



of Massachusetts

Massachusetts Phase 2

2020 Return to Practice COVID-19 Safety Guidelines UPDATED: 06/03/2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected hundreds of thousands of people in many ways. One of the ways is the impact it has had on the softball community, its youth, adults, umpires, and spectators. USA Softball of Massachusetts has developed the following guidelines to help maintain social distancing and safely return to practice.

The safety guidelines herein are to be enforced before, during and after all softball practices by a designated representative of the team/league. These would be in addition to guidelines provided for by the CDC, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, which will be strictly followed to promote social distancing. USA Softball of Massachusetts will not be held responsible should a team/league fail to adhere to these guidelines. Should the local authorities or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts close down a team/league practice for failure to adhere to these guidelines or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Reopening Guidelines, USA Softball of Massachusetts reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including revocation of registration with USA Softball.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Teams are to divide their practices into cohorts/groups of no more than 10 participants, including coaches. For example, one cohort/group can consist of 9 players and 1 coach or 8 players and 2 coaches, so long as there are no more than 10 participants in the cohort/group. A team may have multiple cohorts/groups spaced with a minimum of a 20 foot buffer. The cohort/group must remain together for the entire practice session and no intermingling of players or coaches will be allowed. Participants must maintain 6 feet of social distancing at all times during the practice.

Teams should not enter the softball field while another team is on the field or in the dugout. They are to remain off the field and social distance until the previous team leaves the field and the dugout bench has been sanitized.

There will be no organized games, scrimmages, or tournaments during Phase 2. Umpires are not allowed in Phase 2.

Leagues will designate a representative to ensure social distancing of all participants and spectators during all practices.

Spectators are limited to only the player's parents/guardians. Spectators must go beyond 1st and 3rd bases with social distancing. Bleachers will be marked to show social distancing. Should a family member bring their own chair, they must social distance from the bleachers or other spectators. Spectators may have to wear a face covering per Massachusetts COVID-19 Order #31. (See Figure 1)

Players should have their own helmet, bat, & water bottle. Each catcher should have their own catcher's equipment. Players should refrain from sharing equipment. No communal water coolers.

Players to wear batting gloves as much as possible during practice, especially when handling a bat.

Team/league should have hand sanitizer or wipes available for all participants.

Players and coaches must refrain from any physical gestures of celebrating including but not limited to high fives, fist or elbow bumps.

No seeds or any food that encourages spitting will be allowed.

Dugouts are to be extended outside behind the dugout to the home plate backstop with fencing on both sides to keep spectators separate. This area will be marked for social distancing. No more than 3 to 5 individuals in the dugout (dependent on dugout size). Remainder of players to be in the extended outside dugout area with social distancing. Dugout benches will be marked to show social distancing. (See Figure 2)

Each team will be responsible for sanitizing their dugout bench once their practice has completed.

Face coverings may have to be worn when not on the playing field or in the dugout by all youth participants per Massachusetts COVID-19 Order #31. Adult coaches may have to wear a face covering both on the playing field and off per Massachusetts COVID-19 Order #31.

Players or coaches that are not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms of possible exposure to COVID-19, such as fever should not attend the practice until such time as the player or coach has been tested and/or cleared.

Figure 1

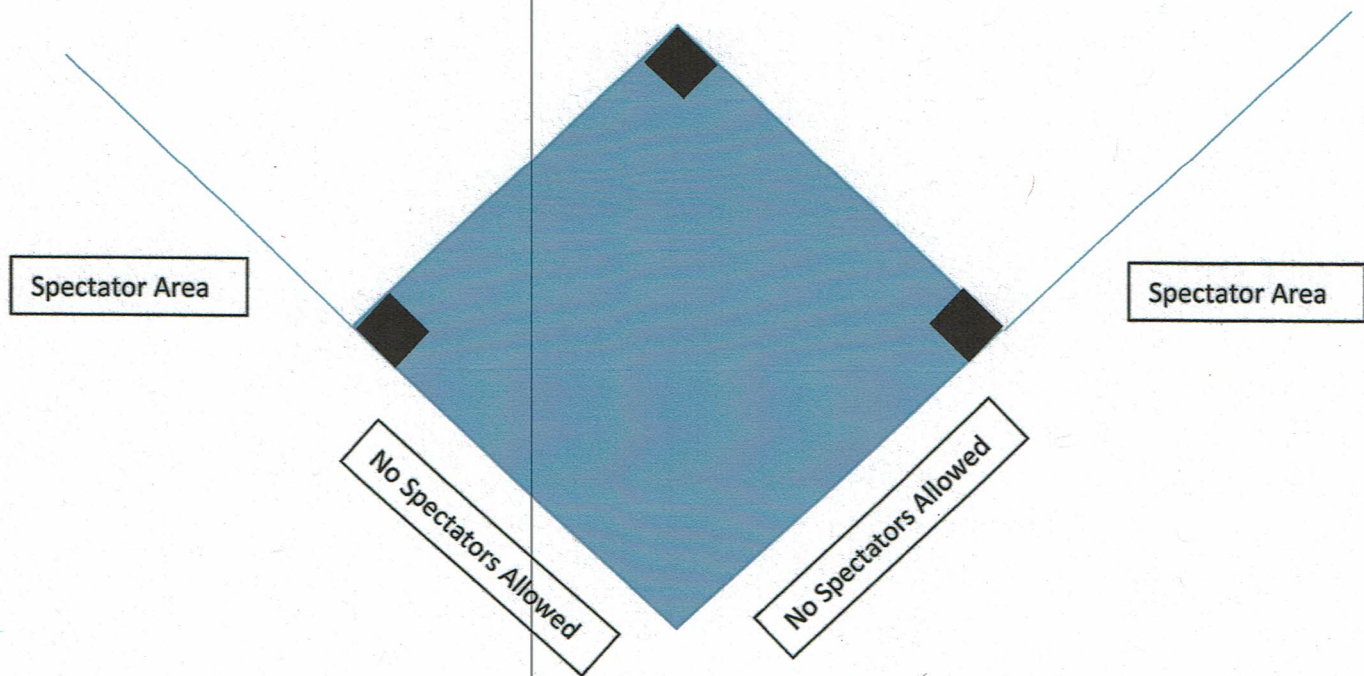
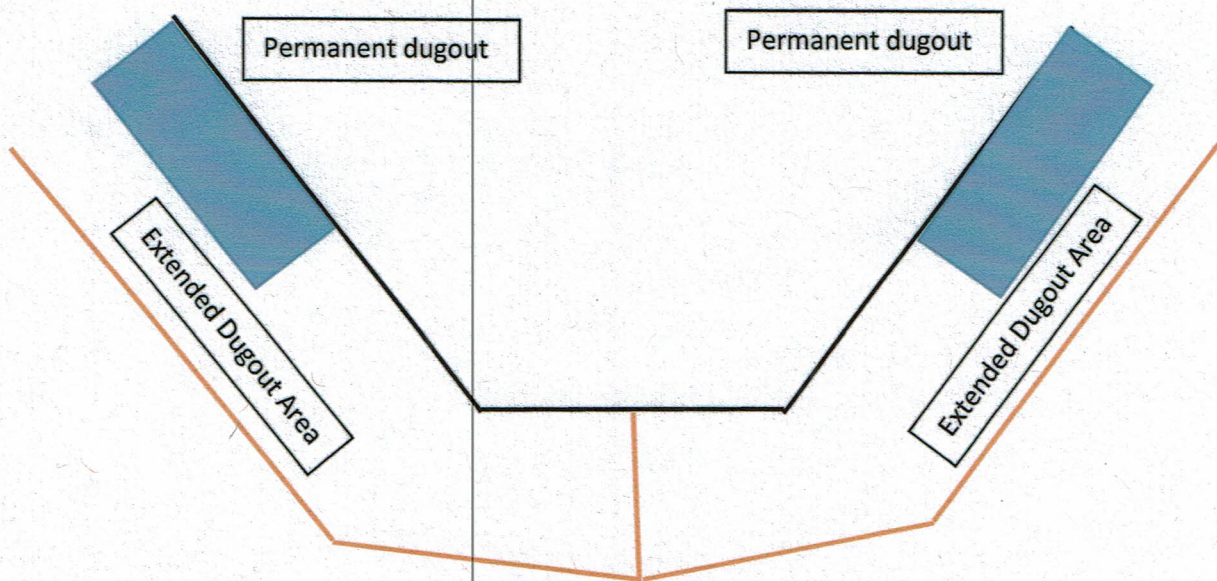


FIGURE 2



**ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT
RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE, COVID-19 LIABILITY, AND COVID-19 RISKS**

The persons to whom this Agreement applies are, as follows:

Adult Participant Name: _____

Minor Participant Name(s): _____ Participant Age(s): _____

(If applicable) Name of Participant's Parent or Legal Guardian signing below: _____

IN CONSIDERATION for myself and/or my children listed above being permitted to utilize the services, utilize the facilities and/or participate in the programs of _____ (the "Organization"), including, but not limited to, observation or use of facilities or equipment, or participation in or acting as a spectator during any program affiliated with the Organization, the undersigned, on behalf of himself or herself and such participating children and any personal representatives, heirs, and next of kin (hereinafter referred to as "the undersigned") hereby acknowledges, agrees and represents that he or she has inspected and carefully considered such premises, equipment, and facilities and has considered the Organization's programs and that the undersigned finds and accepts same as being safe and reasonably suited for the use or participation by the undersigned and such participating children.

In addition, the undersigned acknowledges that novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") infections have been confirmed throughout the United States, including several cases in the undersigned's own State and locality. In accordance with the most recent guidance and recommendations issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), undersigned's own State's Department of Health (DOH) for slowing the transmission of COVID-19, the undersigned hereby agrees, represents, and warrants that neither the undersigned nor such participating children shall visit or utilize the facilities, services, and/or programs of the Organization (other than any exclusively online services and programs) within 14 days after (i) returning from highly impacted areas subject to a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice, (ii) exposure to any person returning from areas subject to a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice, or (iii) exposure to any person who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. The CDC Travel Health Network is continuously updating this list and the undersigned agrees that they are aware of this list and the countries listed. The undersigned agrees to check on a daily basis the CDC Travel Health Notices list (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) prior to participating in or utilizing the facilities, services, and programs of the Organization. The undersigned hereby agrees, represents, and warrants that neither the undersigned nor such participating children shall participate in, visit or utilize the facilities, services, and/or programs of the Organization if he or she (i) experiences symptoms of COVID-19, including, without limitation, fever, cough, loss of sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath, or (ii) has a suspected or diagnosed/confirmed case of COVID-19. The undersigned agrees to notify the

Organization immediately if he or she believes that any of the foregoing access/use restrictions may apply.

The Organization has taken certain steps to implement certain recommended guidance and recommendations issued by public health agencies for slowing the transmission of COVID-19, including, without limitation, the access/use restrictions set forth above. The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that the Organization may revise its procedures at any time based on updated recommended guidance and recommendations issued by public health agencies and further agrees to comply with the Organization's revised procedures prior to utilizing the facilities, services, and/or prior to participating in the programs of the Organization. The undersigned further acknowledges and agrees that, due to the nature of the facilities, services, and programs offered by the Organization, social distancing of 6 feet per person among children and their fellow participants or others is not always possible. The undersigned fully understands and appreciates both the known and potential dangers of participating in the programs and/or utilizing the facilities and services of the Organization and acknowledges that use thereof by the undersigned and/or such participating children may, despite the Organization's reasonable efforts to mitigate such dangers, result in exposure to COVID-19, which could result in quarantine requirements, serious illness, disability, and/or death.

IN FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF BEING PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAMS, THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:

THE UNDERSIGNED, ON HIS OR HER BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF SUCH PARTICIPATING CHILDREN, HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE the Organization or its national governing body organization, or any of their respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers and agents, or any of the fellow participants or their family members or guests from all liability to the undersigned or such participating children and all personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin of the undersigned or such participating children for any loss or damage, and any claim or demands on account of any property damage or any injury to, or an illness or the death of, the undersigned or such participating children (or any person who may contract COVID-19, directly or indirectly, from the undersigned or such participating children) *whether caused by the negligence, active or passive, of the Organization or otherwise while the undersigned or such participating children are in, upon, or about the premises or any facilities or using any equipment of or participating in any program of or affiliated with the Organization.* To the extent such statute applies, the undersigned also expressly and knowingly waives all rights under California Civil Code Section 1542, which provides: "A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party."

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS the Organization or its national governing body organization, or any of their respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers and agents, and each of them, from any loss, liability, damages or costs they may incur, *whether caused by the Organization's negligence, active or passive, or*

otherwise while the undersigned or any participating child is participating in any program of the Organization or in, upon, or about the premises or any facilities or equipment affiliated with the Organization. The undersigned understands and agrees that the Organization is not required to provide insurance to cover the undersigned or such participating children in the event they suffer illness, injury, death, property loss, theft or damage of any sort upon, or about the premises or any facilities or equipment therein or while participating in any program affiliated with the Organization.

The undersigned agrees and acknowledges that use of the Organization facilities and services, and participation in the Organization programs, may involve inherent danger and risk, including, without limitation, the risk of physical illness or injury, death or property damage. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND RISK OF ILLNESS, BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE to the undersigned or such participating children due to negligence, active or passive, or otherwise while in, about or upon the premises of the Organization and/or while using the premises or any facilities or equipment thereon and/or while participating in or observing any program affiliated with the Organization. The undersigned acknowledges that any illness or injuries that the undersigned or such participating children contract or sustain may be compounded by negligent first aid or emergency response of the Releasees and waive any claim in respect thereof.

THE UNDERSIGNED further expressly agrees that the foregoing ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the laws of the State in which the undersigned resides or participates and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AND FURTHER AGREE THAT NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OR INDUCEMENT APART FROM THE FOREGOING WRITTEN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE. I AM AWARE THAT BY AGREEING TO THIS AGREEMENT I AM GIVING UP VALUABLE LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO RECOVER DAMAGES FROM THE ORGANIZATION IN CASE OF ILLNESS, INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE, INCLUDING, FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT AND WITHOUT LIMITATION, EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AT ANY ORGANIZATION FACILITY OR DURING PARTICIPATION IN ANY PROGRAM AND ANY ILLNESS, INJURY OR DEATH RESULTING THEREFROM. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS A PROMISE NOT TO SUE AND A RELEASE OF AND INDEMNIFICATION FOR ALL CLAIMS. IF SIGNING ON BEHALF OF MINOR: I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS MADE ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR CHILD(REN) AND/OR LEGAL WARD(S) AND I REPRESENT AND WARRANT TO THE ORGANIZATION THAT I HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF SUCH MINOR(S).

**I have read and understand the terms of this
Assumption of Risk, Release and Waiver of
Liability, and Indemnity Agreement and
agree to its terms.**

Date

Signature

Emergency Contact Name

Emergency Contact Number