



Highland Heights COVID-19 Guidelines & Adjusted 2020 Season



WELCOME TO HIGHLAND HEIGHTS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL 2020 MODIFIED SEASON

We are excited to begin our 2020 modified season! In order to move forward with the baseball and softball programs, we are asking for your cooperation in assisting that our leagues run as smoothly, effectively, and most importantly, as safely as possible. There are many important pieces to ensure a successful season and adhering to all the provided guidelines is first and foremost. Please read this document carefully as it contains some important information and changes for this season and note that our league guidelines may be adjusted at any time. These guidelines have been put in place in order to comply with the guidelines outlined by the State of Ohio under the Order of the Governor.

Our precautions to foster a safe playing environment:

1. Facilitating a program that will foster social distancing, particularly when players are not on the field.
2. Installation of fencing to route flow of pedestrian traffic and spectator viewing areas, ground markers, limit proximity to players.
3. Extension of dugouts to provide space for players to social distance.
4. HH Police to aid with spectator and pedestrian traffic flow.

Our ask of players:

1. Follow social distance, trying to keep 6 ft distance between another player.
2. No high-fives, fist bumps, elbows, etc. No physical contact with other players or coaches.
3. Must bring your own helmet. Girls helmets must have face masks/cages.
4. No sharing personal equipment or beverages.

Our ask of parents and spectators:

1. Have your child sanitize their hands when arriving and departing HH park.
2. No entering dugouts or field of play. We ask that parents stay away from player designated areas.
3. No Snacks/Drinks to be provided to teams.
4. Adhere to physical distancing and contact guidelines.
5. Please avoid congregating in common areas and parking lots following all events.
6. As soon as game or practice ends, please immediately exit park area to allow a clear space for next groups.
7. Please pick up and discard all trash. Make sure to take all personal belongings.

Most importantly, if you have any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, including but not limited to, fever, chills, sore throat, shortness of breath, or any other like symptoms, you must refrain from any activity and leave the premises.

We ask that you adhere to these requests and guidelines outlined in the document. The League Commissioner or the Parks and Recreation Department reserve the right to ask any player, coach or spectator to exit the fields if they pose a risk to others or are in violation of guidelines. The City of Highland Heights reserves the right to shut down the season at any time due to misconduct or violations of guidelines. Once registered, all money is nonrefundable.

We look forward to working with your child and having a fun, safe and engaging baseball season!

PLAY BALL!

Adam Garrett
HH Boys Baseball Commissioner

Kelly Pattison
HH Girls Softball Commissioner



COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

League

1. Observations

- No observations will be conducted, Commissioners may disperse teams

2. Drafts

- Commissioners have the option to opt out of team drafts and may disperse teams

3. Practices

- Starts on Monday June 15, target completion by Sunday 6/28
- Duration: 2 weeks
- Each team will have opportunity for up to 3 practices prior to regular season kickoff
- Practice durations will be 1 hr 15 mins. Teams will have 15 mins to exit field area prior to next timeslot.
- Dugouts will not be used in order to minimize proximity of players and coaches

4. Coaching

- Each team will have 1 Manager and minimum 1 Assistant Coach
- Assistant Coach or a parent volunteer will need to assist in ensuring dugout and player organization
- Managers / head coaches are responsible for all communication between players, team volunteers, parents, and umpires
- Managers will need to take attendance for each game and store record (for OH contact tracing)
- Coaching staff needs to be responsible in adhering to all guidelines
- Coaching staff will lead by example and help players adhere to all guidelines

5. Regular Season

- Starts on Monday June 29, target completion by Sunday 7/26
- Duration: 4 weeks
- Each team will play approximately 8 games
** Subject to change based on final count of teams, field restrictions, etc. to promote proper social distancing*

6. Baseball Playoff Tournament

- Starts on Monday July 27, target completion by Sunday 8/2
- Duration: 1 week
- Single elimination playoff tournament

7. Games

- Teams may only show up at the game start time to begin warmups. Game play may start up to 15 mins after scheduled time.
- At the end of each game, players can line up on each baseline and signal to other team with a wave, tip of the cap, or yell out "good game"

8. Team Meetings

- Baseball: brief team meetings can be held in upper parking lots or beyond outfield fences at fields #6/#7
- Softball: brief team meetings can be held in lower parking lot by field #2 or beyond the outfield fences
- Need to be properly distanced between all participants

9. Scoreboards

- We may not use scoreboards this season due to physical proximity of scorers inside towers

10. No professional team and individual photos will be taken

11. PPE

- Per State of Ohio guidelines, managers, coaches, volunteers are recommended to wear face coverings
- Per State of Ohio guidelines, players are recommended to wear face coverings when not in the field



Spectators / Off-Field

1. Adhere to physical distancing and contact guidelines
2. Avoid congregating in common areas and parking lots following all events
3. Spectators will be required to view games or practices from designated viewing areas
4. Families may sit together without social distancing
5. No entering dugouts or field of play. We ask that parents stay away from players designated areas.
6. No Snacks/Drinks to be provided to teams
7. Upon end of game or practice, please immediately exit park area to allow a clear space for next groups
8. Please pickup and discard all trash. Make sure to take all personal belongings.

Players / On-Field

- 1. Player Social Distancing**
 - Maintain a 6 ft distance in dugouts
 - No high-fives, fist bumps, elbows, etc. No physical contact.
- 2. Coach Social Distancing**
 - Coaches will make every effort to adhere to social distancing with players. However, some instances of close coaching proximity may be deemed necessary.
 - Examples of this may include (but not limited to): helping a player stand correctly at the batting plate or helping to put on catcher's gear.
- 3. Personal Equipment**
 - No personal equipment sharing: Gloves, Helmets, Bats, Batting Gloves, etc.
 - No water/beverage sharing.
 - Players **MUST** bring their own helmet. Softball helmets **MUST** have protective face mask/cage.
 - For Instructional softball division (ages 7-8), helmets only - a protective face mask/cage is not required
 - HH will provide a team bat. If a player uses a HH bat, it will be sanitized after each use by coach.
- 4. Catcher Equipment**
 - Unless a player has their own catcher's gear, HH catcher's gear will be used during the game. Because equipment cannot be shared, there will only be one catcher per game. At the end of the game, Highland Heights catcher's gear will be properly sanitized by the coaches.
 - Baseball: no catchers in Mighty Mites
- 5. Dugouts**
 - Extended dugouts with spaced out seating/standing area for players
 - Players will be organized in batting order. Players will rotate, shifting one spot closer to the on-deck area after each batter. Rotation will continue throughout game.
 - Bleachers are for players only. No spectators will be allowed on bleachers this season.
- 6. Game Balls**
 - Each defensive team will only use their own team's game balls when they are on the field.
 - Teams will be provided additional game balls to accommodate the rule change.
- 7. No exchange of physical lineup sheets**

Baseball Adjustments

- 1. Pony + Majors Division**
 - If no full Pony team can be fielded or WRBL league is not available to join, 13 yr old Pony division players will be allowed to play in Majors division for this season
 - Pony division players will follow all Majors division rules
 - Pony division players will not be allowed to pitch
 - Pony division players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order and lineup
- 2. Minors, Majors/Pony Division**
 - Rule change: 1hr 30 mins game time limits during regular season