

NAFA

"Back to the Fields"

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MANAGEMENT PLAN/GUIDELINES



These guidelines are a living document, subject to change at any time due to changes by state, local, and federal governments that are unforeseen and as yet, unknown. Coaches and parents are expected to ensure their behavior and decision making are in line with the most current "NAFA Back to The Fields Guidelines" to ensure compliance and safety.



INTRODUCTION

Local, State & Federal government restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted our lives and our sport. At NAFA we have always worked to provide a safe environment for teams, coaches, and spectators to play and enjoy fastpitch. During these unprecedented times, our mission remains the same. The "Back to The Fields" Guidelines have been prepared based upon current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, as well as those specific to Oregon issued by the Governor and other authorities, to help teams return to the fields while also adhering to and observing the Social Distancing guidelines, rules, and recommendations. There is a certain amount of assumed risk in playing softball; however, COVID-19 creates potential new risks. While guidelines are established and put into action, there will still be times when social distancing measures will not always be possible during the course of a tournament. Inherent risks, which all participants need to acknowledge and assume, are unavoidable and while reasonable measures are being taken by NAFA directors and staff, a liability waiver must be signed for all coaches, players, and spectators who attend a NAFA event.

NAFA understands the passion and desire to get back on the fields, however, until there is a vaccine, cure, or treatment found for COVID-19, we strongly recommend that players, coaches, and all spectators adhere to the guidelines and safety precautions presented herein. The information and guidelines are not meant to replace those given, at any time, by the CDC or other governing bodies, nor should they replace any professional medical advice, or opinions. NAFA does not assume any liability or responsibility for the recommendations herein. Further, NAFA does not assume any liability or responsibility for the health or safety, specifically in regards to the contraction of COVID-19 or any medical issues related to the contraction of COVID-19, by any player, coach, spectator or staff who choose to participate in a NAFA event. Members of the community who have been determined by the CDC, or their medical professional, to be 'high-risk' should continue to shelter in place and not participate in attending a NAFA event during this time.

In accordance with state guidelines, information will be requested and kept as needed for use in contact tracing.

Every player and coach participating in a NAFA 2020 Camp or Tournament must sign the waiver of liability specific to the risks of COVID-19. This is in addition to the standard NAFA waiver required for play.



General Health COVID-19 Back To The Fields Guidelines:

- 1) Staff, players, coaches, and spectators are strictly prohibited from entering the complex or participating in any NAFA event if they have any COVID-19 like symptoms.
- 2) No one may attend or participate in a NAFA 2020 Camp or Tournament if they or anyone in their household have recently had an illness with fever or a new cough. They should remain home for at least 10 days after illness onset and until 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever-reducing medicine, and COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhea) are improving.
- 3) Players, parents, coaches, spectators, participants, umpires and all staff must self-certify their health and absence of a fever prior to entry to the complex.
- 4) ALL players, coaches, parents, spectators, participants, umpires, and staff are restricted from participation in a NAFA 2020 Camp or Tournaments if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days.
- 5) You must not attend the field, or drop off a player, if you have a temperature over 100.4, are sick, or have any symptoms, or have had any combination of these within the prior 14 days.
- 6) Should any player, coach, parents, spectator, participant, umpire, or staff member test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending a NAFA event, they must notify their team coach and NAFA officials.
- 7) Wash and sanitize your hands frequently and properly.
- 8) As defined by the State of Oregon OHA 2288K: A 'face covering' means a cloth, paper, or disposable face covering for the mouth and nose; a 'mask' means a medical-grade mask; a 'face shield' means a clear plastic shield that covers the foreheads and extends below the chin.
- 9) Comply with all current social distancing measures including face mask/coverings, staying 6 feet apart from people not living in your home.
 - Exceptions to the policy for face mask/coverings accommodates are people with certain health conditions, or children under two years of age, who are exempt from the requirement but encouraged to participate in other social distancing measures.
- 10) Teams, and anyone associated with the team, MUST LEAVE the complex if their game is not a doubleheader, this is a requirement to maintain the appropriate guest count based on government recommendations in Phase 2 (Maximum of 100 guests per facility).



Phase 2 Game Play Adjustments:

- 1) Each facility may only house up to 100 people as per PHASE 2 guidelines. At CRATER, this means a TEAM MAXIMUM of 14 bodies; at JAQUITH this means a TEAM MAXIMUM of 24 – combined players, coaches, spectators. PHASE 2 NO spectators at Crater. Please contact NAFA for field maximums for other facilities.
- 2) The catchers' feet shall be BEHIND the chalk line drawn 3 feet from the back tip of home plate to provide the required space between the batter and the catcher.
- 3) The back 3 feet of the batter's box shall be removed and a line drawn to provide the required space between the batter and the catcher.
- 4) Plate Umpire will stand 6 feet behind the pitcher, or 6 feet behind the catcher at his discretion.
- 5) Swipe tags only. No prolonged contact to minimize physical contact between players.
- 6) Third base coach is to retrieve the bat & place inside dugout.
- 7) Pitchers will NOT leave the ball in the circle, but instead, take their ball back to their dugout to be sanitized as often as the coach feels necessary.
- 8) Coaches must stay 6 feet away from a runner they wish to talk to during or after suspension of play (at first/third or in the circle).
- 9) Inside the dugout, behind the dugout and first row of bleachers shall be used by the team with players & player equipment spaced 6 feet apart (when possible).
- 10) If not possible, players may be outside the dugout, distanced 6 feet apart, down foul territory so long as it is safe. They should have their batting helmet on in this area during a live game.
- 11) Coaches and players must remain in their cars until 15 min. prior to their scheduled game time; OR, teams may warm up at Crater park 30 min. prior to game time at the football fields please observe social distancing.
- 12) The event of a 'home-run' players may NOT congregate at home plate.
- 13) There will be no coaches meeting or plate talk. There shall be **NO** player huddles.
- 14) High-fives or post-game handshakes are not allowed.
- 15) NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS, OR SEEDS, OR SPITTING OF ANY KIND.
- 16) Any spectators allowed MUST remain in their cars until 10 min. prior to game time.
- 17) Team and all spectators associated with the team MUST LEAVE the field and/or the complex at the conclusion of the game: no team meetings. If there is a doubleheader, you must move swiftly to the next field.
- 18) Coaches should register their full roster: if a player chooses not to play during earlier Phase restrictions, they will be allowed to play in any future games so long as they remain on the original roster.



PLAYERS

- 1) When playing, face masks/coverings are optional.
- 2) When not playing, face masks/coverings are required to enter/exit the complex, in passing areas, walkways, and the dugout; i.e. anytime they are not in active play.
- 3) Must have a personally labeled water bottle.
- 4) NO TEAM COOLERS; NO sharing of snacks or water.
- 5) Are not allowed to share their gear with any player, any shared bats must be wiped down after use.
- 6) May not lick their fingers during play (pitchers/batters/etc).
- 7) Are advised not to touch their face.
- 8) Allowed to bring a bucket for use and seating as they must spread out 6 feet apart from other coaches and players down the line, into foul territory in lieu of a dugout.
- 9) Must maintain 6 feet social distance from coaches & teammates at times that they can.
- 10) Must sanitize all gear: helmet, bat, metal/plastic face mask before each game.
- 11) Recommended to have their own hand sanitizer & sanitizing wipes for use during the game.
- 12) Should not play, or enter the ballpark, if they have a temperature over 100.4, are sick, or are experiencing any symptoms. (*Please see Health Guidelines above*).

COACHES

- 1) When on the field face mask/covering is optional.
- 2) While not in active play, must wear a face mask/covering at all times.
- 3) Gloves are allowed and should be changed frequently and between games.
- 4) Are responsible for knowing and understanding current guidelines as well ensuring they have reviewed the most up-to-date information available.
- 5) Required to adhere to current NAFA Coach Guidelines.
- 6) Required to share requirements and guidelines with parents and players to ensure adherence.
- 7) Must have passed a NAFA Background Check.
- 8) Must have submitted concussion certification.
- 9) Understand that failure to adhere may result in termination of play.**



Umpires (Tournament, Not Camp)

- 1) Umpires are allowed to wear gloves and face mask/coverings.
- 2) Umpires will NOT handle softballs if they are not wearing gloves.
- 3) Plate Umpire may be stationed 6 feet behind the pitcher without plate equipment, or 6 feet behind the catcher with plate equipment.
- 4) Umpires should stay 6 feet away from all players and coaches during all duties.

SPECTATORS

Phase 1: from May 15th, 2020 until Phase 2

- 1) No spectators are allowed within the gate.
- 2) The passive park areas are not monitored by NAFA. While NAFA has no control over joggers, walkers, or people in passive park areas, it is recommended that they remain at least 6 feet apart from others when in these spaces.

Phase 2: from June 6th, 2020

Current guidelines can change at any time, however:

Current PHASE 2 Guidelines allow for 100 people or less inside each facility. For some fields, this will limit or prohibit spectators. Please look for your field below or contact NAFA for specifics.

CRATER: Maximum of 14 bodies per team, players/coaches/scorekeepers combined.

JAQUITH: Maximum of 24 bodies per team, players/coaches/scorekeepers/spectators combined.

- 1) Must bring their own chairs: no sitting on the bleachers.
- 2) Must sit 6 feet apart and adhere to social distancing measures as instructed at all times, including entering the park, during live action, and leaving the park.
- 3) Spectators are asked to observe the current state guidelines for social distancing measures including face mask/covering, sitting 6' apart from people outside their home, avoid congregating, etc.
- 4) Are advised to bring their own hand sanitizer, and use it frequently.
- 5) Passive park areas & green spaces around the fields are NOT monitored by NAFA, we recommend adhering to current social distancing guidelines in these areas.
- 6) **Are advised that failure to observe any suggested NAFA guidelines, local, state, or federal guidelines regarding social distancing may result in expulsion from the event or future events.**



COMPLEX/FIELD

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS STAFF

- 1) Shall wear face mask/covering and gloves at all times.
- 2) All staff is required to practice healthy hygiene including washing their hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap, and covering any sneezes or coughs.
- 3) Will perform cleaning of routine and frequent bathrooms and high-touch-surfaces after every two rounds. (11, 2:30 & 6)
- 4) One person shall be designated to monitor players, coaches, and spectators to help ensure and encourage continual and consistent adherence to current social distancing guidelines.
- 5) Will develop, and keep current, a Communicable Disease Management Guidelines which also limits the number of spectators in line with current local, state, and federal requirements.
- 6) Attempt to clearly communicate these requirements through distribution of these Guidelines to all coaches prior to a tournament, as well as through social media outlets, and signage at the event.
- 7) Will create and maintain an area specific for the isolation and care of anyone who becomes ill during the course of an event, including a plan to safely and quickly remove the individual from public space and general contact.
- 8) Will keep active and current records needed for contact tracing.

ENTERING & EXITING THE PARK & PARKING LOT

PHASE 2:

- 1) Players must be dropped off/picked up in parking lot
- 2) Players need to wait for their Coach & enter through main entrance maintaining 6 feet social distancing from each other.
- 3) Teams may not arrive at their Field until 15 min. prior to start time.
- 4) Teams may warm up 30 min. prior to start time in the CRATER football field while observing social distancing from other teams.
- 5) Teams must vacate their Field within 10 min. of their end time.
- 6) Teams must EXIT the facility as they entered keeping 6 feet social distancing.



Concessions

- 1) Set 6 feet apart will be 'X' markers for the concessions line.
- 2) Where possible a glass divider will separate staff from customers.
- 3) Only items pre-packaged will be served or sold.
- 4) Cash payments ONLY, exact change preferred.
- 5) Concession staff shall wear gloves, and face mask/coverings.

Bathrooms

- 1) Bathrooms are recommended to have one person at a time, but can accommodate 2 people at one time with social distancing.



References

State of Oregon, Gov. Brown, K., Oregon Health Authority. OHA 2351E: Phase 2 Reopening Guidance – Recreational Sports, Limited Return to Play for Specified Sports. Retrieved from: http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6935780-Recreational-Sports.html?fbclid=IwAR0OVGtKOfrdNfJTAProMq_ueqjJOX4CX4gkb2DV08qDg8G3dPg9lr4rMSQ

State of Oregon, Gov. Brown, K. Oregon Health Authority, *OHA 2357: Guidance for School Aged Summertime Day Camps*. Retrieved from: <https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2357.pdf>

State of Oregon, Gov. Brown, K., Oregon Health Authority. OHA 2351BC: Phase 2 Reopening Guidance – Licensed Swimming Pools, Licensed Spa Pools and Sports Courts. Retrieved from: <https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2351C.pdf>

State of Oregon, Gov. Brown, K., Oregon Health Authority. OHA 2342C: Oregon General Guidance for Employers on COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2342C.pdf>

State of Oregon, Gov. Brown, K., Oregon Health Authority. *OHA 2351A: Phase 2 Reopening Guidance – Operators of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Facilities*. Retrieved from: <https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2351A.pdf>

State of Oregon, Gov. Brown, K., Oregon Health Authority. OHA 2288K: Mask and Face Covering Guidance for Business, Transit and the Public. Retrieved from: <https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2288K.pdf>

National Federation of State High School Association. *Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics And Activities*. Retrieved from: https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812287/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-opening-up-high-school-athletics-and-activities-nfhs-smac-may-15_2020-final.pdf

Oregon School Activities Associations. *OSAA Reopening Sports/Activities Summer Guidance*. Retrieved from: http://www.osaa.org/docs/osaainfo/OSAA_Media_Release_May_20.pdf

OHA: 2351H: Statewide Reopening Guidance – Operators of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment facilities (Zoos, Museums and Outdoor Gardens ONLY). Retrieved from: <https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2351H.pdf>



**ASSUMPTION OF RISK / WAIVER OF LIABILITY / INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT
REGARDING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INCLUDING COVID-19**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in a NAFA 2020 Summer Camp, or a NAFA 2020 Tournament, the undersigned acknowledge, appreciate, and agree to the following:

1. Voluntary participation in a Camp or Tournament hosted by NAFA, including both team and individual activities, may result in possible exposure to and/or one or other communicable disease including but not limited to COVID-19. While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation as regards protection against infectious diseases. If, however, I observe and any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of a NAFA staff member immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS NAFA, its officers, directors, officials, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and lessors of premises used to conduct the event (collectively, the "RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IF FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Printed name of participant: _____

Participant signature: Date signed: _____

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian, with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and explained the provisions in this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of presence and participation and his/her personal responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations for protection against communicable diseases. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I for myself, my spouse, and child/ward do consent and agree to his/her release provided above for all the Releasees and myself, my spouse, and child/ward do release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees for any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's presence or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent provided by law.

Printed Name of parent/guardian: _____

Parent guardian/signature: Date signed: _____ Phone Number: _____