

Introduction

In these unprecedented times, the city of Lakeland strives to offer top notch adult sports programming, while providing a safe environment for all involved. We have developed and implemented changes in our programming to protect the integrity of the games, while also maintaining safety for our community.

Common areas (Section I)

- 1) Easy access to Hand sanitizer stations as you enter the Southwest and Westside softball complexes.
- 2) Players and umpires are required to screen themselves prior to coming to the facility. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 is not allowed at complex. Those feeling sick or those who have recently been exposed to someone with Covid-19 are not allowed in the complex.
- 3) Covid-19 recommendations will be posted throughout the complex.
- 4) At the conclusion of all games participants are to return to their vehicles immediately to minimize post and pregame contact.
- 5) Absolutely no seeds, gum, smokeless tobacco, or other such products will be allowed in the complex, and no spitting of any kind will be permitted.
- 6) We strongly discourage those who are high risk due to underlying health conditions or age from participation.
- 7) Players are encouraged to bring food and drink for themselves, but no team coolers or meals will be allowed into the complex.
- 8) Tailgating or loitering of any type will not be permitted on city property. This includes the parking lot.
- 9) All staff and players are required to practice proper social distancing when waiting for their game to start, while warming up and when entering the dugout.
- 10) Drinking fountains will be unavailable.
- 11) Only players will be allowed in the complex, no fans or family will be allowed.

Equipment (Section II)

Balls

- 1) Two new game balls will be supplied before each game.
- 2) Back up balls will be disinfected before being dropped in the tube.
- 3) Balls will be disinfected between innings.

Player Equipment

Players should bring and handle their own bat bags, gloves and bats.
Sharing of equipment strongly discouraged.

Dugouts (Section III)

- 1) Will be available in limited capacity promote social distancing.
- 2) Players are encouraged to bring foldable chairs to use outside the dugout at proper social distance.
- 3) Teams are required to remove all trash from their areas after their game.
- 4) Teams must exit the complex as soon as the game is over. There is to be no team meetings on the field and/or in or by the dugout.
- 5) Teams entering the field are not permitted pass through the dugout until the other team leaves to minimize contact.

Players (Section IV)

- 1) All players must create an account to sign up, and agree to the waiver online at athletics.lakelandgov.net
- 2) Player contact will be minimized by eliminating player handshakes, high fives, and fist bumps during the game and pre and post-game. Keep our hands to ourselves.
- 3) No pre or post-game meetings will be allowed in the dugout or on the field.
- 4) Masks are required when not on the field and not properly socially distanced.
- 5) Must maintain social distance on the field whenever possible.
- 6) Must always maintain social distancing from umpires/managers/league officials at all times.
- 7) Only the team managers are allowed to speak with any umpire/league official for questions and clarification and while maintaining social distance.
- 8) There will be no yelling or arguing allowed at any point for any reason. There will be zero tolerance on this issue.
- 9) We strongly discourage those who are high risk due to underlying health conditions or age from participation.

Pregame (Section V)

Manager meeting

- 1) Only the team manager is allowed to participate.
- 2) Must maintain social distance from umpire and stay out of the width of the batter's box during the meeting.
- 3) No handshakes at completion.

Warming up

- 1) Should maintain social distance while warming up.

lineups (Section VI)

Each team will be given a plastic sleeve and carbon copy lineup cards with their game balls. These are to be used every game with the lineup placed in the plastic sleeve and hung on the fence facing the score keeper so, that they can copy the lineup onto the lineup card. These need to be completed and **put in place 5 minutes before game time** to not delay the game. We will start the game clock on time and will not start the game until the scorekeeper has finished copying both sides of the scorecard.

During the game (Section VII)

- 1) Catcher and umpire will position themselves during the at bat to allow for social distancing.
- 2) The field will be limited to players only. Base coaches will not be permitted on the field.
- 3) Lineup changes must be made at a safe social distance with the umpire and score keeper.

Post-game (Section VIII)

- 1) Players must grab their equipment and leave the complex in a timely manner.
- 2) No team meetings of any type are to be held on the field or in the dugout.
- 3) Players must leave the complex and are not allowed to stay and watch other games that they are not a part of.

Enforcement (Section IX)

Those not following the strict social distancing guidelines and new policies in place will be subject to outs being called during their current or next at bat, ejections, and possible removal from the league.
