
SAFE START PROTOCOLS & AGREEMENT

Outdoor Youth and Adult Baseball/Softball Activities

Sport Risk Category guidance (all phases)

For the purposes of this document, sports are defined using the following risk categories. The list below is not all-encompassing. Some sports are covered in other guidance documents, and if so those guidance documents govern those activities. If a sport does not appear on this list that does not necessarily mean it is prohibited at this time.

Low risk sports: tennis, swimming, pickleball, golf, gymnastics, climbing, skating, archery, fencing, cross country, track and field, sideline/no-contact cheer and no-contact dance, disc golf.

Moderate risk sports: softball, baseball, t-ball, soccer, futsal, volleyball, lacrosse, flag football, ultimate frisbee, ice hockey, cricket, crew, field hockey, school bowling competitions.

High risk sports: football, rugby, wrestling, cheerleading with contact, dance with contact, basketball, water polo, martial arts competitions, roller derby.

Phase 1:

1. Facial coverings required for all coaches, volunteers and athletes at all times.
2. Outdoor meets, qualifiers, and tournaments allowed for low risk sports. No spectators allowed. Outdoor team practices, trainings and intra-team competitions allowed for low and moderate risk sports. Scrimmage against other teams or training with other teams is not allowed.
3. Outdoor team trainings allowed for high risk sports if athletes are limited to groups of 6 in separate parts of the field/court, separated by a buffer zone. Brief, momentary close contact (ex: 3 on 3 drills) is permitted. It is preferable for the groups of 6 to be stable over time.

Phase 2:

1. Facial coverings required for all coaches, volunteers and athletes at all times.
2. Outdoor trainings and competitions allowed outdoors for low, moderate, and high risk sports. Maximum 200 people allowed at competitions, including spectators.
3. Outdoor competitions taking place at facilities or complexes with more than one field or area of play a maximum of 75 people allowed per field or area of play including spectators. All spectators from different households are to be 6 feet or more physically distant.

General Guidance applicable to ALL sporting activities in all phase levels

- A. Tournaments are not allowed for moderate and high risk sports. A prohibition on tournaments for sporting activities does not include postseason, playoff, state or regional championship competitions with no more than four teams at one site sanctioned by a statewide interscholastic activities administrative and rule-making body that oversees competition in all counties in the state.
- B. Non-essential travel such as out-of-state team or individual travel for sporting activities are subject to quarantines as detailed in the [Governor's Travel Advisory](#).
- C. *Stay home when sick or if you have been in close contact with someone experiencing COVID-19 or someone who has recently been exposed.*
- D. Athletes, coaches, umpires/referees, spectators and any other paid or volunteer staff must stay home if they feel unwell, show any signs of COVID-19, or are a close contact of a confirmed case. Team staff and athletes shall be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a training or competition. Screening should consider [symptoms listed by the CDC](#). Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 or who is a close contact of someone confirmed with COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate and should contact their primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- E. Those who are excluded from trainings or competitions due to [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or because they are [close contacts](#) must follow [DOH](#) and local public health isolation and quarantine guidance before returning to training or contests.
- F. People with underlying health conditions should consult with their medical provider regarding participation in athletic activities.

Face Masks

- A. Face masks must be worn by all athletes when not actively participating in their sport.

- B. Spectators, coaches, trainers, managers, spotters, and all paid or volunteer staff must wear face coverings at all times.
- C. Face masks must completely cover the wearer's nose and mouth while worn.

Physical Distance

- A. Physical distance of six (6) feet must be maintained between staff, volunteers, and spectators at all times with exceptions for medical personnel performing their duties.
- B. Six (6) feet of distance must be maintained among athletes when not engaged in sporting activities; huddles and team meetings must be physically distanced.
- C. Facilitate limited physical contact where possible during trainings.
- D. Limit the number of persons onsite to the maximum allowed in the current phase.

Hygiene

- A. Athletes, coaches, umpires/referees and any other paid or volunteer staff must practice good hygiene while using the playfield facility.
- B. Team staff must ensure handwashing stations or hand sanitizing stations are available at training and competition locations.
- C. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds **before AND after** training or competition, after touching shared objects or blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- D. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol content. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they are dry.
- E. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- F. Athletes must not share water bottles, uniforms, towels, or snacks and should not spit (saliva, sunflower seeds, etc.).
- G. Stagger use of restroom facilities to allow for required physical distancing.

Cleaning

- A. Clean & disinfect high touch surfaces and shared equipment **before AND after** each use.
- B. Burlington Parks and Recreation staff will clean and disinfect restrooms regularly. Foggers will be used for decontamination of all surfaces and City equipment & vehicles.

- C. Current CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19 states that disinfectants should be registered by the EPA for use against the COVID-19. Find the current list here: [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#). Disinfectants based on hydrogen peroxide or alcohol are safer than harsher chemicals. The University of Washington has a [handout with options for safer cleaning and disinfecting products that work well against COVID-19](#).

Transportation

- A. Limit possible exposure to persons outside the household unit during travel.
- B. Encourage only those in the same household to travel together, and if not in the same household, travel in separate vehicles if possible.
- C. For travel groups, (groups that include more than one household in the same vehicle whether in a carpool or on a bus) all members of the travel group, including the driver, must wear a face covering and spread out as much as possible within the vehicle.
- D. Limit travel groups to those who have been in regular contact (e.g. team members). Encourage family members to sit together. Maximize ventilation in the vehicle by opening windows.
- E. Buses should install safety barriers (such as Plexiglas shields) between the driver and passengers or close (block off/leave empty) the seats nearest the driver to ensure 6 feet of distance between the driver and passengers. Passengers should board from the rear door when possible. Buses should improve air filtration where possible. Buses should be cleaned and disinfected daily after use with attention to frequently touched surfaces (doors, rails, seat backs...).

Records and Contact Tracing

- A. Keep a roster of every athlete, staff and volunteer present at each training and competition to assist with contact tracing in the event of a possible exposure. Similarly keep a roster and seating chart for each travel group.
- B. Rosters should include at minimum:
 - Date of training or competition
 - Name of athlete
 - Name of primary contact person for household (for youth athletes)
 - Athlete's or primary contact person's phone number
- C. Attendance rosters and seating charts must be kept on file for 28 days after the training, contest, or trip.

GUIDANCE APPLICABLE TO BASEBALL & SOFTBALL FIELD USE

Playfield Arrival & Departure

1. Incoming teams are permitted to enter the playfield facility no more than 30-minutes prior to their scheduled event.
2. Incoming teams must wait until the preceding team has exited the dugout and the field is clear before entering.
3. Departing teams should exit the playfield facility promptly after training/competition has concluded.

Designated Team-only Areas

4. Dugouts and bleachers are designated as team-only areas.

Staffing Limitations

5. A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed in designated team-only areas.
6. One (1) scorekeeper for competitions is allowed to sit in the bleachers for each team.
7. One (1) umpire allowed per game. The umpire will be required to wear facemask and gloves.
8. Umpires will call the game from at least six (6) feet behind the pitcher's mound.

Equipment Protocol

9. Organizer must provide hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes for use during practices & competitions.
10. Each team will provide their own balls for when their team is on the field. Teams will not share balls when on defense.
11. After the last out, each team will bring their ball into the dugout.
12. Only teams in the field will chase or replace foul balls.
13. Coaches or support staff are responsible for wiping down all shared items (i.e. bats, balls, etc.) between practices and competitions.
14. Umpires must not handle equipment (i.e. pre-game bat inspection) or maintain inventory of balls for out-of-play replacement.
15. All equipment must stay in the individual player's bag unless currently being used, not on the bat racks or bench.
16. Players are not permitted to share equipment (i.e. gloves, batting gloves, helmets...).
17. Catchers must not share equipment.
18. Players are encouraged to provide their own bat and to store in their own bag when not in use. Players are discouraged from sharing bats. If coaches witness sharing, the bat must be wiped down to sanitize.

19. When a player is at-bat:
 - a. Bats are retrieved by players if out at-bat or out at first base.
 - b. Bench coach will retrieve bat and sanitize in all other scenarios.

Spectators

20. Spectators must wear face masks at all times during their visit to the playfield facility.
21. Spectators are not permitted onsite with **adult athletes** during Phase-1. Spectators accompanying the athlete must remain in their vehicle for the duration.
22. Onsite spectators are limited to one per **youth athlete** during Phase-1. Additional spectators must remain in their vehicle.
 - o **Youth Practices during Phase-1.** One (1) parent or guardian may accompany a youth athlete for check-in / check-out purposes, but should return to their vehicle immediately following.
 - o **Youth Competitions during Phase-1:** One (1) parent or guardian may stay onsite throughout the game if physical distancing requirements can be met. Competitions are limited to intra-team during Phase-1.
23. Organizers are responsible for ensuring spectators are aware of and adhere to the following minimum guidelines:
 - a. Spectators must maintain a minimum of 10' distance from the playfield, its sidelines, and areas considered "team-only".
 - b. Spectators must follow physical distancing guidelines by standing or sitting at least six (6) feet apart from one another except for those spectators residing in the same household.
 - c. Face masks are worn at all times while at the playfield facility.
24. Organizations are responsible for ensuring that the maximum number of total persons allowed in each Phase is adhered to.

General Etiquette Protocols

25. Mound visits will require the visitor to practice physical distancing and to be masked.
26. Bubble gum and shelled nuts (i.e. sunflower seeds, peanuts, etc.) are not allowed for athletes, coaches, umpires and fans. All persons in attendance should refrain from spitting.
27. Team huddles, handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, and other interactions that would infringe on physical distancing restrictions are not allowed.
28. Arguing calls are not allowed.

Food & Vendors

29. Vendors are not allowed at the playfields. This includes Food, Goods, Service vendors.
30. On-site food or beverage preparation is not allowed.

Compliance Coordinator

Organizations must assign a Compliance Coordinator who will be responsible for the following:

- a. Act as the primary point of contact with the City for COVID-19 related concerns.
- b. Ensure enforcement of the foregoing safety plan and offer direction where needed.
- c. Maintain Contact Trace Rosters and adhere to rosters' minimum requirements.
- d. Develop an effective communication plan for working with Skagit County Health Department to notify affected individuals when exposure to COVID-19 is known or suspected. Confidentiality as required by law must be maintained.

Safe Start Protocol Agreement

I, _____, being an authorized representative of (organization) _____ have read the above Safe Start Protocols in entirety and agree to adhere to the guidance as it pertains to my Field Use Permit with the City of Burlington. I understand that non-compliance with any portion of the guidance will result in immediate termination of my organization's Field Use Permit.

Signature: _____  _____ **Date:** _____

Once signed, return the Safe Start Protocol Agreement:

MAIL: Burlington Parks and Recreation
900 E. Fairhaven Avenue
Burlington, WA 98233

EMAIL: BParks@burlingtonwa.gov

PHONE 360-755-9649 if further assistance is needed.

As of 02/01/2021,
City of Burlington business
offices remain closed to the
public in response to the
COVID-19 crisis.

Playfield use will not be allowed until the Organizer has submitted to the City a signed Safe Start Protocol Agreement, a completed Athletic Field Reservation Application, insurance documentation meeting the City's minimum requirements, and has received an approved Field Use permit from Burlington Parks and Recreation.