



RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

BACKGROUND

The following provides the minimum standards and guidelines to be followed to participate in USA Premier Baseball events which will comply with the City of Irvine and other baseball facilities regarding the current physical distancing and sanitation protocols, and to protect players, families, and the community in support to slow the spread of COVID-19. This document should be treated as a fluid tool which will be updated as state and local health officials release guidelines. The guidelines below are meant to supplement - not replace - any state or local health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which sports organizations must comply.

TEAMS

- **Compliance** – In this new environment, with additional requirements, liability and COVID-19 safety concerns, it is imperative to comply with the outline standards and guidelines as the City of Irvine will ***enforce removal which not only impacts your team from every playing in Irvine again, but also directly impacts USA Premier Baseball not to be able to conduct business in Irvine. This is significant and we trust you and appreciate your strict adherence to make sure we are all able to play baseball in this changing world. – THANK YOU!***
- **Communication** - Teams are responsible to ensure USA Premier Baseball “Return To Play Guidelines” is shared among staff, players and parents along with notification of any potential COVID-19 issue to USA Premier Baseball immediately.
- **Liability Waiver** - Teams are responsible to coordinate and return the USA Premier Baseball Liability Waiver for coaches and players before anyone steps on the field – Request that all players are loaded into USA Premier Baseball Roster to ensure players waivers and player profile benefits are provided.
- **Background Check** - All team coaching staff must be loaded into the USA Premier Baseball system and have approved Background Check either requested through USA Premier Baseball or provide/upload and current Background Check the coach may be loaded into the USA Premier Baseball system.
- **Team Insurance** – If team is playing in a USA Premier Baseball tournament, then team must provide proof of team Insurance certificate and an Endorsement for USA Premier Baseball – Must be receive prior to event. If team is playing in a USA Premier Baseball LEAGUE or USA Premier Team PRACTICE / CAMP, team insurance will be provided and will be part of the league and camp onetime fee.
- **Annual Membership** – Teams practicing as part of the USA Premier Team PRACTICE / CAMP must have an annual USA Premier Baseball Membership as part of the field agreement with City of Irvine. Note: Annual Membership is NOT required for teams playing in a USA Premier Baseball league or tournament, as it is included in the fee.



RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

BEING PREPARED TO ATTEND AND GUIDELINES

- Each coach, staff, player, volunteers, officials and those that would be in attendance must sign a USA Premier Liability Waiver to attend or participate in a USA Premier Baseball Event
- Each baseball field is limited to have no more than 50 people, regardless of the number of smaller individual groups within that.
- Spectators should be limited to parents and members of the same household, with social distancing while watching.
- Vending machines will remain open – no snack bar and water fountain available
- Encourage individuals may bring cooler for personal use – No team coolers allowed.
- Encourage players to have individual drinks / bottles with their name. No shared food/drinks among players.
- Encourage parents to supply their players with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared playing equipment and cleaning hands between innings/quarters/periods.
- Loitering of groups will not be allowed. Groups must not arrive early or linger after event
- USA Premier Baseball recommends players, coaches, fans, and officials bring personal hand sanitizer, masks, chairs, and antibacterial wipes to events for personal use.
- Proactively and regularly check personal health status (taking temperature and monitoring for any symptoms) as recommended by the CDC, state and/or local authorities prior to attending a USA Premier Baseball Event.
- **Do not come to event if you or any household member is not feeling well.**
- **Do not come to event if you or any household member has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.**
- **Do not attend event if you are not comfortable with measures being taken at a facility.**
- Any tents brought into a complex is restricted to one family only per tent.
- USA Premier Baseball may limit the number of total players/teams and adjust playing formats to accommodate CDC, state and/or local guidelines.
- No spitting or eating seeds, gum, or other similar products.
- For games, team bench area and dugouts will be expanded to provide for social distancing. When possible, players and coaches should bring their own seating and avoid using benches. Team practice will not have access to the dugout and players will be social distanced on the field.



RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

ENTRY TO EVENT

All coaches, staff, players, volunteers, officials, parents, fans and those in attendance will:

- Be aware of the Covid-19 signage and by entering are stating they are not experiencing symptoms or have been around others that have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Must sign a USA Premier Liability Waiver to attend or participate in a USA Premier Baseball Event.
- By entering they are also agreeing to comply with social distancing requirements and outlined guidelines.

DURING EVENT

- Practice social distancing of 6-foot in all areas, e.g., seating area, waiting lines, etc.
- Wash hands with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water not available.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching mouth/nose, shaking hands or touching.
- Facility will ensure availability of handwashing, alcohol-based hand gel, and/or hygiene facilities are available at facilities.
- Facility staff will be cleaning all restrooms multiple times per day.

TEAM PRACTICE

- Coach will ensure and collect USA Premier Baseball Liability Waiver from each player and provide to USA Premier Baseball prior to team practice.
- Coaches, staff, players/parents must conduct a self-assessment of COVID-19 symptoms before coming to practice. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- Teams will enter the field from the 1st base gate and EXIT from the 3rd base gate
- Teams must wait until prior team is completely off field and all equipment and trash is removed from field, dugout and batting cage before entering.
- At each the beginning of each practice, Coach will review and clear each player on wellness to play, this would include asking if the player is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, or anyone in household diagnosed, etc. Those individuals not passing, will be asked to return another day when cleared. Any issue or concern, coach to notify USA Premier Baseball onsite representative immediately – who will in turn immediately contact Gina Pettrow, 562-895-1328, info@usaps.com and she will notify those City Officials and State Officials as applicable.



RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

- Coaches, Staff and Players must maintain 6-foot social distance as best possible while on field.
- Team required to wipe down (clean) hard surfaces such as bat racks, etc. before and after practice.
- Teams are required to clean all trash from used areas, e.g., field and batting cages, prior to leaving facility. If area is not clean on arrival, please notify facility staff before entering.
- Player equipment and belongings to be inside fence area - No one is allowed in the dugout.
- Players should use their own gear and equipment.
- Players must have individual drinks / bottles with their name. No shared food/drinks among players. No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.
- Players/coaches are recommended wear masks, as long as they feel safe to do so, but are not required. However, it is recommended to be worn while walking within the facility.
- Allow players to wear PPE items if they choose, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the practice or game.
- Pitchers ARE allowed to pitch to a player, but the catcher has to be 6' behind the batter - Batter can NOT run to the bases, NO scrimmage or game setting - NO CONTACT and social distancing at all times
- Players are discouraged from touching their face. No contact allowed between players, including handshakes, high fives, hugs, chest bumps.
- TEAM PRACTICE cannot include “contact drills”, inter squad scrimmages, or games.
- If there are any COVID-19 related concerns, they are to be shared with USA Premier Baseball Gina Pettrow 562-895-1328 immediately and USA Premier Baseball will notify the City of Irvine.

GAME RULE ADJUSTMENT (TEAM PRACTICE APPLIES)

- Recommend teams to clean and sanitize dugouts and bleachers before and after game.
- Game time limits could be shortened to allow time for cleaning between games.
- Home plate umpire will either be located between pitcher and 2B, socially distanced behind catcher, or be required to wear a mask behind the plate.
- Dugouts will be expanded outside of fence, with the safety of the players and coaches in mind and not in foul territory. Please follow the state/local guidelines for number of people in the dugout at a time. Only players and coaches allowed in dugouts.
- Players are discouraged from touching their face. No contact allowed between players, including handshakes, high fives, hugs, chest bumps.
- 6-foot social distancing at plate meeting.



RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

- No team huddles on mound. Mound visits can include pitcher, one coach, and catcher and must maintain 6-foot social distance.
- Base coaches must maintain 6-foot social distance from players at all times.
- Conversations between coach and umpire must maintain 6-foot distance.
- Teams are required to clean all trash from dugout prior to leaving facility. If a dugout is not clean on arrival, please notify facility staff before entering.
- Teams must wait until prior team is completely off field and all equipment and trash is removed from dugout before entering.
- Allow teams to spread players out; expand the dugout area when room permits and only if player safety will not be compromised. Expansion of the team dugouts should not be done into foul ball areas. Attempt to limit bench personnel to essential team personnel.
- No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires and fans. A “tip the cap” can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.

USA PREMIER STAFF

- USA Premier Baseball employees may be subject to additional screening elements prior to working (i.e. temperature check, individual equipment, health questions, etc.) This includes wearing protective nose and face coverings and following strict health and safety guidelines.
- USA Premier Baseball employees will be aware of USA Premier Baseball safety protocols, City of Irvine resources and communication plan which would be to notify Gina Pettrow, 562-895-1328 info@usaps.com USA Premier Baseball official representative of any issues.
- Document/track incidents of possible exposure and notify Gina Pettrow immediately of any issues. Gina will notify local health officials, staff and families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.
- USA Premier Baseball requires that all staff, vendors and officials all wear nose and mouth coverings while in the facility.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPLIANCE,
SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR
NEW WORLD WE LIVE IN**

LET'S PLAY BALL!



RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

Any Questions? Contact info@USAPS.com / USAPremierBaseball.com
“If You Don’t Play With The Best, Why Play At All...”