

2021 Season Code of Conduct – Do Your Part – Help Us Play!

We had a great Summer and Fall baseball and softball season with over 500 games and zero transmission events. We can do it again!

Our overarching goal will be to eliminate the possibility of transmission associated with our baseball and softball programs. In discussions with our scientific colleagues, we note that there are nearly zero confirmed reports of outdoor transmission reported anywhere in the world **when behaviors such as wearing high quality masks and distancing are followed**. This puts us in a great position to continue to reduce the risk associated with baseball and softball to a negligible level. To do this, we will:

1. **Limit close contact to below the CDC threshold for “Close Contacts” (15 min within 6 feet during 24hr) whenever possible.** *Our goal is to have as close to zero Close Contacts as possible this season to achieve two goals: (a) essentially eliminate the possibility of baseball/softball-related transmission, and (b) essentially eliminate the possibility that a team would require quarantine if there is a case with a player on a team. This means that during a game or practice any player should make every attempt to not be within 6 feet of another player for more than 15 minutes in total. If there is a positive case of a WYBS player, WYBS will work with the Wellesley BoH and the school system(s) to make determinations as to any player or coach that requires quarantine. WYBS will therefore work fully and transparently with the Wellesley BoH to follow CDC guidelines for contact tracing and quarantine.*
2. Every player, coach, and spectator are required to wear a mask at all times. The CDC recommends 3-ply masks whenever possible.
3. **Refrain from carpooling.** Only travel with the people you live with.
4. WYBS strongly encourages players and coaches who are eligible for school or employer-sponsored weekly COVID testing programs to participate each and every week.
5. Players can only use equipment they own, with the only exception being catchers equipment. Other than the mask/helmet, catcher’s equipment can be shared among players during games. A single catcher’s helmet can only be used by a single player each game, and must be sanitized by the coach between games.
6. Please continue to follow all federal, state, and local COVID-19 guidelines. **WYBS strongly discourages off-field unmasked interactions (e.g. at home) between players.**

Overall Protocols

- Any player, coach, parent, or spectator showing signs of one or more of the following symptoms associated with COVID-19 must stay at home:
 - Temperature > 100°F (38°C) or higher
 - Cough

- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Masks are required at all times by all players, coaches, and spectators.
- Gaiters are not permitted.
- All players, coaches, parents, and spectators must adhere to at least six-feet of social distancing while at the field and parking lot.
- No loitering before or after games.
- No post-game snacks are permitted.

Player Rules

- Masks are required at all times.
- Players must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices
- Players must not share water or equipment. This includes, but not limited to, water bottles, gloves, bats, hats, and other on- and off-field equipment. Catching equipment may be shared by players except for the mask.
- No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, and parents.
- No spitting or chewing seeds, gum, other similar products.
- If possible, players should apply hand sanitizer before batting and again before taking the field each inning.

Coaches Rules

- Masks are required at all times.
- **One coach or parent will be permanently assigned as Safety/Social Distance Coach for each game.**
- Coaches must always adhere to six-foot social distancing practices.
- No spitting or chewing seeds, gum, or other similar products.
- No touch rule – coaches should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with team members, opposing players, coaches, and parents.
- Social distancing in the dugout or bench must always be observed.

Spectator Rules

- Masks are required at all times.
- Spectators must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices. This includes in and around bleachers and/or benches for anyone not in the same family.
- Spectators must not enter player areas (on the field of play or bench areas).

Game Play Protocols

Ball Management

- During coach pitch session, batting team provides balls.
- During kid pitch session, field team provides balls.

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2021 Season – COVID Protocols

Last Updated: March 1, 2021

- During T-ball session, batting team provides balls.
- If a net is placed behind homeplate to collect balls missed by the batter; a coach is responsible for taking balls out of the net and returning them to the pitching area.

Batting Management

- Only player allowed to hold a bat is the batter.
- Player must wear their own helmet and label it with their name.
- Batting gloves are recommended.

In the Dugout Management

- Masks are required in the dugout/bench area
- Social distancing in the dugout or bench must always be observed.
- No touch rule – coaches should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with team members, opposing players, coaches, and parents.
- No spitting or chewing seeds, gum, other similar products.

Umpires

- Per state guidelines, homeplate umpires are allowed to stand at least 6 feet behind the catcher to call balls/strikes.

Practice Protocols

Drill/Practice Management

- Social distancing rules still apply in all settings.
- All batting, fielding, dugout rules apply to all practices.
- Coaches, players, and spectators must follow overall protocols.