

2020 South Metro League “Back to the Ballpark” Guidelines

The following guidelines will be implemented at all City of Raymore parks and in our share-play divisions within the South Metro Sports League for the upcoming baseball/softball season or until no longer necessary as recommended by the Cass County Health Department.

1. Facilities will make every attempt to provide dugouts with hand sanitizer for the teams to use before, during and after the game.
2. Extended dugout areas will be established for teams to implement social distancing guidelines during games and practices.
3. Each team will provide a volunteer to sanitize team equipment (i.e. bats and helmets) using approved disinfectant wipes during games and practices. Teams will be responsible for providing their own sanitizing supplies. It is strongly recommended that players use their own equipment if possible.
4. No team huddles. Coaches are responsible to implement social distancing guidelines when conducting team meetings and/or communication during practices and games.
5. Pre-game conference will be at home plate. Only one coach per team and no players at the pre-game conference. Umpires will be stationed behind home plate and coaches in front of home plate outside the batters boxes of their respective dugouts. No handshakes.
6. All divisions will be modified in the following ways to adhere to the guidelines of the social distancing:
 - a. Catchers will be positioned at a starting point six feet back from the front of the plate.
 - b. No leadoffs, to help with the social distancing.
 - c. Umpires will call balls and strikes from behind the pitching rubber to adhere to the social distancing guidelines.
 - d. Game balls will be exchanged between hits as necessary or during half innings to sanitize the ball.
7. At the conclusion of the game, teams will line up on the first base and third base lines corresponding to their team dugout for a sportsmanship “tip of the cap” in lieu of the traditional handshake. This should be initiated by the coaches and umpires.
8. Spectators are expected to follow the CDC recommended social distancing guidelines.
9. The League recommends that all parents bring their own chairs and not use the bleachers to help adhere to the CDC recommended social distancing guidelines.

10. Concessions: Concessions will be available at Recreation Park in a limited capacity.
 - a. Prepackaged snacks and drinks only.
 - b. No sunflower seeds and bubble gum at the games.
11. Game Schedules - Raymore Parks and Recreation staff will adjust the field schedule on game nights to provide as much distance between spectator areas as possible.

Protocol if we have a participant/spectator testing positive:

- a. The South Metro League of Cities will make every attempt to notify all registrants impacted by a positive COVID-19 test, as directed by the Cass County Health Department.
- b. Upon notification, the registrants will have the responsibility to notify any spectators traveling with them in case of a positive COVID-19 test on that team.
- c. The Cass County Health Department will assist and provide guidance as necessary.

Raymore Parks & Recreation in cooperation with the South Metro Sports League of Cities reserves the right to add to or lessen the restrictions of these guidelines as recommended by the Cass County Health Department.

These guidelines are meant as precautionary measures to enable us to get back to the ballpark. If these rules are not followed by spectators, players and/or coaches, the Parks and Recreation staff may ask the individual to leave the facility.