

Palm Creek Softball League

Covid-19 Rules

Fall Season 2020

Palm Creek 2020 Fall / Winter 2021 Softball COVID 19 Rules

Our goal is to practice safety, social distancing and have fun at all times. It is the responsibility of each player to supply their own hand sanitizer and water. Each player has the option to wear a face mask and gloves when on offense or defense. **The exception, for everyone's protection is that, when a player is at bat or running the bases they are REQUIRED to wear a face mask** (Batter/Runner will be breathing hard running the bases and players in the field may not have a mask on).

All players, manager and coaches are required to maintain a social distance of 6 feet. Put simply, you must be 6 feet apart if it is at all possible.

A maximum of four (4) players shall be in the dugout based on their turn at bat and must remain 6 feet apart. The other players should stand or sit outside of the dugout along the first and third base fences and maintain social distancing.

Players should use their own batting gloves and fielding gloves. **All players are REQUIRED to wear batting gloves on each hand while at bat** (Batters will be sharing bats).

The on deck batter will be responsible to pick up the bat after a batter has dropped it on the ground.

There will be no tagging of base runners or sliding. If a runner is tagged (**by accident**), the runner will be considered safe. The defensive player will be reminded that there is no tagging and play resumes. No arguments! Avoid collisions at all times

The catcher should remain at least 6 ft from the batter. Normal league rules are in force for plays at the plate.

Social distancing should be practiced as much as possible at each of the bases.

We will use one umpire during the games and the umpire does not need to be close to the batter or the catcher around home plate nor first, second or third bases on the field. The umpire can stand in any location they choose that is at least six feet from the players. If the umpire feels their health/safety is in jeopardy because social distancing guidelines are not being followed, he/she can terminate the game and leave the

field. The offending teams, players, managers and/or coaches will be reported to the league.

All players should use their hand sanitizer to clean their hands throughout the game. Players are encouraged to not touch their face, mouth or other players from the time they arrive at the ball park until they leave the ball park.

After the completion of each game there will be no congregating near the pitchers rubber to congratulate the opposing team or perform a team ceremony of high fives, fist bumps or hand shakes. Simply yell congratulations to the other team as everyone leaves the infield.

We will not encourage visitors to watch the games. Players who are not on one of the teams playing a game will be considered a visitor. All visitors should sit in an area that is not near the teams playing their game. Visitors should maintain social distancing while sitting in their chairs, standing while watching the game or sitting in any seats or bleachers belonging to the park near the playing field.

When the next two teams arrive for their game we ask that they warm up but not congregate. There is plenty of room for the players to practice social distancing. Players are encouraged to only show up at the ball field 30 minutes before their scheduled game.

There will be no sale or supply of beverages or food during or after the game. We will ask players to leave the ballpark immediately after the completion of their game. It will be the team manager's responsibility to make sure this practice takes place.

A new ball will be used for each game and each team will use their own ball(s). Each team manager will be supplied balls at the beginning of the season for this purpose. The defensive team shall supply their pitcher with balls as needed for continuance of play as maybe required. If a ball goes out of play the defensive team will supply a substitute ball to their pitcher.

After the completion of each game, it will be the responsibility of each team manager/coach to disinfect the bench, bat rack, glove racks, dugout gate(s) and fence rails along the outside of the dugout before the next team enters the dugout. It is the responsibility of each manager to see this duty is performed. Oncoming game coaches should instruct their teams to allow the dugouts to remain empty for 5 minutes after the prior coach has completed the disinfectant procedures to allow the surfaces to dry. There will be disinfectant in the dugout for this function.

If you do not feel well, develop any symptoms that might be associated with a potential Covid infection or knowingly have been exposed to anyone who is Covid positive you should not play ball for the health and safety of all players and their families.

We are playing these games to have fun yet promote safety for all of us on a cooperative basis. If you don't feel you can abide by these rules, that's fine, wait until there are no Covid rules before you decide to play.

Have fun and stay safe.