NAFA

"Back to the Fields"

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MANAGEMENT PLAN/GUIDELINES

These guidelines are a living document, subject to change at any time due to changes by state, local, and federal governments that are unforeseen and as yet, unknown. Coaches and parents are expected to ensure their behavior and decision making are in line with the most current "NAFA Back to The Fields Guidelines" to ensure compliance and safety.

INTRODUCTION

Local, State & Federal government restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted our lives and our sport. At NAFA we have always worked to provide a safe environment for teams, coaches, and spectators to play and enjoy fastpitch. During these unprecedented times, our mission remains the same. The "Back to The Fields" Guidelines have been prepared based upon current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, as well as those specific to Oregon issued by the Governor and other authorities, to help teams return to the fields while also adhering to and observing the Social Distancing guidelines, rules, and recommendations. There is a certain amount of assumed risk in playing softball; however, COVID-19 creates potential new risks. While guidelines are established and put into action, there will still be times when social distancing measures will not always be possible during the course of a tournament. Inherent risks, which all participants need to acknowledge and assume, are unavoidable and while reasonable measures are being taken by NAFA directors and staff, a liability waiver must be signed for all coaches, players, and spectators who attend a NAFA event.

NAFA understands the passion and desire to get back on the fields, however, until there is a vaccine, cure, or treatment found for COVID-19, we strongly recommend that players, coaches, and all spectators adhere to the guidelines and safety precautions presented herein. The information and guidelines are not meant to replace those given, at any time, by the CDC or other governing bodies, nor should they replace any professional medical advice, or opinions. NAFA does not assume any liability or responsibility for the recommendations herein. Further, NAFA does not assume any liability or responsibility for the health or safety, specifically in regards to the contraction of COVID-19 or any medical issues related to the contraction of COVID-19, by any player, coach, spectator or staff who choose to participate in a NAFA event. Members of the community who have been determined by the CDC, or their medical professional, to be 'high-risk' should continue to shelter in place and not participate in attending a NAFA event during this time.

In accordance with state guidelines, information will be requested and kept as needed for use in contact tracing.

Every player and coach participating in a NAFA 2020 Camp or Tournament must sign the waiver of liability specific to the risks of COVID-19. This is in addition to the standard NAFA waiver required for play.

General Health COVID-19 Back To The Fields Guidelines:

1) Staff, players, coaches, and spectators are strictly prohibited from entering the complex or participating in any NAFA event if they have any COVID-19 like symptoms.
2) No one may attend or participate in a NAFA 2020 Camp or Tournament if they or anyone in their household have recently had an illness with fever or a new cough. They should remain home for at least 10 days after illness onset and until 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever-reducing medicine, and COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhea) are improving.
3) Players, parents, coaches, spectators, participants, umpires and all staff must self-certify their health and absence of a fever prior to entry to the complex.
4) ALL players, coaches, parents, spectators, participants, umpires, and staff are restricted from participation in a NAFA 2020 Camp or Tournaments if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days.
5) You must not attend the field, or drop off a player, if you have a temperature over 100.4, are sick, or have any symptoms, or have had any combination of these within the prior 14 days. You must be fever free without the aid of fever-reducing medicines AND improvement of other symptoms including any respiratory symptoms for AT LEAST 3 days (72 hours); AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
6) IF a player, coach, or parent has tested positive for COVID19, with symptoms, prior to attending a NAFA event they CANNOT return to the field with NAFA until: full resolution of fever for at least 3 days (72 hours) without the aid of fever-reducing medicines; AND, improvement of respiratory symptoms; AND, you have received TWO negative tests taken 24 hours apart.
7) IF a player, coach, or parent has tested positive for COVID19 while asymptomatic, they CANNOT return to the field with NAFA until: 10 full days have pass since the date of their first positive COVID10 diagnostic test; OR, they test negative for COVID-19 two tests taken 24 hours apart.
8) Should any player, coach, parents, spectator, participant, participant, umpire, or staff member test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending a NAFA event, they must notify their team coach and NAFA officials.
9) Current Oregon State Guidelines suggest high-risk populations should stay home: age 65 and older; chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma; serious heart conditions; immunocompromising conditions including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplant, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, or prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications; severe obesity (BMI 40 or higher); diabetes; chronic kidney disease or undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or other conditions or risk factors identified by the OHA, CDC or other licensed health professionals.
10) Wash and sanitize your hands frequently and properly.
11) As defined by the State of Oregon OHA 2288K: A 'face covering' means a cloth, paper, or disposable face covering for the mouth and nose; a 'mask' means a medical-grade mask; a 'face shield' means a clear plastic shield that covers the foreheads and extends below the chin.

12) Comply with all current social distancing measures including face mask/coverings, staying 6 feet apart from people not living in your home.

    - People with certain health conditions for whom wearing a face mask/covering isn't possible and children 12 & younger are exempt from the requirement but encouraged to participate in other social distancing measures. Children 2 yrs & younger should never wear a face mask/covering.

13) Teams, and anyone associated with the team, MUST LEAVE the complex if their game is not a doubleheader, this is a requirement to maintain the appropriate guest count based on government recommendations in Phase 2 (Maximum of 250 guests per facility).

NAFA Face Mask/Covering Policy:

1) NAFA employees are required to wear a face mask/covering at all times when interacting with the public; except for:
    - Face mask/coverings are not required if the employee is doing heavy labor.
    - State and federal disabilities laws if applicable, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which protects people with disabilities from discrimination in employment and requires employers to engage in the interactive process for accommodations. State and federal public accommodations laws that provide all persons with full and equal access to services, transportations, and facilities open to the public.

2) Players/Coaches/Spectators are required to wear a face mask/covering at all times within the facility gates; except for:
    - Children aged 12 years and younger, who are spectators, are not required to wear a mask, but are strongly encouraged to do so, changing the face mask/covering if visibly soiled, and worn with the assistance and close supervision of an adult.
    - Children aged 2 years and younger should never wear a mask.
    - State and federal disabilities laws, if applicable, including the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) which protects people with disabilities from discrimination and provides that all persons with full and equal access to services and facilities open to the public.
        - People who state a health concern, medical condition, or disability which prohibits them from wearing a face mask/covering will be encouraged to sit outside the home run fence, however, if the is room with the teams 25 person field limit, they cannot be prohibited from entry.

Phase 2 Game Play Adjustments:

3) Each facility may only house up to 250 people as per PHASE 2 guidelines. At CRATER, this means a TEAM MAXIMUM of 25 bodies; at JAQUITH this means a TEAM MAXIMUM of 25 – combined players, coaches, spectators. Please contact NAFA for field maximums for other facilities. **Players + Coaches + Score Keeper + Spectators = 25.**
4) The catchers' feet shall be BEHIND the chalk line drawn 3 feet from the back tip of home plate to provide the required space between the batter and the catcher.
5) The back 3 feet of the batter's box shall be removed and a line drawn to provide the required space between the batter and the catcher.
6) Plate Umpire will stand 6 feet behind the pitcher, or 6 feet behind the catcher at his discretion.
7) Swipe tags only. No prolonged contact to minimize physical contact between players.
8) Third base coach is to retrieve the bat & place inside dugout.
9) Pitchers will NOT leave the ball in the circle, but instead, take their ball back to their dugout to be sanitized as often as the coach feels necessary.
10) Coaches must stay 6 feet away from a runner they wish to talk to during or after suspension of play (at first/third or in the circle).
11) Inside the dugout, behind the dugout and first row of bleachers shall be used by the team with players & player equipment spaced 6 feet apart (when possible).
12) If not possible, players may be outside the dugout, distanced 6 feet apart, down foul territory so long as it is safe. They should have their batting helmet on in this area during a live game.
13) Coaches and players must remain in their cars until 15 min. prior to their scheduled game time; OR, teams may warm up at Crater park 30 min. prior to game time at the football fields please observe social distancing.
14) The event of a 'home-run' players may NOT congregate at home plate.
15) There will be no coaches meeting or plate talk. There shall be **NO** player huddles.
16) High-fives or post-game handshakes are not allowed.
17) NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS, OR SEEDS, OR SPITTING OF ANY KIND.
18) Any spectators allowed MUST remain in their cars until 10 min. prior to game time.
19) Team and all spectators associated with the team MUST LEAVE the field and/or the complex at the conclusion of the game: **no team meetings**. If there is a doubleheader, you must move swiftly to the next field.
20) Coaches should register their full roster: if a player chooses not to play during earlier Phase restrictions, they will be allowed to play in any future games so long as they remain on the original roster.

PLAYERS

1) When playing, face masks/coverings are optional.
2) When not playing, face masks/coverings are required to enter/exit the complex, in passing areas, walkways, and the dugout; i.e. anytime they are not in active play.
    - While the State mandate for children under age 12 does not require face mask/covering, it is highly encouraged. For the purposes of tournament and the safety of others, players of all ages who have signed up for play with NAFA agree, in advance, to wearing face mask/covering.
3) Must have a personally labeled water bottle.
4) NO TEAM COOLERS; NO sharing of snacks or water.
5) Are not allowed to share their gear with any player, any shared bats must be wiped down after use.
6) May not lick their fingers during play (pitchers/batters/etc).
7) Are advised not to touch their face.
8) Allowed to bring a bucket for use and seating as they must spread out 6 feet apart from other coaches and players down the line, into foul territory in lieu of a dugout.
9) Must maintain 6 feet social distance from coaches & teammates at times that they can.
10) Must sanitize all gear: helmet, bat, metal/plastic face mask before each game.
11) Recommended to have their own hand sanitizer & sanitizing wipes for use during the game.
12) Should **not** play, or enter the ballpark, if they have a temperature over 100.4, are sick, or are experiencing any symptoms. (*Please see Health Guidelines above*).

COACHES

1) Are responsible for self-certifying their own health, as well as the health of other coaches, and players.
    - Asking a player or the players' parent: Does the player have a fever? Have any flu-like or COVID related symptoms? Does anyone in the home have a current COVID diagnosis?
2) When on the field face mask/covering is optional.
3) While not in active play, must wear a face mask/covering at all times.
4) Gloves are allowed and should be changed frequently and between games.
5) Are responsible for knowing and understanding current guidelines as well ensuring they have reviewed the most up-to-date information available.
6) Required to adhere to current NAFA Coach Guidelines.

7) Required to share requirements and guidelines with parents and players to ensure adherence.
8) Must have passed a NAFA Background Check.
9) Must have submitted concussion certification.
10) **Understand that failure to adhere may result in termination of play.**

Dugout Guidelines

1) Dugouts are "closed", but can house 2-3 players IF 6ft. social distancing can be maintained.
2) Players MUST fan out along the fence going out either side of the dugout, in front of the bleachers taking up the first row of the bleachers, or behind the dugout.
3) If players occupy the bleachers, spectators are NOT allowed on the bleachers.
4) Bat bags/Catcher bags MUST be placed 6 ft. apart and gear MUST NOT touch.
5) NO TEAM COOLERS
6) NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS, or seeds of any kind.

Players IN the Dugout

1) Will adhere to all social distancing at all times that they can.
2) Players should use hand sanitizer or wash their hands every time they come in from the field.
3) Players, of all ages, MUST be wearing a face mask/covering when on the pine, cheering, or standing in the dugout.
    - While the State mandate for children under age 12 does not require face mask/covering, it is highly encouraged. For the purposes of tournament and the safety of others, players of all ages who have signed up for play with NAFA agree, in advance, to wearing face mask/covering.
4) Players, who are preparing to join the game, i.e. putting on catchers gear or on deck for batting, do not need to be wearing a face mask/covering.
5) Players may wipe down their gear with their own wipes as often as they like.
6) Players are not allowed to share helmets, batting gloves, or face masks; any shared bats MUST BE SANITIZED.
7) Player should use hand sanitizer before leaving the dugout and taking the field.

Umpires (Tournament, Not Camp)

1) Umpires are allowed to wear gloves and face mask/coverings.
2) Umpires will NOT handle softballs if they are not wearing gloves.

3) Plate Umpire may be stationed 6 feet behind the pitcher without plate equipment, or 6 feet behind the catcher with plate equipment.
4) Umpires should stay 6 feet away from all players and coaches during all duties.

SPECTATORS

Phase 1: from May 15th, 2020 until Phase 2

1) No spectators are allowed within the gate.
2) The passive park areas are not monitored by NAFA. While NAFA has no control over joggers, walkers, or people in passive park areas, it is recommended that they remain at least 6 feet apart from others when in these spaces.

Phase 2: from June 6th, 2020

Current guidelines can change at any time, however:

Current PHASE 2 Guidelines allow for 250 people or less inside each facility. For some fields, this will limit or prohibit spectators. Please look for your field below or contact NAFA for specifics.

CRATER: Maximum of 25 bodies per team, players/coaches/scorekeepers/spectators combined.

JAQUITH: Maximum of 25 bodies per team, players/coaches/scorekeepers/spectators combined.

Keizer: Maximum of 50 bodies per team, players/coaches/scorekeepers/spectators combined.

Billick: Maximum of 50 bodies per team, players/coaches/scorekeepers/spectators combined.

1) Must bring their own chairs: no sitting on the bleachers.
2) Must sit 6 feet apart and adhere to social distancing measures as instructed at all times, including entering the park, during live action, and leaving the park.
3) Spectators are asked to observe the current state guidelines for social distancing measures including face mask/covering, sitting 6' apart from people outside their home, avoid congregating, etc.
4) Are advised to bring their own hand sanitizer, and use it frequently.
5) Passive park areas & green spaces around the fields are NOT monitored by NAFA, we recommend adhering to current social distancing guidelines in these areas.
6) **Are advised that failure to observe any suggested NAFA guidelines, local, state, or federal guidelines regarding social distancing may result in expulsion from the event or future events.**

COMPLEX/FIELD

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS STAFF

1) Shall wear face mask/covering and gloves at all times.
2) All staff is required to practice healthy hygiene including washing their hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap, and covering any sneezes or coughs.
3) Will perform cleaning of routine and frequent bathrooms and high-touch-surfaces after every two rounds. (11, 2:30 & 6)
4) One person shall be designated to monitor players, coaches, and spectators to help ensure and encourage continual and consistent adherence to current social distancing guidelines.
5) Will develop, and keep current, a Communicable Disease Management Guidelines which also limits the number of spectators in line with current local, state, and federal requirements.
6) Attempt to clearly communicate these requirements thorough distribution of these Guidelines to all coaches prior to a tournament, as well as through social media outlets, and signage at the event.
7) Will create and maintain an area specific for the isolation and care of anyone who becomes ill during the course of an event, including a plan to safely and quickly remove the individual from public space and general contact.
8) Will keep active and current records needed for contact tracing.

ENTERING & EXITING THE PARK & PARKING LOT

PHASE 2:

1) Players must be dropped off/picked up in parking lot
2) Players need to wait for their Coach & enter through main entrance maintaining 6 feet social distancing from each other.
3) Teams may not arrive at their Field until 15 min. prior to start time.
4) Teams may warm up 30 min. prior to start time in the CRATER football field while observing social distancing from other teams.
5) Teams and all the teams' spectators must vacate their Field within 10 min. of their end time.
6) Teams must EXIT the facility as they entered, wearing a face mask/covering, and while keeping 6 feet social distancing.

Concessions

1) Set 6 feet apart will be 'X' markers for the concessions line.
2) Where possible a glass divider will separate staff from customers.
3) Only items pre-packaged will be served or sold.
4) Cash payments ONLY, exact change preferred.
5) Concession staff shall wear gloves, and face mask/coverings.

Bathrooms

1) Bathrooms are recommended to have one person at a time, but can accommodate 2 people at one time with social distancing.

References

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State of Oregon, Gov. Brown, K., Oregon Health Authority. *OHA 2351A*: *Phase* 2 *Reopening Guidance – Operators of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Facilities*. Retrieved from: https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2351A.pdf

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (5.02.2020). Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19. Retrieved online: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html

ASSUMPTION OF RISK / WAIVER OF LIABILITY / INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT REGARDING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INCLUDING COVID-19

In consideration of being allowed to participate in a NAFA 2020 Summer Camp, or a NAFA 2020 Tournament, the undersigned acknowledge, appreciate, and agree to the following:

1. Voluntary participation in a Camp or Tournament hosted by NAFA, including both team and individual activities, may result in possible exposure to and/or one or other communicable disease including but not limited to COVID-19. While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist; and,

2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,

3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation as regards protection against infectious diseases. If, however, I observe and any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of a NAFA staff member immediately; and,

4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS NAFA, its officers, directors, officials, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and lessors of premises used to conduct the event (collectively, the "RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IF FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Printed name of participant: _____

Participant signature: Date signed: _____ Team Name/Age: _____

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian, with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and explained the provisions in this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of presence and participation and his/her personal responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations for protection against communicable diseases. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I for myself, my spouse, and child/ward do consent and agree to his/her release provided above for all the Releasees and myself, my spouse, and child/ward do release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees for any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's presence or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent provided by law.

Printed Name of parent/guardian: _____

Parent guardian/signature: Date signed: _____ Phone Number: _____