

# USA SOFTBALL OF MAINE

## 2021 BACK TO THE BALLPARK GUIDELINES

### MAINE VERSION

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic of 2020, Maine USA Softball has updated its Back to the Ballpark Guidelines. While the Covid 19 pandemic has hung around way to long, we are still in the mode of protecting our athletes, coaches, umpires and fans of the game of softball. We will be using the following guidelines and precautions to Start the 2021 softball season. These guidelines will be subject to change at any time, while we monitor the situations with the Covid 19 health issues.

#### DISCLAIMER

Participants, parents, family, spectators, umpires and all associated with and engaging in softball and activities related to softball do so with the knowledge of the risk and potential exposure involved and agree to accept any and all inherent risk to their personal health.

Original Covid 19 waiver attached to this package

#### Games & Tournaments

- # Prior to attending any games or tournaments, parents and coaches must make sure players are Checked for any signs of illness. (Fever, cough, shortness of breath)
- # All coaches, parents, scorekeepers must stay at home if they feel ill.
- # Umpires and field staff must check temperatures before arriving at any facility.
- # Upon arrival to a field or complex Social Distancing and wearing of FACECOVERING is REQUIRED by All participants.

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#### Changes to the Game

- 2021 FACECOVERINGS ARE REQUIRED by all in attendance.
- Social distancing is required by all
- Team huddles are no longer allowed
- Team conferences especially at the mound will require social distancing.
- Defensive players will be allowed to wear a glove on throwing hand.
- Team pregame at home plate all participants will social distance while receiving instruction.
- Team players shall provide own hand sanitizer
- Team participants will supply own water bottles and not share with others.
- Game balls will be provided home team will be responsible for sanitizing as needed.
- No sharing of equipment.
- Spectators will be required to wear mask and social distance.
- Team Coaches will be responsible for providing contact information for all in attendance (CDC Tracing)
- Umpires will still check equipment it must be placed along the inside fence of first and third baselines.

#### Gathering limits

- We will use the gathering limits as established by Maine CDC office for outdoor gatherings.
- Teams waiting for the next game should gather in a area separate from teams that are currently Playing and allow ample time for each team to collect equipment and move.

## Teams allowed to play in Maine

Effective May 1, 2021 with the release from the Governors office all teams from New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island will be allowed to play in the State of Maine With NO Quarantine. We will address teams from other states as the time and Covid 19 situation evolve. This will be a closely watched participation issue with a eye on Covid cases.

## Concessions

If held they will follow all recommended social distancing rules and wear protective gloves and mask. No sunflower seed will be allowed at any facility since spitting them out creates a issue for cleaning.

We at USA Softball of Maine understand that there is always a risk of spreading sickness at any sporting event, But we think with the changes outlined prior, we can get our young girls back to playing and enjoying the Great game of softball in the State of Maine. We feel that with all that our youth and parents have been through with Covid 19 being able to get outside and play with friend will be beneficial to everyone well being.

THESE GUIDELINE COULD CHANGE AT ANY TIME !!! WE WILL FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS AS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING :

- Maine CDC office
- Maine Governors office
- Maine Commissioners office

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