

## **2021 ADDITIONAL RULES/GUIDELINES**

**These rules are in addition to and/or supersede any rule on the current tournament rule sheet.**

**Pre-Game:** Only the Managers and Umpires will attend the pre-game conference.

**Coaches & Umpires:** Coaches and umpires are encouraged to wear face coverings at the pre-game conference.

**Defensive Conferences:** If a defensive conference is to take place (i.e., at the mound) the coach should wear a face covering and all other players should stand 6-ft apart if possible and/or place the solid part of their gloves in front of their faces to protect them.

**Time Limit:** The TIME LIMIT will be the same, however we are adjusting the ***drop-dead*** time on the rule sheet to ***1:20*** to allow ample time between contests to allow teams to exit and enter the fields without contact. Please be mindful of this as you are approaching the field for your next game. Handling of drop dead time limits such as completed innings versus reverting back is handled by the USA Rule Book, so if we must revert back by rule we will.

**Line-ups:** In Pool-Play it is recommended that you exchange line-ups verbally. In elimination play it is recommended that only one person handle the line-up card and give it to the umpire, multiple persons handling the line-up card should be avoided. If the other team is not comfortable with taking a copy of your line-up card that information can be relayed verbally.

**HEALTH CHECKS:** Coaches and Parents must perform Health Checks. If you, your child, or your player(s) are not feeling well or has a fever, PLEASE STAY HOME! If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you should stay home: Fever over 100.4 degrees, new cough, new shortness of breath, new sore throat, new headache, new shaking chills, new headache, new congestion, new running nose, new nausea, new vomiting, or new diarrhea. Also, if you have come in contact with someone in the last 14 days that has tested positive for COVID-19 you are not allowed to attend.

**Spectators:** Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs and they need to adhere to the social distancing guidelines of remaining 6 feet apart from anyone that does not reside in their household. No one should be directly behind the fence near Home Plate. Anyone not adhering to such guidelines could be asked to leave the park. Spectators should also perform a daily symptom self-evaluation answering the same questions as above.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

NO TEAM WATER COOLERS!

Players should not share equipment. If a batter makes an out, they should retrieve their own bat on the way back to the dugout, otherwise each team should designate one person to retrieve the bats to avoid unnecessary handling of the equipment. If it is necessary to share equipment, such equipment should be sanitized between uses.

**Personnel:** Dugout personnel will be limited. No unnecessary persons in the dugout. Teams should expand the dugout as much as possible to adhere with Social Distancing.

Runners should try to avoid any unnecessary contact with the defense as much as possible.

No Handshakes, Fist Bumps, Good Games lines. Players should not come out to celebrate a Home Run!

Teams should provide their own Hand Sanitizer and/or Disinfectant Wipes for their team as the facilities will not be providing them.

No gatherings such as shared lunches, team coolers, picnics in the parking lot etc.

Players should refrain from spitting, eating sunflower seeds, chewing gum or other similar products.

Teams should quickly exit the field and avoid congregating. Team Meetings should only be held if social distancing can be achieved.

Teams are responsible for removing any trash from the dugouts after each game.

Teams should not arrive to the facilities earlier than necessary. Players are encouraged to wait in their cars until just before the start of practice/warm-ups instead of congregating in a group.

**NO INFILED PRACTICE BETWEEN GAMES.**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Coaches must verify that all their players/parents/guardians have completed (electronically is preferred) the necessary waiver to participate. The coach understands that it is **ILLEGAL** to use any athlete that has not properly completed such waiver. Such a violation can result and removal of the player and/or team from the remainder of the tournament.

**SOFTBALLS:** The defensive team is responsible for retrieving foul balls while on defense. This is done to limit the handling of such by multiple individuals. Foul balls should be returned to the dugout to be sanitized before being returned to the game or the umpire.

**SCOREBOOK:** Home Team is the Official Book, and the Visiting team should confirm accuracy Substitutions should be confirmed verbally through the Umpire.

**REPORTING SCORES:** One representative from the winning team must verify the score with the other team and verify the same with the umpire. We will try to promptly post the scores electronically.

We encourage everyone to sign up for TEXT ALERTS through TournamentUSA which is available by accessing the appropriate tournament link from our website.

**HYGIENE:** Please wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.

**FACE COVERINGS:** According to Governor Wolf's guidelines: Coaching staff and other personnel should always wear face covering (masks or face shields), unless doing so jeopardizes their health. Face coverings are important when social distancing is difficult.

**Resources:**     <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>

Please understand that most of us do not want these restrictions but, we do appreciate your cooperation to achieve the goal of these young ladies playing game of softball.