

Softball Game Procedures

Game Days and Time:

- Will be determined by each league – Red, White, Blue, Saturday – check schedules online once posted.

Check-in Entrance and Exit Location:

- Players are to line up in designated spots behind the 1st Base dugout (outside the fence) for Home Team and behind the 3rd Base dugout (outside the fence) for the Visiting Team.
- There will be duct tape on the concrete 6 feet apart. There will be a fence set up on each side where to start and players should not go past that gate until it is moved by those doing the check-in when they are ready.
- Home Team Players and Monitors will check-in on the Home Team/1st Base side Entrance which will be behind home plate to the right.
- Visiting Team Players, Umpires and Scoreboard person will check-in on the Visiting Team/3rd Base side Entrance which will be behind home plate to the left.
- Home Team will exit through the fence by the Water Fountain on the 1st Base side. Visiting Team will Exit through the same entrance they came in through.
- If you leave the field, make sure you notify a monitor as the fence will be closed. You have to re-enter through the designated entrance. The same monitor that you notified you were leaving can let you back in without a re-check in or having your temperature re-checked.

Player Requirements:

- Must register for League Play prior to being allowed on the field.
- Must answer YES to the Waiver Acknowledgement. Even if you have already done so with Sun City Grand directly. Due to issues getting a response when you go through Sun City Grand this will cover you but only for Softball. (for September Games this was done at Registration)
- Must answer YES to the Procedures Acknowledgement. The Procedures were sent out to Club Members on Saturday June 6th and will also be posted on the Club Website. Everyone needs to read and abide by all procedures.
- Must be a member in good standing with dues current.
- Social Distance in Dugout and Stands....we recommend each team designates a seat for each player and then that is theirs for the entire game....5 in stands, 4 chairs, 2 on bench in dugout so you are not sitting where someone else sat.
- Players on the field will be properly spaced following social distancing guidelines. During action, close calls and collisions are inevitable. Players should try to avoid any and all collisions when running the bases, fielding balls, etc. Veer away from any other players even if that means you do not make the play.
- There will be a “no-contact, no-handshake policy”. This includes all physical contact (high fives, fist bumps, pats on back, spitting, spitting in gloves) - includes post-game handshakes between members of opposing teams.

Player Assignments:

- Players registered will be assigned/drafted onto a team (11 or 12 player teams)
- No Practice or Practice games will be allowed.

Beginning of Game Rules:

- Players must check in before playing – temperature will be taken
 - Do not enter the facility except via the designated ENTRANCE and without the following two items being completed (maintain social distancing when checking in):
 - Check in via Game Rosters for that day - Club needs to track everyone at the field. This includes Players, Scoreboard Operator, Scorekeepers, Monitors, Commissioners.
 - Temperatures must be under 100.0 F or will be sent home. If you are 100.0 F or over you will be asked to go sit quietly in your car for 5 minutes and then have your temperature rechecked.
- Players/Monitors/Umpires/Scoreboard personnel all need to re-check-in as we have to keep a record for each game if they are assigned or playing the second game. Temperature may be optional if already checked.
- If you are not on the Check-in list for the current Game, the appropriate Commissioner must be notified and approved adding you to the Check-in sheet (temperature will need to be checked)
- Masks to be worn at all times when not on the field. Home Plate Umpire must wear a mask when on the field. Shields are not allowed except for the Home Plate Umpire but a mask is still required.
- Bat Bags can be hung on the fence past the bat rack but must keep 6 feet apart. There is not a lot of space on the visiting side so the fence in front of the stands and dugout can be used – again keeping 6 feet apart. Keep the bags low to the ground so players sitting can watch the game. Home Team, has more room down the right field line, but can also use the fence in front of the dugout and stands if desired.
- A bucket of sanitized balls will be available for warm ups.
- Do not use any other balls other than what are provided.
- The 6 feet of the dugout bench closest to the gate to the field will be used for the First Aid Kit, Defibrillator, etc. and can be used by the batter in the hole (as long as they are social distanced from other players on the bench.
- Early (1st) Game
 - Players can arrive any time prior to the game time (but cannot leave the parking lot unless personnel have arrived to check you in).
 - Warm up on the field on each side of the field depending on the team you are on
 - Return used balls to second bucket to be sanitized
- Bucket of balls will be sanitized between games
- All Other Games
 - Players are not to arrive at the field until the scheduled Check-in time (posted scheduled). Teams will be given 15 minutes to warm up depending on when the 1st game ends. Check-in will begin as soon as possible. If you arrive early you cannot leave the parking lot until the first game is over and the players have exited and personnel are ready to check you in.
 - Monitors will provide green light for teams to enter Dugout, Stands and Field.
 - Warm up on the field on each side of the field depending on the team you are on. Home Team only can warm up on the grass area if they wish to using Social Distancing at all times. You must wear your mask since you will not be on the field.
 - Return used balls to second bucket to be sanitized

Game Rules:

- Players WILL wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when not on the field. When coming off the field they must be on before leaving the field. The team batting must have mask on until they are actually on the field to bat, on the field waiting to bat as the on-deck batter or on the field as one of the base coaches.
- 60-minute Game Clock will be used
- No extra innings will be played – if tied at the end of regulation that game is a tie.
- 1 New Game Ball will be provided
- 2 Other Game Used Balls will be used – they will be sanitized before games start
- Balls will be cleaned as needed on the field
- No Infield Practice except for the first inning. No balls other than game balls will be available inside the fence. Balls used for infield will be from the sanitized ball bucket and will be returned to home plate to be put back in the second bucket to be sanitized.
- A 6-foot arc will be drawn behind home plate from the center of home plate. The catcher will stand behind that mark until the ball is in play.
- Visiting Team will use Dugout and Stands on the 3rd Base side.
- Home Team will use Dugout and Stands on the 1st Base side.
- Players on the bench/in the dugout must not congregate, and must keep the appropriate distance from the gate to allow players coming off the field (i.e., just ran the bases and breathing heavily) space to enter and adhere to the proper social distancing.
- Teams will be responsible to ensure the proper distancing when going in and out.
- To allow the next In the Hole Batter to move to the dugout bench from the stands, the player or players coming back to the dugout should go up and around the dugout to return to the stands.
- When Batting – All Players are to be in the stands/designated seat except for:
 - Batter who will be on the field
 - On Deck Batter who will be on the field
 - Two Base Coaches
- In the Hole Batter can use the bench in the dugout.
- The batter that is In the Hole or a player assigned by the manager will be responsible for picking up the bat after it is used. They are requested to pick up the bat by the barrel and put it in the bat rack. Do not place in bat warmer.
- All players will use their own bats and gloves and should not share with other players. Players can move their own bat from the bat rack to their bat bag or near their designated seat if it will help them keep track of it. The bat rack can be used.
- Players on the field will be properly spaced following social distancing guidelines. During action, close calls and collisions are inevitable. Players should try to avoid any and all collisions when running the bases, fielding balls, etc. Veer away from any other players even if that means you do not make the play.
- If a Player is injured or ill and cannot continue, a replacement will not be provided. When it is that players turn to bat it will be skipped. No Out will be recorded.
- If a Player is ejected for any reason, a replacement will not be provided. When it is that players turn to bat it will be an automatic out.
- Masks can be removed temporarily for the following reasons:
 - Eat or Drink – but once you take a drink or a bite of food, masks should be put back on immediately
 - Finished running the bases and need to catch your breath – Put it on when you leave the field and social distance from everyone, then remove the mask for a couple minutes and then put it back on and return to your dugout area.

End of Game Rules

- Masks are to be worn at all times once game ends.
- When the first game ends:
 - No hand shake line
 - Leave field immediately
 - Quickly gather equipment
 - Leave the Field, Dugout and Stands immediately (do not change clothes, shoes etc. in the dugout or stands. Exit to the parking lot and change at your car.)
- When the second game ends:
 - No hand shake line
 - All Players should help with Field Closure while keeping proper social distance. Remember to put your mask on as soon as you leave the field (if you are carrying a base, as an example) you can put the base away and then put your mask on.
 - Once everything is put away and locked up, no standing around talking – go to your car with all your equipment and go home.
- Exit through the designated EXIT location (or as instructed by a monitor) to the Parking lot. Any player leaving the field must exit, maintaining proper social distancing

Monitors – Responsibilities

- Four monitors should be assigned per game (they will wear the COVID vests).
- Other monitors not playing are welcome to come and get checked in and help monitor – they will be required to fulfill monitor duties and not just be there to get in early and/or be a spectator.
- Watch that players are abiding by the rules...have masks on when they should etc.
- Even if the monitor is playing and not assigned to the game they should still be on the lookout and remind players to follow the rules.
- All monitors have the authority to enforce but confrontations should be escalated to Monitor Leads or Commissioners
- Monitors should arrive no later than 30 minutes before the first game of the day
- Before any Check-in:
 - Set up folding table (located behind top row seats on the home team side) in the middle of the fencing entrances behind home plate
 - Move the single fence with Home Team Check-in sign (attached) to the duct tape mark behind the Home Team dugout for the Home Team to line up and wait for check-in. Sign should be facing the bathrooms.
 - Move the single fence with the Visiting Team Check-in sign (attached) to the duct tape mark behind the Visiting Team dugout for the Visiting Team to line up and wait for check-in. Sign should be facing the parking lot
 - Remove the Home and Visiting team check-in sheets from the note book and place them on the table on the respected side with pens/pencils to be used to check off the players
 - Place one thermometer by each sheet
 - NOTE:** Need to have spare AA batteries for the thermometers available. Also need a cooling pack on hot days so the thermometers do not overheat.
 - NOTE:** Need to have small bottle of sanitizer for use by the monitors during checking in the thermometer bag.
- Make sure ALL monitors, personnel prepping the field and scorekeepers that arrived prior to the check-in have their temperatures taken and they are checked in on the sheets. If they are not listed, even if they are not staying for the game, should be added.
- If not the first game, make sure the field is cleared and all players exit before allowing players for next game to be checked in.
- Check-in activities
 - Four Monitors will make it easier/quicker – two on the Home Team side. One to take the temperature and one to check them off on the sheet. The other two on the Visitor side. These Monitors should remain the same through the entire check-in process to limit any transfer of germs from the thermometer and the pens/pencils.
 - Temperatures are Pass or Fail. We will not read off the reading unless the player asks.
 - Players should have Mask on or no temperature will be taken and they will not be allowed in.
 - Players should remove their hats, head bands etc. so that access to their forehead is unobstructed.
 - Players should state their name so the other monitor can check them off the list.
 - Anyone not on the sheet must get approval from the lead Monitor or Commissioner to enter. If they are allowed to enter, they must be manually added.
 - Anyone on the sheet that does not show up must be noted that they were absent so there is no confusion on if they did get checked in and just forgot to mark them off.
 - Once all players have been checked in, tell the umpire that the game can start when the appropriate warm up time is complete.
 - After check-in, take the check-in sheets and put them back in the notebook in the back behind previously completed games. Close the fence for entry.
 - Using the sanitizer, wipe down pens/pencils and both thermometers and put them away after each game.
 - Binder with check-in sheets and cooler with thermometer will be placed..... TBD

- Home Team Monitor – Monitor 1
 - Ensure equipment bags are spaced 6 feet apart to facilitate proper social distancing.
 - When team is coming off the field, they should keep their gloves on the field on the edge of the fence. Ensure they are spaced 6 feet apart to facilitate proper social distancing.
 - When team is coming off the field, hold open the gate and remind/ensure players have their masks on before they enter and that they keep proper social distance when leaving the field.
 - When team is batting, do not stay on field, stay in or around the dugout.
 - Ensure mask is on after running the bases.
 - Ensure masks are on by players in the dugout/seats in the stands.
 - Ensure all players on the Home Team side are properly socially distanced.
 - If someone needs to leave the field (i.e., bathroom) let the player out via the fence by the water fountain and let them back in via the same location.
 - Keep fence area by the sidewalk to restrooms clear at all times. This is to allow players to go to the bathroom without having to go around people standing there or is clear for emergency vehicles and personnel.
 - Keep fence area by the water fountain clear at all times. No spectators should stand there to watch the game nor players waiting for the start of the next game.
 - Remind players arriving early to stay in their car, in the parking lot or they can line up in the designated location for the next game behind the Home Team dugout. If they want to watch the game, they can do so on the hill beyond the outfield fence.
 - At the end of the game, ensure players maintain proper social distancing with masks on while PROMPTLY gathering their gear. Exit them through the fence by the water fountain. Remain there until all players have exited and you have closed the fence.
 - If final game of the day, ensure players keep the proper social distancing when closing the field (sweeping the dugout, putting the first aid kit/defibrillator away and locking the gates).
- Visiting Team Monitor – Monitor 2
 - Ensure equipment bags are spaced 6 feet apart to facilitate proper social distancing.
 - When team is coming off the field, they should keep their gloves on the field on the edge of the fence. Ensure they are spaced 6 feet apart to facilitate proper social distancing.
 - When team is coming off the field, hold open the gate and remind/ensure players have their masks on before they enter and that they keep proper social distance when leaving the field.
 - When team is batting, do not stay on field.
 - Ensure masks are on after running the bases.
 - Ensure masks are on by players in the dugout/seats in the stands.
 - Ensure all players on the Visiting Team side are properly socially distanced.
 - If someone needs to leave the field (i.e., bathroom) let the player out via the fence behind home plate and let them back in via the same location.
 - Keep fence area by the water fountain clear at all times. No spectators should stand there to watch the game nor players waiting for the start of the next game.
 - Spectators on the grass area will not be asked to leave. If players for the next game are on the grass area they will be asked to leave.
 - Remind players arriving early to stay in their car, in the parking lot or they can line up in the designated location for the next game behind the Visiting Team dugout. If they want to watch the game, they can do so on the hill beyond the outfield fence.
 - At the end of the game, ensure players maintain proper social distancing with masks on while PROMPTLY gathering their gear. Direct the players to Exit through the fence behind home plate - where they entered. Remain in the Visitor Dugout until all players have exited.
 - If final game of the day, ensure players keep the proper social distancing when closing the field (sweeping the dugout, putting the first aid kit away and locking the gate).

- Roving Monitor - Monitor 3
 - Rove between the Home and Visitor side ensuring Masks are on and players are properly socially distancing.
 - Ensure the fence is closed after check-in
 - Ensure no one is standing outside the fence watching the game – inform them where they need to be if they want to watch the game. If players for the next game are in the area, remind them where they can be prior to their game.
 - Be available to let a player from the visiting leave the field (i.e., bathroom) from the fence behind home plate where they checked in and then wait for them to return to let them back in.
 - Occasionally check players for the next game by going outside the fence and ensure they are lined up behind the fence pieces with the appropriate sign where they are required to be and are socially distancing by standing at the designated spots on the sidewalk.
 - Monitor visiting team after the game at the home plate entrance ensuring they exit and the players for the next game are not trying to enter.
- On Field Monitor – Monitor 4
 - Monitor on field play along with umpires to ensure social distancing when possible. Warn players for spitting (on the field, in their gloves, in their hands) and when licking their fingers,
 - Ensure only game balls are available during the game. Warm up balls, extra balls should be returned to the used ball bucket to be cleaned.
 - Clean balls as needed during game.
 - Ensure bats are handled using the barrel end (unless from the owner of the bat).
 - Ensure the umpire has mask on and on correctly.
 - Ensure catcher is behind the 6-foot mark prior to the ball being put in play.
 - At the end of the final game, ensure players keep proper social distancing during closing activities.
 - Clean balls prior to the next game.
- Other Activities
 - After the final game of the day:
 - Single fence used to tell players where to line up (one for Home and one for Visitor) are to be moved back inside the fence. The Home fence piece should be placed behind the fence piece that touches the home stands. The Visitor fence piece is to be placed behind the fence piece that the table was set up behind. Position is to allow the fence to be opened and closed for bathroom exits and visiting team exit at the end of the game.
 - Break down the folding table and return it to behind the top row seats on the home team side.
 - Any Player, Commissioner, Umpire, Monitor that was checked in for the previous game and will be participating in the next game do not have to exit but they need to go to the monitoring table and ensure they are checked off for the next game.