

INNING TWO – COMMUNITY FOCUSED GAMES

LSO and participants are to follow the Facility and Diamond Protocols included in Inning One (except to the extent that they conflict, in which case these Inning Two protocols apply), plus:

- ❖ Games may be introduced slowly and gradually beginning with scrimmages and games within the home club. Once the LSO and Softball BC allow, games may be slowly introduced within the LSO's community as defined by Softball BC,
- ❖ Teams may only use players on their approved roster. As well, pick-ups are allowed from within your cohort only,
- ❖ Teams may play with as few as 8 players without being penalized. LSO's are encouraged to coordinate with other LSO's within their District who do not have registered teams, this would ensure that Districts with registered teams have enough players to field a full team regardless of their home LSO,
- ❖ Line-up cards must be prepared but will not be physically shared – photos may be taken by scorekeepers, etc., and the line-up card must be made available to show the umpire when requested,
- ❖ Pre-game meetings will take place at home plate while respecting appropriate physical distancing. Only one coach per team and umpire(s) to attend the meeting,
- ❖ Schedules are recommended to be drawn up to allow for time to prepare the venue before a game and clean it after the game has ended,
- ❖ There may be post-practice or post-game meetings as long as all participants wear face masks and that current PHO recommendations for physical distancing are observed. Are for post-practice or post-game meetings is to be determined by each individual LSO. Non-participants are to stay off the field of play and away from the post-practice or post-game meeting until participants are dismissed,
- ❖ No handshake with the opposing team/officials after the game,
- ❖ Each team must appoint a Distancing Monitor who will observe their own team and spectators and encourage them to maintain physical distancing,
- ❖ Face masks for all participants are strongly recommended while off the field of play and required when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings for virus contagion are mandatory for the plate umpire, provided that should they be unable to wear a face covering due to an underlying health issue or breathing/overheating concerns, the home plate umpire has the option of calling the game from behind the pitcher's circle as an alternative to wearing a face covering,
- ❖ Home team must track and screen all umpires and have PPE and hand sanitization available for the umpires,

- ❖ If a player is choosing to wear a mask while on the field of play and they are having difficulty breathing it is recommended that face coverings be removed and that players be switched out or given breaks after wearing face coverings for prolonged periods,
- ❖ Should a player need to leave the field of play due to breathing concerns associated with wearing a face covering, any player on the bench may replace the removed player and not be counted as a substitution leaving/re-entering the game,
- ❖ It is recommended all participants bring two (2) face coverings to each softball activity, one to be on your person or readily available if unable to maintain physical distancing,
- ❖ No person should pick-up or handle anyone else's helmet/face covering,
- ❖ The umpire is not to handle any equipment other than their own during a game including game balls,
- ❖ Defensive team will sanitize the ball for their team during the game. Balls should be routinely rotated and sanitized. The pitcher and catcher will call time and the ball will be given to the Sanitizing Champion to be sanitized. The Sanitizing Champion will throw in a sanitized ball in exchange,
- ❖ Offensive coaches are to remain an appropriate distance from 1st and 3rd base at all times, based on current PHO requirements, regardless of where it may locate them on the diamond (as long as it does not increase the danger to a coach's personal safety),
- ❖ Between pitches, the umpire and the batter may choose to move the appropriate physical distance, based on current PHO requirements, away from the catcher. Once the play is ready to resume, umpire and batter shall move back into position, and umpire signals play ball,
- ❖ Coach to Umpire, Player to Umpire, and Umpire to Umpire conferences will be done following the current PHO physical distance requirements, unless all participants to the conference are wearing face coverings in which case the conference may be done at normal distance,
- ❖ Coach, Pitcher, and Catcher may have a defensive conference at the pitching circle, with the current appropriate physical distance being observed by all parties, unless all participants to the conference are wearing face coverings in which case the conference may be done at normal distance,
- ❖ Offensive team conference may be held with the current appropriate physical distance being observed by all participants, unless all participants to the conference are wearing face coverings in which case the conference may be done at normal distance,
- ❖ Whenever possible teams are to maintain appropriate physical distancing while off the field of play, with players in designated areas in the ballpark. Spectators will maintain physical distancing, along the sides of the diamond, or in the outfield away from designated player areas as appropriate to the layout of the ballpark,

- ❖ No player may lick their fingers during softball activities. Pitchers may use pitching resin and/or gorilla rags at all levels. If a player does lick their fingers while on the field, the player must leave the game and may only return to the game after they have sanitized or washed their hands with soap and water. Any player on the bench may replace the removed player and not be counted as a substitute leaving/re-entering the game,
- ❖ At the conclusion of a play at a base or bases, the batter/runner and defensive player should separate and establish appropriate distancing again as soon as possible. Umpire may assist in this by verbal reminder,
- ❖ When an at-bat has finished, if the batter struck out or was put out prior to reaching 1st base, the batter will pick up their own bat and carry it back to the dugout, where they either hand it to the Sanitizing Champion or return it to their personal equipment bag. If the batter reaches base, their bat will be picked up by the barrel by the on-deck batter and handed to the Sanitizing Champion for sanitizing and return to the original batters' equipment space,
- ❖ All players must sanitize their hands when returning to their dugout at the end of each half-inning,
- ❖ There may be post-practice or post-game meetings as long as all participants wear masks (exemption apply) and that current PHO recommendations for physical distancing are observed. Area for post-practice or post-game meetings is to be determined by teach individual LSO. Non-participants are to stay off the field of play and away from the post-practice/game meeting until participants are dismissed.
- ❖ Next team to play on that diamond will not step onto the diamond or surrounding area until all members of the previous games team have left the area,
- ❖ Coach must have current EAP (Emergency Action Plan) outlining, in the event of a major or minor injury, what the medical treatment process will be. The safety of all participants is top priority, but whenever possible, must be done with the requirements of COVID-19 transmission being minimized.