



City of Springfield Parks and Recreation

401 N. Main Street
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 382-1655

Terry Martin
Director

May 29, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce that we will be able to conduct a 2020 season for both baseball and softball. While we are excited to get the season started, our primary focus is the safety of the players, their families and our other guests that attend games. As a result, we will be instituting various protocols to be compliant with both the CDC's guidelines and Governor Lee's orders and guidelines. Please thoroughly read the notice and guidelines below. Please keep in mind these are extraordinary times that call for extraordinary measures in order for the kids to get back on the field this year. Please be patient and help us to make this an enjoyable season for our Springfield children.

Thank you again and we look forward to having a safe and exciting season.

Terry Martin, Director

NOTICE TO PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN GROUP SPORTING ACTIVITIES

No player, coach, or parent should come to practice if they are sick, have symptoms related to COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone who is sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Parents should not permit children to participate in sporting activities if the child has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19. If after recent participation in sporting activities, the child develops symptoms or is confirmed as positive for COVID-19, you should consult with their healthcare provider and report such occurrence to the coach or the Springfield Parks and Recreation Director. Parents are encouraged to make efforts to limit potential COVID-19 exposure by any vulnerable persons (identified by the CDC as those who are over age 65 or have severe underlying medical conditions) who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with individuals who participate in youth sports.

COVID-19 Guidelines for the 2020 Youth Springfield Baseball/Softball Season to include both PRACTICE and GAMES

- All teams and spectators may not enter the field area sooner than thirty (30) minutes before game or practice. If you arrive at the park prior to thirty (30) minutes before your game or practice time, please remain in your vehicle until you are within the thirty (30) minute window.
- There will be no team meetings allowed after the 5:30 games. Teams must exit the ballfield area including runways to allow for the next group of teams to enter safely. Teams choosing to have team meetings after the 7:30 games must exercise social distancing of six (6) feet or more.
- All provisions in these guidelines also apply to practices. No team meetings are permitted after practice unless you have the last practice time for your field.
- All games will have a 1 hour and 15 min drop-dead time limit. The game ends immediately upon reaching the time limit with no further opportunity for batting for the home team. This rule is in place to allow for the park to be empty before the 7:30 games begin.
- Please exit the park quickly after each game and practice before next team arrives.
- In accordance with Governor Lee's guidelines, bleachers will be removed from the field area. Parents are responsible for bringing their own seating and spacing out the seating to be compliant with the social distancing requirements.
- To promote social distancing this season, we ask that only immediate family members come to games and practices. Immediate family members are defined as parents/guardians and siblings.
- The dugout area will be extended to outside of the dugouts. Players not involved in the game (i.e. while opposing team is batting or if the player is a substitute waiting to enter the game) are encouraged to stand with parents.
- Concession stands will not be open. Parents are responsible for providing food and drink for their children. Please ensure that children do not share food or drink with others.
- Every effort should be made to avoid sharing of equipment. When this is unavoidable (i.e. bats, catcher's gear, etc.), equipment must be disinfected by the designated dugout parent each time the equipment is being transferred to a different player. This would include between batters if a bat is being used by consecutive players.
- Shared or community drinking sources (water coolers, etc.) are not allowed.
- No team coolers or centralized meeting points for exchanging of items will be allowed.
- Coaches and parents are responsible for ensuring that hand sanitizer and/or disinfecting wipes are available. Coaches should encourage parents to bring sanitizer with them and place in player's bag.
- Physical distancing of six (6) feet or more should remain in effect for all nonparticipants. A nonparticipant includes players not actively involved in the game at that particular time.
- Only four outfielders in 6u & 8u baseball/softball will be permitted at a time to promote social distancing. Two (2) coaches may stay in the outfield to help players with social distancing. Please substitute players each inning.
- Base stealing or leading off will not be allowed in any age group for the month of June.
- **OPTING NOT TO PLAY:** No player is required to participate in the 2020 Springfield Youth Baseball/Softball Season due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19. This decision is completely up to the legal guardian of the child. If you choose not to play, please contact your head coach to make arrangements to pick up your child's uniform. Your coach will then inform the City of Springfield Parks and Recreation Department of your decision NOT to participate in the 2020 Springfield Youth Baseball/Softball Season and the city will initiate your refund process minus the cost of the uniform. We understand that these are difficult times and we will respect each parent's decision. These guidelines may be amended as the situation requires.