



2020-21 Softball Covid -19 - Rule Modifications and Recommendations

With the support from the NFHS Softball Rules Committee and the Canyon Athletic Association, the considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each school, city, and state to help prevent the spread of the virus. Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams. Lastly, the situation with Covid-19 is rapidly changing. These considerations may quickly become outdated. Please keep up with the latest from the CDC and other health officials in your area.

A rule modification is a modification to a playing rule from the governing body of the sport and is a requirement to adhere to and follow. A recommendation is a consideration to the sport and allows for optional guidelines. Recommendations are not required but are permitted.

2020-2021 NFHS RULE MODIFICATIONS

Pre-Game Conference

- Limit attendees to one team captain.
 - Limit attendees to one coach
 - Cloth masks/face coverings must be worn.

- Location of the pre-game conference remains at home plate.
 - All four individuals maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet.

 - Awaiting further updates by NFHS

- Rosters are submitted directly to the umpire. .

Team Dugouts

- Limit bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet.



Substitution Procedures

- Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the players.

Pre and Post Match Ceremony:

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained during the pre-match ceremony.
 - Handshakes and/or fist bumps shall be eliminated before and after the match.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Coaches:

- Face coverings/masks must be worn entering and exiting the facility and only removed on the team dugout area if social distancing is allowed.
- Face covering/mask must be worn when coaching at all times.
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider conducting workouts in “pods” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.
- Sanitize equipment as often as time permits, including warm-up equipment

Recommendations for Students:

- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Face coverings/masks must be worn when entering or exiting the game site.
- Face coverings/masks must be worn while on the bench.
- Cloth face coverings/masks are permitted, if an individual prefers to wear one. Cloth face coverings/masks are not required during play..
- Gloves are permissible.
- Bring your own water bottle.



Recommendations for Officials:

- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently.
- Do not share equipment.
- Follow social distancing guidelines. Consider six feet minimum distance when talking to others (players, coaches, other officials).
- Do not shake hands including in the pre-game and post-game ceremony.
- Face coverings/masks must be worn when entering or exiting the game site.
- Cloth face coverings/masks are permitted, if an individual prefers to wear one. Cloth face coverings/masks are not required.

Recommendations for Parents

(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Spectators are limited to (2) per athlete/coach.
- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home)
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your students' personal equipment after each game or practice.
- Face coverings/masks must be worn at all times at CAA events when social distancing can not be met.