

**COVID-19 Adult Softball Games**

**GAME GUIDELINES:**

The following guidelines shall be followed by teams, coaches, players, and fans when participating in softball games at any Auburn Recreation Field. The cooperation of everyone involved will prove critical in helping to ensure compliance.

**All teams, coaches, players, parents, and fans:**

* Maintain a minimum of 6 feet social distancing when conducting all activities (e.g., warming up, watching the game, speaking with umpires, using restrooms, walking through venue).
* Dugouts will only be used by a scorekeeper/coach but no players will be allowed to enter and are required to distance themselves from each other during games.
* Teams must exit field immediately following end of game to allow other teams to enter.
* Eliminate all close contact (e.g., handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, hugs).
* Not conduct “good game” handshakes with opponents after games. Instead, in the interest of good sportsmanship, each team should tip their cap/visor or wave to the opponents and umpires from across the field.
* Bring their own sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, etc. and use it frequently throughout games.
* Not attend games if they are ill, displaying signs of illness, deemed high-risk, or the most vulnerable (e.g., senior citizens and others with known medical conditions). Temperature checks at home each day are encouraged.
* Eliminate the sharing of equipment (e.g., helmets, catcher’s gear, bats, gloves), or at minimum, sanitize it thoroughly in between use.
* Avoid contact with your T-zone (eyes, nose, and mouth). For example, do not spit, chew gum, and chew/spit sunflower seeds. Pitchers should not lick their fingers before gripping the ball. Coaches should not touch their faces when giving signs.
* Not throw the ball around the infield after an out is made.
* Not share food and drinks (e.g., team water jugs). Instead, use individual water bottles or jugs that are clearly marked with their names.
* No social gatherings before or after games in parking lots or near the field.
* Games will have less than 50 people involved at once which includes 24 players, 2 umpires and 2 scorekeepers. Spectators will be limited to 6 per team for a total of 12 and be seated away from dugouts and backstops to avoid being near any players. Numbers will be controlled during all games by field monitor.
* Spectator areas will be marked off up the baselines and out of play to avoid being near any players during games. Spectators will also need to distance themselves 6 feet a part from others while attending game.
* Teams must clean up their trash and wipe down all hard surface in their dugouts (e.g., benches, bat and helmets racks) in between each use. Between games, please keep teams separate, minimize traffic in and out of dugouts, and allow extra time for this transition.

**All umpires will:**

* Provide 2 new balls for every game
* Conduct brief pre-game meetings while distancing, but with only the two head coaches to review league/division rules, if necessary.
* Call the game from behind home plate and work a 2-person system (home plate and the bases) as usual, but maintain a reasonable distance between themselves and all players, especially the catcher, during at-bats.
* Not be near batters or catchers during pitches. Slow-Pitch softball allows umpires to distance themselves 6 feet behind home plate while calling balls and strikes.
* Ask players before every game if they have any symptoms of Covid-19

**Auburn Recreation will also:**

* Provide bleacher seating for use as long as all fans remain 6 feet apart unless they are immediate family members. Attendees should bring personal lawn chairs and spread out.
* Provide sanitizer in each dugout for teams to use during games. We strongly encourage teams to bring their own sanitizer as well.
* Regularly clean all restrooms and common areas.
* Keep all entrances/exits as open as possible to enhance traffic flow.
* Ensure sufficient communication to everyone involved regarding safe practices for all attendees.
* Monitor Spectators at games and require them to stay 30 feet away from backstop/dugouts where players will be.
* Have a field monitor on site to ensure all guidelines are met.
* Provide signage to inform players, umpires and spectators of all guidelines
* Contact public health if a positive case of COVID-19 is Reported

**Procedure if symptoms are shown –** Staff will adhere to any guidance or recommendations made by DFC or Maine CDC at any point during symptoms, potential case, confirmed case, or outbreak. Communication to the correct people/professionals will be key if there are symptom’s shown. A player showing symptoms will be asked to stay home until symptoms have subsided and for at least 24-48 hours.

**Procedure if someone within a household is a confirmed case or being asked to quarantine –**

Any player in league will not be allowed to be at games while someone within their household has a confirmed case or being asked to quarantine. They can return to the league if they are no longer staying in the household AND have a negative test result or signed doctor’s note saying they are able to return to the league. If that scenario is not possible the individual can not return to play until the confirmed case is no longer active and is in recovery mode, completing the 14 day quarantine.

**Procedure if confirm case** – If a player notifies us of a confirmed case, the leagues will automatically go into Lock Down Mode, the Deputy Fire Chief will be called along with Recreation Director. DFC will notify the Maine CDC and staff will adhere to their guidance and recommendations on following steps. A pre drafted communication will be sent out to that specific team with guidance and steps to monitor at home. A different communication will go out to other teams not directly affected for any possible cross contamination that could have occurred outside of that league.