

# *ENYTB*

## 2020

### Health & Safety Guidelines During COVID-19



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## PREEMPTIVE MEASURES

*The following guidelines should be followed by all individuals participating in any ENYTB game in the 2020 season:*

- ✓ All players, coaches, and spectators are asked to proactively monitor their own health prior to attending any ENYTB activities.
  - If body temperature is at or above 100.4 F, do not attend team activities.
  - If experiencing cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath, do not attend team activities.
  - If underlying medical conditions pose an increased risk, consult a medical professional before committing to participating in the baseball season.
- ✓ All players will be required to have a parent or guardian sign the ENYTB release relating to COVID-19 and provide the signed release to ENYTB prior to participating in any ENYTB game.
- ✓ Every club is required to document their LOCAL FIELD PROTOCOLS on the ENYTB website prior to the use of the field for any ENYTB games. These rules will be accessible on the schedule of every team scheduled to play on that field. All local rules must be read and complied with. These measures will address park specific rules such as:
  - Where to warm up before game, if anywhere
  - Number of spectators allowed
  - Where spectators should sit
  - Additional field specific logistics
- ✓ All teams must have readily available the following items for use at all team activities: an adequate supply of hand sanitizer, a First Aid kit and extra face masks and disposable gloves. Teams also should have disinfectant spray and paper towels/wipes readily available to clean any equipment or hard surfaces, as required, between uses.
- ✓ All players, coaches, and spectators are required to wait to enter the area of the playing field until the prior game has vacated. In turn, all players, coaches, and spectators are required to vacate the area of the playing field promptly upon completion of their game.
- ✓ Any umpire organization that will be working an ENYTB game MUST submit their plan for safety compliance to the league prior to working a league game.

## NEW ON-FIELD RULES IN EFFECT FOR 2020

1. Spitting, chewing gum, and sunflower seeds are all PROHIBITED.
2. High fiving and all actions that involve body to body contact are PROHIBITED.
3. Coaches must wear face coverings if they cannot maintain 6' of distance at all times.
4. Players in or around the dugout must wear face coverings if they cannot maintain 6' of distance at all time.
5. All players are required to wash hands with hand sanitizer (min. 60% alcohol) or soap and water prior to entering field to play defense and again after each half inning.
6. Paper lineup cards will not be exchanged. Instead, teams will either:
  - a. Email the opposing coach their lineup at least 1 hour before the game
    - i. Last minute revisions can me communicated verbally at the field while standing more than six feet apart.
  - b. Bring an easy to read version of the lineup to the field on a clipboard. Place that clipboard in a location where the opposing team scorekeeper can easily read it without touching it. Step back more than six feet until the scorekeeper is done copying it.
7. Pre-game conference at home plate will be limited to one coach per team and the umpires. All parties must remain a minimum of six feet apart. No handshaking allowed.
8. Sharing of equipment is to be kept to an absolute minimum. This includes bats, helmets, gloves, and catcher gear.
9. If sharing equipment is the only option (i.e. catchers gear), it MUST be thoroughly disinfected by an adult before the next player uses it.
10. Mound conferences should be limited to just the coach and the pitcher. The catcher can be included when the coach deems necessary. No other players are permitted to join.
11. If the catcher or home plate ump ever finds the need to clear someone else's equipment away prior to a play at the plate, this should be done by safely kicking the equipment away, not by grabbing it with their hand.
12. Post-game handshakes between teams are PROHIBITED. This will be replaced by both teams lining up on the base path in front of their respective dugout. Each team will tip their caps in the direction of the opposing team.

## RULES REGARDING BASEBALLS

1. Each team will bring their own supply of 4-6 game ready baseballs for each game.
2. While on defense, the only game balls that will be used are the balls provided by that team.

**\*\*Update 7/12:** If a team feels there is a significant discrepancy in quality of baseball, they can elect to both pitch and hit their own brand of baseballs. This means they must supply the other team with 4-6 baseball in exchange for an equal number of the opposing teams' baseballs that will be held for future use.

3. If the umpire elects to manage the game balls,
  - a. He shall wear gloves any time he touches a game ball.
  - b. He shall return the balls to rightful teams dugout at end of each half inning.
  - c. He shall collect the game balls from the other team for the next half inning.
4. If the umpire elects not to manage the game balls,
  - a. A coach on the pitcher's team shall be tasked with managing game balls for that half-inning.
  - b. The coach shall enter any new ball into play in the event of foul ball, or any other situation requiring a new ball to enter play.
  - c. This coach shall sanitize hands regularly during game.
5. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a player or coach ever touch a baseball while their team is on offense.
6. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should any spectator ever touch a baseball hit or thrown out of play.
7. Coaches are required to inform their spectators to NOT touch the baseball.
8. Each team is required to have a player or coach assigned to retrieving foul balls while their team is playing defense.
9. While baseballs are not in play, they should be left exposed to sun, if possible.

## FACILITIES

- ✓ All facilities used for ENYTB games must establish their own practices to satisfy NYS guidelines for logistics in regards to bathrooms, concessions, crowd size and placement.
- ✓ ENYTB will provide a tool on the league website to make facility guidelines accessible to any team that will be visiting the field.
- ✓ Each team member MUST follow the guidelines for the field they are playing at.
- ✓ Each team is obligated to assist with the cleanliness of their dugout area by disinfecting and wiping down all hard surfaces in the dugout area at the conclusion of the game.

### ***Recommendations/considerations when drafting your field plans:***

1. Transition between games – avoid congregation and congestion
  - a. Do you need to space out your start times?
  - b. Enforce a time limit on each game?
  - c. Designate an area for players to wait/warm up for next game
  - d. If no other option, require players to remain in vehicles/parking area until previous game has vacated field
2. Dugout
  - a. Dugouts can be used if all people inside are wearing a face mask
  - b. Players may be required to bring their own chairs and sit outside dugout. However, consider impacts of heat and sun on the players, especially for doubleheaders. A canopy, pavilion or some refuge from sun is preferable.
3. Spectators
  - a. Consider whether or not you will utilize bleachers
  - b. Designate seating area for each team's fans
  - c. Spectators who are not family members shall sit at least 6 feet apart
  - d. Determine whether you are required to limit the number of spectators
4. Concessions
  - a. If open, will it be just prepackaged items (i.e bags of chips, bottled water)
  - b. If preparing foods, have clear safety rules for those prepping food
  - c. Have a plan to avoid congregations at window and to allow for six feet between customers.
5. Batting Cages
  - a. If applicable, have a plan to avoid congregations
6. Restrooms
  - a. Clean the restrooms regularly
  - b. Ensure an adequate supply of soap, paper towels, etc.

## APPLICATION OF NYS GUIDELINES

- ✓ All members need to follow state guidelines as they pertain to youth sports:  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationSummaryGuidance.pdf>
- ✓ All members need to be up to date on the travel and quarantine restrictions:  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-individuals-traveling-new-york-three-additional-states-will-be>
- ✓ If any team travels to a state on the quarantine list, the team is required to notify the league and ENYTB will unilaterally cancel their league schedule for 14 days after they return to NYS.
- ✓ If any player travels to a state on the quarantine list, the team is responsible to not allow that player to be physically present at team activities for 14 days upon return.
- ✓ Any ENYTB team playing a team from an area that has not been cleared to play baseball will not have their schedule suspended by the league; but no ENYTB team will be required to play that team for 14 days after the date of their final game against the opponent from the restricted area.
- ✓ NYS Sports and Recreation Guidelines clearly prohibit tournaments of multiple games that require travel.
  - a. ENYTB teams have the right to cancel any games against teams that choose to leave the state for tournaments that require overnight stays.
  - b. If a team participates in a tournament inside of NYS with participants that come from outside of NYS, ENYTB teams have the right to cancel future games against these transient teams for up to 14 days after their return to NYS.
- ✓ ENYTB will limit its local tournament participants to only those teams that stay within the ENYTB geographic footprint and only play against teams from within the ENYTB geographic footprint during the 14 days leading up to tournament season.
  - a. Any team aged 9U – 12U that fail to meet this standard are required to notify ENYTB by July 15<sup>th</sup> and will receive a full refund on tournament entry fees.
  - b. Any team aged 13U – 18U that fail to meet this standard are required to notify ENYTB by July 22<sup>nd</sup> and will receive a full refund on tournament entry fees.

## PROTOCOLS & PENALTIES IF RULES ARE BROKEN

- ✓ If you are playing a league game and you do not feel safe due to your opponent's lack of compliance with the Safety Guidelines:
  - a. Step 1: verbally communicate to your opposing manager what rule they are not in compliance with.
  - b. Step 2: If the offending team does not immediately comply, the game should be declared a forfeit against the offending team by the opposing team's manager.
  
- ✓ Penalty System:
  - a. The first offense reported to the league by an opponent, spectator, umpire or any other interested party will result in written warning to the offending team.
  - b. A second offense will result in the team being banished from 2020 ENYTB local tournament play
  - c. A third offense will result in an indefinite suspension from ENYTB play.