



COVID 19 Guidelines – updated 6/2/2020

The West Des Moines Girls Softball organization created the following COVID-19 re-opening guidance to determine when and how teams may begin playing softball at Holiday Park. We will continue to promote the health, safety and welfare of our players, families, coaches, officials and visitors at Holiday Park.

The following guidance was created after review of the Iowa Department of Education COVID-19 Reopening Guidance for Summer Sports ([click here](#)) and the Central Iowa Sports/USSSA Iowa's return-to-play guidelines ([click here](#)). We will encourage the use in conjunction with all proclamations issued by the governor and guidance provided by the IDPH.

Practices:

- Post signage prominently encouraging those who currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days to NOT enter the park or participate in practice.
- No dugouts may be used. Players are asked to line up items against the fence at least six feet apart.
- Parents are encouraged remain in their cars or drop off and pick up players after practice.
- Players are asked to use their own gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing catch, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to bat.
- Players are asked to bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after practice. No shared drinking fountains, portable hydration stations, or coolers may be used.
- Coaches are asked to sanitize shared equipment before and after each practice.
- Players and coaches are encouraged to check their temperatures before attending practices.
- Anyone with symptoms of illness is not allowed to practice.
- Coaches are encouraged to be knowledgeable of their players with pre-existing health conditions and work with health officials to take additional precautions as needed.
- Players and families are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer.
- We ask for NO use of sunflower seeds, gum and anything else that is spit from a mouth; this applies to coaches, players and spectators.
- Coaches are responsible for tracking absences for the purpose of noting potential COVID-19 cases.
- Families are asked to contact public health if a positive case of COVID-19 is reported.

Game Safety:

- Pre-game meetings will be limited to 1 coach per team and the umpires of the game. No players or assistant coaches allowed to join.
- Teams are encouraged to spread out as much as possible. Expand the dugout when space allows it and even use some of the bleacher space if needed.
- Players are asked to use their own personal equipment (gloves, bats, helmets) as much as possible.
- Coaches are encouraged to sanitize shared equipment before and after each game.
- Dugout / bench will be limited to essential team personnel. We encourage there to be a maximum of three coaches in the dugout at any one time.
 - o No bat boys or girls, no score keepers, etc.
- Players will be allowed to wear personal protective items, such as masks and gloves, as long as these items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants.
- Players are asked to bring their own water bottles or coolers and have their names on it. No team water coolers or other shared items will be allowed.

- Players and coaches are encouraged to check their temperatures before attending practices or games.
- Teams will be asked to clean and sanitize their dugout before and after each game. This includes removing trash and wiping down all hard surfaces such as benches and bat racks.
- Anyone with symptoms of illness is asked not to participate.
- Teams are encouraged to implement any other reasonable measures under the circumstances of each team to ensure social distancing of coaches, players, and families, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the IDPH.
- The defensive team is required to provide all balls used in their half inning in order to limit the contact with the ball to players of the same team. The umpire will not handle any balls but will be responsible for verifying that all balls are USSSA approved. Central Iowa Sports will supply 2 softballs per team per event. When a ball goes out of play, it needs to be returned to the defensive team and we encourage it to be sanitized before going back into play.
- After each game, instead of handshakes, each team shall line up on their side of the field and wave to the opposing team in order to minimize player contact.
- Award ceremonies will not take place. One coach from the team who wins awards will go to the tournament director and pick up that team's awards. The coach will oversee handing out the awards as he/she sees best, and team pictures will also be at the discretion of the team.
- Umpires will maintain their normal positions on the field. They will have the option of wearing personal protective items as well.

Facility Safety:

- Post signage prominently encouraging those who currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days to NOT enter the park or participate in practice.
- Fan attendance is limited to household members of the players on the team.
- The bleachers behind home plate and next to dugouts will be off limits to spectators.
- Spectators are encouraged to bring their own seating to the event (or stand) and will be encouraged to practice social distancing. Spectators are encouraged to maintain social distancing of six feet between families and spread out around the field and in the common areas.
- Fans are encouraged to practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines.
- We ask that no tents or awnings to be set up in the park; however, personal umbrellas are allowed.
- All spectators, coaches and players are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes for disinfecting hands and other equipment regularly.
- We ask for NO use of sunflower seeds, gum and anything else that is spit from a mouth; this applies to coaches, players and spectators.
- All persons in the facilities are encouraged to adhere to the guidelines from the CDC, state and local authorities regarding travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders.
- Any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be asked to NOT enter the facilities.
- We highly encourage all spectators to wear personal protective items.
- We ask all teams and spectators not to congregate at any times. This includes before and after games inside the facility as well in the parking lots.
- Any lines for restrooms, concession stands, or others are also discouraged. If there is a line, we ask patrons to maintain a distance of six feet apart at all times.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Be sure to wash hands after using the restrooms.

We encourage this guidance to be viewed as advisory unless it's specifically authorized by state statute, according to Iowa Code section 256.9A. This does not apply to City and State rules, declaratory orders, or materials required by federal law or courts.