personnel are on site or available, the incoming team manager or his/her designee is responsible for disinfecting the dugout bench and other hard surfaces in and around the dugout. The league will provide disinfectant to managers. **All players should bring hand sanitizer to use after handling any shared equipment, such as bats.**

## The game

- Umpires must wear a face shield or cloth mask, and umpires must social distance from the batter and catcher as much as possible.

- Catchers must wear a covering over their nose and mouth while catching, and they must social distance from the batter and umpire as much as possible.

- Runners from home must social distance from the catcher and umpire.

- Players are encouraged to wear masks when not on the playing field.

- Base coaches are encouraged to wear masks while coaching the bases.

# KCMSSL Covid-19 safety rules (continued)

- Players and managers should respect the 6 foot social distancing rule when approaching the umpire.
- Managers will keep the game balls and shall disinfect the balls they throw in each inning.
- The on-deck batter or a player assigned by the offensive team will wear gloves and be responsible for picking up the bat after it is used. If players are sharing a bat, the bat should be sanitized between uses.
- Players will need to supply their own individual water.
- No sunflower seeds, chewing tobacco or spitting will be allowed.
- Any gatherings of teams or players before or after games will need to follow personal distancing recommendations of being 6 feet apart.

## Reporting coronavirus exposure is mandatory

- If a player or manager develops COVID 19, and could have been contagious at a league event, the player shall notify his or her manager as soon as possible after learning of a positive COVID test.

**The manager should report this information** to the conference coordinator AND board member Rocky Osborn, who chairs the league's safety committee. Osborn's phone is 913-237-1526. Osborn will report the exposure to the board of directors; to all managers whose players may have been exposed to the sick player; to the appropriate parks and recreation department; and to the appropriate county health department.

## Personal hygiene

- Most important: Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose – with a tissue, if possible – when coughing or sneezing, then properly discard the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing or sneezing or who is otherwise sick. People who exhibit COVID 19 symptoms will be asked to leave the park.
- Wash your hands often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that

contains at least 60% alcohol.

- Bathrooms users are capped at the number of stalls plus one person who can be waiting for an open stall. Everyone else should wait outside.

## Some should stay home

It is recommended that these people avoid coming to the ballpark:

- Anyone with an underlying medical condition that would classify them as “high risk.”
- Anyone who shows any signs of sickness.
- Anyone who answers yes to any of the following questions:
  1. Have you had symptoms of fever and cough, shortness of breath now or in the last 2-14 days?
  2. Have you or has anyone in your household been to, or had contact with someone that has visited any of the restricted travel advisory locations listed on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) site within 14 days?
  3. Have you had close contact with anyone in the past 14 days who has been diagnosed with COVID?

***We will be enforcing these safety measures so that we can get back on the fields in the safest way for all of our players and officials. We will be ejecting any player or guest who refuses to follow these safety rules for the good of everyone else in the park.***