

BESPL - 2020 Covid-19 Protocols

DISCLAIMER: Players, coaches, spectators, and any other individuals participating in Slo-Pitch and Slo-Pitch related activities do so with knowledge of the risk and potential exposure involved, and agree to accept any and all inherent risks to their personal health.

- Hand sanitization should be done consistently throughout the game.
- Bat sharing is not recommended, please try to reduce bat sharing if possible.
- Guidelines still need to be developed to address proper handling of bats (removal from playing field) with the main objective being to limit the number of times a bat changes hands.
- Players should be reminded to reduce the amount of shared equipment and attempt to keep each individual's equipment isolated and reduce coming into contact with the equipment of other players. No gloves on fence. Distancing of players bags encouraged.
- There should be no sharing of protective face masks or helmets at any time.
- Balls - Having offensive team supply their own balls. Please have a pool of balls ready and sanitized.
- Consideration should be made for safe ball retrieval (homeruns, foul balls)
- Catcher and Batter will need to maintain 6-foot distance.
- Catcher and umpire will need to maintain 6-foot distance, when possible.
- Batter should attempt to reduce any unnecessary contact with other players. Should also avoid using their hands to contact the ball at any time.
- No sunflower seeds, gum chewing or spitting.
- General spitting will be discouraged for all participants, both on and off the field. Difficult to enforce.
- Sunflower seeds/chewing tobacco/gum will be handled with a zero tolerance policy, that may become enforceable through potential ejection from the game and/or removal from events.
- Pre game and post game huddles should not be conducted at any time.
- Post game handshakes will not be allowed or required following games at any level.
- Capacity of players on bench or dugout area will need to be consistent with government guidelines relating to number of individuals allowed to gather in a given area.
- Players may be required to sit behind the bench/dugout to help maintain safe distances between them.

Exit from playing field during game

- During the game, players entering and exiting the playing field should do so in an orderly fashion that allows a 6-foot distance to be maintained between players as much as possible.
- Any player not required to be on the field should not enter the playing surface (e.g. homerun celebrations).

- If the coaches are on the playing field they should remain a minimum of 6-feet away from the base they are coaching to prevent contact with the defensive player. Also, coaches should not engage an offensive player with high-fives or other physical contact.
- Field dependent: Coaches may be asked to coach from outside of the playing field if a safe distance is unable to be maintained.
- If medical personnel are on hand, injured players should be dealt with primarily by these individuals, unless further assistance is requested.
- Injured Player - The number of individuals attending to an injured player should be limited to the number necessary based on the severity of the injury. Sufficient first-aid kits should be on hand thru the team rep. Should include latex gloves and facemasks to help increase the safety of their interaction with the injured player.
- On field conferences will need to be reduced to coach-pitcher conferences only..
- Scores should be reported electronically to reduce congestion at headquarter locations.
- Challenges may be made as long as the challenge is made by a recognized coach in a controlled and orderly fashion, and the coach/umpire are able to remain at a safe distance in which neither is put at risk.

Post-Game Bench/Dugout Cleaning

- Emphasis will be placed on mandatory cleaning of the bench area by each team following the completion of the game.
- Spectators will not be allowed to watch the game from inside the infield baselines. It will be required that any spectators will need to bring their own chairs or blankets and sit down the foul line or outside of the outfield fence. Seating areas including bleachers and picnic areas should be considered off limits to prevent congregation of groups of spectators. Players who are not required to be present for a game should be considered spectators and will be required to follow spectator guidelines.
- Established hand sanitization guidelines will need to be followed by all spectators. Personal supply of hand sanitizer will be recommended.
- Crowding will not be tolerated. Individuals will be asked to respect the 6-foot rule at all times when possible and gatherings of individuals will be asked to separate when necessary.

- Bats will not be considered the responsibility of the umpire. The removal of bats from the field will be the responsibility of the offensive team.
- No sharing of water bottles between umpires, and refillable water bottles will be strongly recommended.
- Umpires will be subject to any hand sanitization guidelines provided by the league/tournament organizer.
- Umpires to supply their own personal hand sanitizer.
- Umpires may be responsible for enforcing guidelines relating to the health and safety of the participant's on-field/inside the dugout during the game.