



## Spring Baseball and Softball Parent Protocol

## Spring is Focus on Fun and Safety

The City of Charleston Recreation Department is thrilled to continue to offer sports for our citizens. The only way to continue to have success is with the COOPERATION of all parents, players and coaches. Spring sports will look just like our Fall 2020 season. We have instituted new standards, protocols and game rules that will meet or exceed CDC national standards for keeping our children safe when playing outdoor sports. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere to allow our children to exercise, socialize (distantly), be fit and have fun!

Below are the protocols and we are asking ALL parents, spectators, players, and whomever come to watch to HELP US keep EVERYONE SAFE. These protocols have worked for the last two seasons and we will continue with them through the spring!

**PLEASE follow all guidelines, protocols and ordinances set forth.**

**Please DO NOT attend practice or games if you feel sick.**

- Coaches/Parents and Players will follow all city ordinances for mask established at time of play. As of this time Coaches and all spectators are required to wear a face covering at all time while on city fields, parking lots, restrooms and playgrounds.
- Players will be required to wear their face covering at all times except when they are actually practicing on the field or playing on the field. If on sidelines they must be in face covering.
- All spectators will be asked to socially distance
- Parents will need to bring chairs to watch games. No bleachers will be available for spectators.
- Please have your child carry their own hand sanitizer.
- Coordinators will schedule practices so there are minutes in between practice and games that will allow teams finishing to exit fields prior to the next round of practice/games begin.
- We ask that you and your player stay in your car until your practice time begins. Please do not arrive early and expect to be able to hang out on the field or around the field. This activity will not be permitted during this fall.
- Teams will get an air horn with 5 minutes left in practice, a second air horn at the conclusion of practice will sound. This is when players will end practice and head to cars.
- Coaches will not hold huddles or group talks during this time. Staff will begin to announce to please move to cars. We ask all parents to respect these time allotments as well. A coach may talk during their practice time but teams must leave the field at the second air horn.
- Games will be similar. Immediately following a games finish we ask everyone to move to their cars so we may get the next round of games started.
- No benches or bleachers will be used during practices or games.
- Dugouts will be extended and Fence will be marked with an x every 6 ft for players to hang their ball bags.
- No handshakes at the end of the game, no team huddles, no grouping together for cheers, no high fives, verbal encouragement only. Each team will line up on their foul line tip their hat or wave as a team to their opponent.
- We ask all players to not spit, do not spit on hands, cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- No seeds or gum chewing
- Snacks: All snacks MUST be prepackaged. NO homemade items of any kind or hand cut fruit.
- Players are to bring their own water bottle. There will be no shared water coolers.
- Sanitizer when available will be in dugouts. Coaches will be responsible for the team bag and sanitizing that equipment.
- We strongly encourage your child to have their own batting helmet, bat and catcher gear if needed so that you can ensure equipment has been sanitized.
- We ask that when needing to speak to staff at fields that you please maintain at least a 10ft distance. Staff will be happy to help and give you any necessary information.
- Games will be located in the area of registration. Peninsula will play in Peninsula, James Island will play on James Island, etc.
- 5-8 year old's practices will start February 27th. Games will be March 20th to May 8th approximately.
- 6 games per 5-8 league – 4 weeks of practice, 4-6 weeks of games.
- 5-8 year old's will practice and play weeknights and Saturdays.
- 9 and above practices will start April 12th. Games will be May 3rd to June 19th approximately.
- No combines or drafts this season. Random draw, limited request. Request limited to one friend or coach and are not guaranteed. No more than three A players per team.
- 9 and above will practice and play weeknights and Saturdays.
- We will minimize to eliminate all travel to other areas for this season.
- Some age groups may be combined to stay in geographical area.
- 6 games per league ages 5-8. 4 weeks of practice, 4-6 weeks of games
- 8 games per league 9 and above. No scores, No standings.
- Game structure will be pods/cohorting of 4 teams to limit exposure in all age groups
- 1 Umpire will be used for 9 and above when available. There is an umpire shortage.
- Concessions will be open with prepackaged snacks and bottle drinks.