



# Return to Play Guidelines

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## COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for Adult Softball

Our top priority is the safety of participants, umpires, staff, and the community. The following is general information, guidelines, and procedures established to maintain a safe experience. Health and safety guidelines are created in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), King County Public Health, and the Governor's Office. As King County moves through Washington's Phased Approach, the following guidelines may change. Any changes will be communicated to team managers via e-mail.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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- It is the responsibility of all participants to do a health check on themselves. Stay home if you feel sick or are experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscles or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Participants who test positive for COVID-19 may not participate in league play for 14 days from the date the test came back positive. Manager and/or participant should notify the league administration as soon as possible regarding any positive test results.
- Universal mask requirements apply to all participants (players, umpires, coaches, and spectators) as outlined in the [COVID-19 Sporting Activities Guidelines](#) from the Governor's Office. Social distancing of 6ft should be maintained in the dugout and/or on the sidelines.
- Teams should discourage physical contact, including handshakes, high-fives, or hugging.
- As of June 6, 2021 the following applies to Fully Vaccinated Individuals:

*Fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering. Participants are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen).*

*Fully vaccinated individuals are also exempt from physical distancing requirements.*

- Per the Governor's Order, softball is considered a Moderate contact sport. Moderate contact outdoor sports athletes allowed to remove facial coverings for competitions.

*Facial coverings must be worn by athletes when training or when not actively competing in a game or match against another team or when on the bench waiting to play. Coaches, trainers, and officials must wear face coverings at all times.*

- Officials and referees supervising moderate contact outdoor competitions allowed remove their facial coverings if officiating requires them to run in the field of play.

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE FIELD

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- Wait outside of the dugout and allow other teams/players to exit before you enter. Maintain 6ft distancing.
- Teams are responsible for bringing their own hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to wipe down high touch areas and shared equipment.

## DURING THE GAME

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- Maintain 6ft distancing as much as possible and wear face masks when not playing.
- Limit physical contact with other players and umpires.
- Wipe down shared equipment frequently (including softballs, bats, gloves, etc.).
- Switch out softballs between innings to allow for cleaning/sanitizing. Each team will be provided two game balls for each double header and will provide those balls and back-up balls for play while the team is on defense. Umpires will not touch the softballs.
- Umpires are not "COVID Police." They are not to enforce social distancing or mask wearing on the sidelines except to the extent of making sure that participants are maintaining proper social distance and wearing masks when dealing with umpires. Umpires are entitled to request compliance with guidelines and if they do not believe they are safe because of uncorrected participant behavior, they are entitled to abandon the game.

## AFTER THE GAME

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- Avoid inter-team handshakes or high-fives.
- Wear face masks and maintain 6ft distancing as much as possible.
- Wipe down high touch areas in dugouts before leaving.

## IN THE EVENT THAT A PARTICIPANT BECOMES SICK OR TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

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- Participants who test positive for COVID-19 may not participate in league play for 14 days from the date the test came back positive.
- Team managers are responsible for informing league administration about any participant who tests positive for COVID-19 or was sick with COVID-19 symptoms during league play.
- The team with the participant who tests positive for COVID-19 during the season may not be able to participate for 14 days from the date the test came back positive. Team games will be cancelled or rescheduled, according to the league's discretion. Any cancelled games will have a pro-rated refund, less any administrative costs.
- The league will inform all managers in the division that a participant became sick or tested positive for COVID-19.