



## **PHASE 3 SOFTBALL GUIDELINES COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

**PLAYING AREA** - defined as the field of play to the 200' fence and all area around it marked off (behind home plate, the dugout entrances, and the areas directly behind the dugouts) that are controlled by USA Softball of Piedmont Virginia, Inc

- Only players, coaches, and a scorekeeper for each team are allowed in the playing area.
- No more than two teams are permitted in the playing area at one time.
- When arriving at the playing area teams are to enter once the playing area has been vacated by the previous team(s).
- When games end no post-game talks in the playing area are permitted.
- Teams must leave the playing area once their game is complete unless their next game is scheduled to be played next.
- The team to play next must remain outside the playing until the prior team is completely out of the dugout and left the playing area.
- The pre-game meeting at home plate will involve 1 coach from each team and the umpire only.
- All pre-game equipment checks will be waived.
- The games times are scheduled so that there is enough time between games to allow for limited interaction between teams outside the playing area.
- Warm up areas for teams will be designated for each field and/or facility. A map will be provided prior to the start of the tournament showing those areas.
- Prior to the start of your first pool game a team roster and copy of your team's insurance must be left with the site supervisor. The site supervisor will then give each team one coach's bucket that contains 4 softballs. Those softballs will be used and controlled by the team playing defense for the entire tournament. There will be a spray bottle of sanitizer (Prime Time Plus) behind the backstop that can be used to sanitize the balls as needed. If more softballs are needed during the tournament, please let us know.
- All games will start at the scheduled start time and will NOT start early.
- Do not interfere with any state, county, or city employee sanitizing the playing area. Stay clear from them until they are done.

### **Athletes / Coaches**

- Must maintain ten feet of physical distance between participants and spectators, where practicable.

- No touch rule – players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans.
- Must conduct (or parent / guardian) daily symptom assessments. Anyone experiencing symptoms or temperature above 100.4 must stay home.
- No spitting or eating seeds or other similar products.
- Recommended to wear face coverings at all times.
- Athletes whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation should be administered between users
- Coaches should ensure the players are adhering to social distancing in dugouts and other seating areas and wearing face coverings while not actively participating on the field of play.

#### **Umpires / Tournament Staff**

- Must maintain ten feet of physical distance between participants and spectators, where practicable.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments. Anyone experiencing symptoms or temperature above 100.4 must stay home.
- Recommended to wear face coverings at all times.
- Umpires calling balls and strikes should allow adequate distance behind the catcher while still able to perform their duty.

#### **Parents / Guardians / Spectators**

- Must maintain ten feet of physical distance between participants and spectators, where practicable. This includes in and around bleachers for anyone not in the same family.
- Must conduct daily symptom assessments. Anyone experiencing symptoms or temperature above 100.4 must stay home.
- Recommended to wear face coverings at all times.
- Must not enter the playing area.
- Must keep 6-feet or more distance from the backstop and/or fences
- Recommending that only immediate household family members of all youth players attend

#### **Leaving the park**

- Athletes, Coaches, Spectators, Visitors, Umpires, Tournament Staff should not congregate in common areas or parking lot following the games