

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the following document contains additional rules and recommendations that will be in force for the 2021 season.

New RSSA rules in response to the Covid 19 pandemic

Adopted by RSSA Board on May 6, 2020

Revision Date: 4/23/2021

IMPORTANT: We will be enforcing these safety measures so that we can get back on the fields as soon as possible in the safest way for all of our players and officials. We will be ejecting any player or guest who refuses to follow these safety rules for the good of everyone else in the park.

We appreciate your cooperation in following these new procedures as we work together to maintain the highest health and safety standards.

RSSA's primary concern is the health and welfare of players, officials and their families.

People/players who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to leave the park.

Social Contact before, during and after games:

- There will be a "no-contact, no-handshake policy" to be observed at every level of the organization until further notice. This includes all physical contact and extends to customary game-related activities and post-game handshakes between members of opposing teams. Instead, staff, players and coaches should verbally communicate "good game," without shaking hands, high-fiving or fist-bumping.
- Players will be expected to maintain social distancing (6 feet of distance) before and after the game (as well as during the game as much as possible).
- The use of a face mask or face covering while on the sidelines or in the dugout during the game is required when social distancing cannot be properly maintained.
- Spectators will also be required to maintain social distancing during the game.
- Managers will be responsible for keeping any sick players or players in quarantine away from the fields.
- **There will be no official/sanctioned gathering following the games. This includes the practice of gathering at the pavilion for post game beverages as well as Thursday lunches.**
- Pregame batting practice will be left to player discretion. However, for those choosing to participate social distancing must be maintained at all times.

Dugout:

- No food (including seeds!) will be allowed on the field or in the dugout. Also, NO SPITTING PLEASE!
- Keep 6 feet of distance in and out of dugout. Players will be required to separate and in most cases be in and out of the dugout on the outside of the field fences to maintain space.
- Players are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and carve out a socially distanced personal space to use rather than sitting in the dugout.
- No more than 2 people in the dugout at a time. In addition, the on deck batter may be at the entrance of the dugout to retrieve a bat. Again, maintain a distance of 6 feet from one another.
- Players not required to be in the field of play MUST be behind the 1st and 3rd baseline fences.
- When leaving the dugout at the end of the game each team will need to clean up the dugout and get rid of trash, especially empty drinking containers.

The Game:

- It will be mandatory for catchers and umpires to maintain 6 feet of separation from the batter and each other.
- The use of a face mask or face covering during the game is encouraged but is left to player discretion. The use of a face mask/covering is required when where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- The use of a face mask/covering is required while not actively competing (eg: in the dugout and on the sidelines).
- The on deck batter or a player assigned by the offensive team will be responsible for picking up the bat after it is used. Pick up the bat by the barrel, not the handle.

Quarantine Policy for non-vaccinated individuals:

- A **non-vaccinated** player returning from a significant social event (eg. tournament, convention, wedding, etc) or traveling out of state is strongly encouraged to get tested as soon as possible after the event. There is also a required quarantine period of either 7, 10 or 14 days before returning to RSSA league play:
 - 7 days if the player is tested and the result is negative.
 - 10 days if the player chooses not to get tested.
 - 14 days if the player is tested and the result is positive. The player must also receive a negative test before returning to play.
- No quarantine period is necessary for **fully** vaccinated individuals.

Personal hygiene:

- Most important: Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose – with a tissue, if possible – when coughing or sneezing, then properly discard the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with anyone else who is coughing or sneezing or who is otherwise sick. People who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to leave the park.
- Wash your hands often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.