



## 2020-21 SOFTBALL GUIDELINES & COVID-19 MODIFICATIONS

### Foundational Statement

The following guidelines and modifications were created to allow for the safe participation of student-athletes during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The following guidelines follow best practices and recommendations from the CIF, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and will continue to remain within the scope of all state public health orders. *The suggested NFHS modifications are recommendations only and not to be considered mandatory rule changes.*

SUBSTANTIAL

### General Guidelines

- Masks are recommended to be worn at all times by all individuals participating in the activity, even with heavy exertion as tolerated.
- Social distancing measures shall be in place at all times other than when engaged in competition.

### Event Limitations

- Adhere to local county guidelines.

### Pre-Game Conference

- Limit attendees to Head Coach of both teams and game umpires.
- Participants must maintain social distancing protocols during the conference.
- No line-up card exchange.
- No handshakes.

### Team Dugouts

- Coaches, game personnel and players only permitted in the dugout.
- Social distance requirements must be observed by all in the dugout.
- If the dugout area is not large enough to provide for social distance requirements, players and game personnel may move outside of the immediate dugout area to practice social distance requirements.
- Spectators shall not be permitted near the dugouts and/or the immediate area of the dugout.

### Post-Game Procedures

Replace handshakes after the game with a social distance acknowledgment of the team's choosing.

### Official Scorekeeping Area

Limited to one (1) person from each team and must observe social distance requirements behind the backstop.



### Equipment Sanitation

- Each team provides sanitized balls (bucket) while on defense.
- Have a “dirty” ball bucket available, so they can be sanitized after the game.
- Sanitize bases after each game.

### Equipment & Accessories

- Permissible face coverings are required to be worn at all times by all attendees present.
- Players shall utilize their own equipment bin for all personal gear in the dugout.
- Minimize the sharing of playing equipment (bats, batting helmets and catchers gear). Equipment must be sanitized between usage of multiple players.
- Batting gloves are encouraged to minimize contact with bats, balls and bases.
- Sanitize all equipment and accessories after each game.

### Uniforms

Long sleeves are encouraged to reduce skin contact with the ball and bases.

### Water Bottles & Hydration Stations

- Team members shall not share water bottles.
- Hydration stations may be utilized but shall be touched only by a single appointed monitor.

### Umpires

- No line-up card exchanges.
- Observe social distance requirements when communicating with coaches, players and other umpires.
- Face coverings are required at all times.

### Game Personnel Considerations (coaches, players, umpires)

- No sunflower seeds, spitting or gum.
- Carry hand sanitizer and use frequently.
- If a pitcher puts his/her hands to their mouth and touches the ball, “TIME” is called, the pitcher must sanitize their hands and a new ball is inserted before throwing the next pitch.

### Regional Championships

- All games played at host school sites.
- Championships shall be single elimination.
- No pre-game player introduction assemblies on the foul lines.
- Awards ceremonies will be limited to ensure safe social distancing and to minimize mass gatherings.