



## MN-USSSA Adult Slowpitch Return to Play



### Recommended Best Practices for the Field-of-Play:

1. League will follow all local and MDH guidelines for facilities and events.
2. All staff, players, umpires and spectators are encouraged to continue 6 feet social distancing on and off the field during an event. Limited spectator attendance is recommended.
3. All staff, players, umpires and spectators are encouraged, not required, to wear a mask or other face covering until CDC, state and local authorities declare that masks are no longer recommended. If a mask is worn, it should be of one neutral color with no designs on them and not distracting.
4. No spitting or seeds. Spitting may result in automatic removal from the field.
5. It is recommended that new softballs remain in their original packaging until they need to be introduced into a game.
6. Teams will use shared softballs while playing their games. Players are encouraged to use hand sanitizer after touching the softball and wash hands with soap and water after playing games. (players supply their own hand sanitizer).
7. Maximum of 5 players in the dugout. Players may stand/sit outside the dugout to allow for more room and social distancing, but cannot be on field of play. Players may bring their own chairs to sit in outside of dugout.
8. Recommend staff, players, umpires and spectators bring hand sanitizing products and/or sanitizing wipes.
9. One coach or manager per team will conduct a pregame meeting at home plate, all involved are requested to keep 6 feet social distancing during ground rules and coin toss. Only manager should approach umpire for clarifications.
10. Directors are encouraged to allow for adequate time in event scheduling, to ensure adherence to social distancing during the crossover of teams.
11. It is recommended that all players and umpires use their own equipment while participating. This includes gloves, bats, helmets, etc. If not, equipment should be sanitized throughout the game and players use hand sanitizer.
12. No handshakes, team huddles, high fives. Teams should tip their hats or wave instead.
13. The catcher and umpire shall position themselves during a player's at-bat to allow for social distancing. Catcher shall position themselves behind the umpire, at least 6 feet, and become a "retriever", not a catcher.
14. All teams are encouraged to clean their dugouts and team bench areas on arrival and departure. This includes wiping down benches and any high-touch areas and removing any trash. Remind to all to wash hands after leaving complex. (teams should supply their own antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared areas/equipment).
15. Teams should not enter dugout until the other team exits. Teams must leave the field immediately after their game(s) conclude. Teams will have 5 minutes to vacate the bench area.
16. Players should provide their own water bottles. Should not share water jugs (water fountain will not be on).
17. Portable bathrooms will be available, but only sanitized twice per week (no building bathrooms).
18. As to all applicable persons, people should be instructed that if they are exhibiting symptoms of possible exposure to COVID-19, such as a fever exceeding 100.4, that they should not come to events until such time as the participant has been tested and/or cleared. This includes recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.
19. Remind managers that all players must sign a USSSA-specific COVID-19 waiver before participating. Copies will be made available at the fields for players to sign at their first game.