



# MILFORD RECREATION

Parsons Complex, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT 06460 Phone: 203-783-3280 recdesk@milfordct.gov



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## 2020-21 Milford Adult Softball League COVID-19 Amendment

We hope you understand that the COVID-19 emergency is a changing situation, and that as CDC and/or State of CT guidance changes, we too will need to make the appropriate changes.

Milford Recreation will adhere to the following rules/regulations listed below during the 2020-21 Adult Softball Winter season. Please note the policies and procedures we will implement are in accordance with the State of Connecticut and the Milford Health Department. Additionally attached are the recommendations from USA Softball, our governing body.

### General Policies and Procedures as follows, with details included in the sections below:

- No hand shakes, high fives or physical body contact allowed. All players should continue to social distance 6 feet whenever possible including in the dugout/ player area.
- Masks do not have to be worn while engaged in play, but shall be worn when in the dugout/ player area and at all other times when not in play.
- Coaches and staff are required to wear a face mask when unable to easily, continuously, and measurably keep 6 feet of physical distance from others, unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to medical conditions.
- All players must use their own glove.
- Players will be responsible for disinfecting their own equipment including bats after each inning.
- The pitcher will disinfect the softball before the start of each inning.
- Teams should arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled start time.
- Teams must vacate the field immediately following their game. Individuals shall not congregate in common areas or parking lots following games.
- Spectators are permitted provided they maintain 12 feet of social distance. Game Spectators are required to bring and wear face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth unless doing so would be contrary to his or her safety due to health condition.
- It is recommended that players bring their own chair to maintain 6 feet social distance as there will not be enough space in the dugout/ player area for all players with social distancing measures in place.
- Coaches, players, umpires/officials must conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation).
- All games will have a scheduled thirty-minute buffer.
- All practice permits will have a fifteen-minute buffer.
- No Spitting, No sunflower seed eating, tobacco and No Gum Chewing.
- No handshakes, high-fives, fist pumps, etc. before, during, or after games and practices.
- No team snacks or meals.
- All players must supply their own water for practices and games; no "team" water coolers will be allowed.



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- All participants will be required to fill out and submit the COVID-19 Consent of Information form and Assumption of Risk & Waiver of Liability relating to COVID-19. [MRD COVID-19 Waiver General both forms.pdf](#). These forms will be available on site.

## Reporting COVID-19 Cases:

In February 2020, COVID-19 was added to the List of Reportable Diseases. Those required to report such diseases must report cases of COVID-19 infection immediately to the Connecticut Department of Public Health and to the local department of health in the town of residence of the case-patient by telephone on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease.

### **COVID-19 Guidelines per USA Softball (our governing body) (Amended by MRD)**

<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/covid-resources>

In these unprecedented times, USA Softball strives to protect the integrity of the game while also providing a safe environment for all involved. We will continue our mission to develop, administer and promote the sport of softball to provide opportunities for participation and the best possible experience for those involved.

The current coronavirus (also known as “COVID-19”) pandemic has changed how industries across the United States and the world are conducting business. It has cast uncertainty and apprehension into even the most routine commercial interactions.

Despite these circumstances, many industries continue to provide their customers with services necessary for continued economic stability and public safety. On one hand, continuing operations means businesses are supplying integral services and helping prop up the American economy during a time of economic downturn. On the other hand, these businesses are operating in uncharted territory, which carries costs and risks of its own.

In the ever-changing landscape of this pandemic, businesses continuing operations should be proactive in trying to limit these risks. They should monitor and comply with government rules and guidelines. Also, participants must recognize and acknowledge that, while participating in a sport, there are inherent risks to certain activities and, in many situations, social distancing of 6 feet per person among fellow participants or others is not always possible. As a sound recognition of these facts, businesses — particularly those in the services industries whose very nature requires physical interaction among persons — should also consider taking steps to protect against possible future liability for coronavirus exposure claims (*i.e.*, claims that a person contracted coronavirus while on their premises or



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while participating in a particular activity). Even in uncertain times like these, sound risk management principles can provide guidance to businesses and industries committed to continuing operations.

In addition to taking reasonable protective measures to limit risks, a liability waiver is another simple, familiar, and cost-effective step that businesses can take to protect against potential liability for exposure claims. Most individuals are familiar with liability waivers, and you probably signed one prior to opening a gym membership or going skiing, sending your kids on a school fieldtrip, or after calling the plumber to fix a broken pipe at home. A waiver is simply a voluntary relinquishment or abandonment of a legal right. *Waiver*; Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019). A liability waiver — sometimes also called an exculpatory agreement — is a written contract between two or more parties in which one party (generally the customer) acknowledges the risks of participating in an activity or of accepting the services of another party (generally the provider). Most importantly, the customer also agrees to prospectively waive the right to sue the provider for injuries or damages arising out of the activity or services. The

waiver may be as simple as a clause in a services contract or a separate form of its own, and the parties will typically execute it prior to or immediately following performance of the subject services.

Even though liability waivers are routine and well-known, it is unclear whether a COVID-19 waiver relieving a service provider of liability for exposure claims would be enforceable. This is due, in part, to the practical reality that no court in the country has yet analyzed such waiver in this context. But basic legal principles should guide any such analysis, and those seeking to execute liability waivers should consider the following general principles.

**The items listed in this document are suggestions of recommended practices for restarting USA Softball events. State/Metro associations, Recreational Leagues, Tournament Hosts, Staff, Athletes, Coaches, Parents, and Spectators should continue to follow CDC, Federal, State and Local governmental guidelines.**

**Feel free to make your guidelines more stringent if you deem necessary.**

**Remember that information and recommendations during the pandemic are very fluid and are subject to change.**



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***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.***

## **Team Recommendations**

### **Field Recommendations**

As to all applicable persons, people should be instructed that if they are exhibiting symptoms of possible exposure to COVID-19, such as fever, that they should not come to events or work until such time as the participant has been tested and/or cleared.

- **Teams**

- It is recommended that all players hand sanitize between each half inning. (Personal sanitizer will not be provided by the Recreation Department).

### **Contact Information**

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