

# 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 June 2<sup>nd</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) All bleachers will be removed from or roped off in the complex. Spectators should bring their own chairs and umbrellas and will be expected to follow the 6 ft social distancing guidelines.
- 2) Dugouts – The teams will not be allowed to use dugouts for seating or storage of equipment, and they should only be used as a walkway to the field. The following options are available for teams to use as dugout space:
  - Teams will have the option to sit with their parents or teams will be allowed to set up areas for players to sit as long as they are 6 feet apart. These areas would include where the bleachers have been removed or down the foul lines, beyond the dugouts outside of the fence.
  - All teams - When teams are batting, a coach may be stationed around the dugout opening and will organize the players for their turn in the batting order. Teams will be allowed to have an “in the hole batter” ready to go stationed just inside the dugout area to help keep the batting order moving. When teams are in the field, coaches will be allowed to be on the fence by the end of the dugout (maximum three coaches). Any unsportsmanlike behavior may result in coaches being removed from the field area.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Warmups – teams must maintain the 6 ft social distancing guidelines before, during & after warmups.
- 6) No team huddles. Communication with the team needs to follow social distancing guidelines.

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7) 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.

8) An additional 15 minutes will be built into the schedule between games to allow for teams to exit the complex prior to the next teams entering.

9) No sunflower seeds will be allowed at the complex.

10) Bathrooms will be open and cleaned frequently. Water fountains will not be available.

11) During weather delays all players and parents will need to go their cars. The head coach or a representative for each team may remain in the complex to alert their team when it's safe to return to the field.

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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) Teams are encouraged to provide and display hand sanitizer for their team 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.