



## **Taunton Girls Softball Return to Competition**

DISCLAIMER: Participants, parents, family, and spectators engaging in softball and activities related to softball do so with knowledge of the risk and potential exposure involved and agree to accept any and all inherent risks to their personal health.

NOTE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS: USA Softball does not dictate when local, state and metro associations can start playing softball during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting play will be determined by local associations working with their local governmental agencies. Teams coming from other areas should respect and follow their local governmental agency restrictions (where they reside) before signing up for tournaments.

This manual is the Taunton Girls Softball League best practices for our league and complex, as developed by our TGSL eBoard to return to playing softball and direction from USA Softball of Massachusetts and the State of Massachusetts COVID-19 Task Force Team. These best practices are designed to help operate events and return players back to the field post COVID-19. They do not replace or supersede any protocols or restrictions outlined by state or local authorities. Taunton Girls Softball League will continue to follow all local or state guidelines.

For the USA Softball of Massachusetts full version of the safety guidelines:

[Return to Competition Safety Guidelines](#)

## Our Complex

- **There are no dogs allowed at our complex.**
- **Face covering must be worn by everyone.**
- Spectator sections are located at the start of the outfield grass and all around the outfield fence.
- Spectators **are not allowed** around the infield fence or behind the dugout.
- Each field will be restricted to only 100 people. **Players are restricted to only 2 spectators at the field.** Coaches who have players on their team are not included.
- All bathrooms at the concession stand will be women only. Men and women both may use the port-a-johns.
- Online check-in. There will be no "in-person" check-in at the complex.
  - Please email rosters and insurance to Tournament Director
- No tents or pop ups in spectators sections. Tents can be set up in the extended dugout areas for players.
- All spectators need to practice social distancing while at the game.
- All dugouts and bathrooms will be disinfected before each set of doubleheaders.

## Teams

- Teams should arrive no earlier than their scheduled time.
  - 7:45am game - Arrive at 6:30am & access field at 6:45am
  - 12:15pm game - Arrive at 11am & access field at 11:15am
  - 4:45pm game - Arrive at 3:30 & access field at 3:45pm
- Teams will **NOT** be allowed to access fields any earlier.
- Spectators **should not arrive until 15 minutes** before game time.
- **There will be no area to warm up at the complex.** Teams will warm up on the field they will be playing on.
- Teams are responsible for supplying their own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes during play.
- Only active players (no injured players on the bench) and coaches are allowed on the softball field and extended bench area.
- Each team will designate one person to assist during the game.
  - Their responsibility will include sanitizing game balls (more on this below), retrieving foul balls, retrieving bats & wipe them down, and act as a runner for players if they need something from a spectator in the outfield.
- Players should wear batting gloves as much as possible.
- Players should refrain from sharing equipment. If equipment needs to be shared it should be disinfected before the next player uses it.
- No food or coolers in the dugouts, unless needed for medical reasons
- At the end of the second game all players will line up on each foul line and acknowledge the other team and umpire with a tip of their cap, a hand in the air, or any other acceptable gesture of good sportsmanship.
- After the game, there will be no "team meeting" on the field.

- **After the second game players, parents, & coaches will need to leave the complex as soon as possible so we can prepare the fields, dugouts, and bathrooms for the next teams.**

### **Game Procedure**

- Game Balls
  - Competition Weekend Games - TGSL Will provide all game balls. The team on defense will be responsible for sanitizing all balls in play and any foul ball will be returned to the defensive team.
- Umpires will not handle any game balls.
- All balls should be placed in the Ball Baby located on the backstop of all fields. Catchers will retrieve a sanitized ball from the Ball Baby if a ball is hit out of play.
- **Face covering will be worn by players when not actively engaged in the game.** Face coverings are recommended when at bat and on base.
- Players may wear face covering during play if they choose so.
- **All adult coaches must wear a face covering at all times.**
- Coach pre-game meetings will have only one coach & no players.
- Mound visits will be for injuries or substitutions.
- No defensive or offensive conferences.
- No player huddles before, during, or after the game. Players are not allowed to leave the extended dugout area.
- Pitchers can't lick their fingers while on the mound at any time.
- Players should not leave the extended dugout area during the game.

### **Concession Stand**

- Will be open at 10am & will serve a full lunch menu.
- We will only accept credit, debit or Apple Pay. **NO CASH**

### **Rain Policy**

- Every effort will be made to keep games on schedule and moving throughout the weekend. Depending on the situation we will use one of these options to continue play:
  - Running Clock - All games will continue to start on time as soon as the fields are ready to play
  - Reduce Game Time - All remaining games will be shortened to accommodate the remaining teams.
  - Cancel Game - If it's determined that the fields will remain unplayable for the rest of the day all games will be cancelled and not rescheduled
- Should a tournament have to shorten the number of games played, teams will be refunded based on the following formula:

- If a team plays zero games, the team will be entitled to their entry fee less non-recoverable tournament expenses. These include, but not limited to, perishable food, T-shirts, trophies, game balls, & insurance. Host will provide USA Softball MA this calculation within 7 days of the tournament for approval.
- Once approved, the tournament MUST send each team a copy of this calculation along with their refund.
  - If a team plays one game, the team will be entitled to 50% of their entry fee.
  - If a team plays two or more games, there will be no refund given.
- Tournaments MUST refund teams within 14 days from when the tournament was scheduled.

### **Refund Policy**

- Should a team have to drop out of a tournament **AND** a replacement team has been found, the team shall be entitled to a full refund provided the schedule has not been released.
- If a replacement team is unable to be found, no refund will be returned.
- Teams dropping out once a schedule has been released by the tournament will not be entitled to a refund, even if a replacement team is found.
- Please note that the team dropping out may be subject to additional penalties as determined by USA Softball MA.