

2021 COVID-19 Risk Reduction Plan

De Pere Girls Softball Association

De Pere Girls Softball Association is committed to providing a safe and healthy league program for all our youth and their families. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Risk Reduction Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Board Members and coaches will be responsible for implementing and carrying out this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 on our diamonds and community, and that requires full cooperation among our coaches, board members, parents, and players. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our program. Our COVID-19 Risk Reduction Plan will address the following:

- Waiver for participants
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Social distancing controls (for both player and parent) **200 people per field maximum**
- Housekeeping, including sanitizing, cleaning, disinfecting, and decontamination
- Prompt identification and isolation of sick persons
- Communications and training that will be provided to coaches
- Management and supervision necessary to ensure effective implementation of the plan

Waiver for Participants

All families will be required to sign a COVID-19 Acknowledgement form to participate. The acknowledgement form will list the expectations of players and families and the risk of participating in the DGSA Softball program. The acknowledgement form would be required to be signed by all participants prior to player being allowed to practice.

Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Basic infection prevention measures will be posted at all bathrooms and in the dugout of each diamond by the City of De Pere. This includes hand washing guidelines and “Cover your Cough or Sneeze” guidelines. The guidelines will also be discussed and shared with parents via e-mails and social media platforms.

Social Distancing Controls

Social distancing will be implemented throughout the park through the following controls:

Players/Coaches

- During practices, only one team will be allowed to use the diamond/batting cages at one time, and coaches will follow social distancing guidelines as much as possible by splitting drills into smaller groups and utilizing the space in the diamonds to spread groups and individuals out

- During practices or games, if a team or teams are waiting to use a diamond, all players, parents and coaches should remain in their vehicles or behind center field until their field is cleared of previous team members.
- The dugout will be extended to include space behind the dugout, where picnic tables will be placed, and the area blocked off to allow players to spread out and players will be required to keep their own equipment in these areas maintaining social distance between their equipment
- During games, each team will supply their own balls to use while playing defense. Balls will be sanitized before each game and again if a foul ball is hit and another person retrieved the ball. Umpires should not handle softballs.
- At the conclusion of every game, players will line up on their respective foul lines and collectively waive and say “Good Game” to the other team.

Umpires

- Home plate umpire will be asked to officiate the game from behind home plate while maintaining safe social distancing from players as possible.
- The field umpire will officiate the game from normal positions while maintaining safe social distancing from players.
- The pre-game warmups will take place in the outfield along the foul line of the team respective dugout.

Parents/Spectators

- Parents/spectators will not be allowed on the field or in the (newly defined) dugout. Spectators will be encouraged to bring their own seating, as the bleachers will be removed from the park.
- Spectators will be encouraged to view the game from along the foul lines starting at 1st / 3rd base extending to the outfield and in the outfield area
- Parents/Spectators are limited to a family group per player. A family group is considered to be immediate family. (**Immediate family** refers to a players parents, grandparents and siblings including adoption or marriage) This will need to be enforced in order to meet the City’s people per field guidelines. Social distancing guidelines would apply (for example, must be 6 feet from the next group/spectator/family)

Facilities

- The bathrooms at the park will be open for use. DGSA will assist the city with sanitation while we are utilizing the park.
- When the Park Restroom building is used, we recommend only one DGSA household uses the restroom at a time.

Concession Stand

- Concession stand will be open with the following restrictions.
 - All food being sold will be prepackaged or grab and serve
 - Grab and serve will include items prepared by an outside vendor packaged and ready to serve (example single sliced pizza, sub sandwiches, etc.)
 - DGSA will serve Slushies
 - Will provide individual packaged straws and server will wear masks and gloves when serving
 - Volunteer servers will be limited to 4 people and will wear masks while serving. No players or children allowed to hangout during volunteer times
 - Hand sanitation locations will be added inside and outside the windows for volunteers and customers to utilize
 - DGSA will mark and create a line for service (Ordering/Pickup) using cones signage
 - Markings on the window line area will be set at 6ft and limited to one family group ordering at a time. DGSA will communicate to families, coaches, and spectators that they limit the number of people at the ordering window per trip

Housekeeping

Regular housekeeping practices will be implemented, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of shared surfaces, equipment, and machinery.

Every dugout, garage, and concession stand will have a disinfecting spray bottle (containing 70% alcohol) for players and coaches to use to disinfect and sanitize necessary equipment, dugouts, and hands. The sanitizing spray will be sprayed on and needs 1 minute to dry in order to be sanitized before use. Spray bottles will be checked daily and refilled as necessary by DGSA board members.

Equipment/Players

- Items to be sanitized by each coach before and after each practice/game will include gate handles, dugout benches and game balls
- Items to be sanitized between each use will include shared catchers' equipment and shared bats, which will be sanitized by an assigned player each practice/game
- DGSA equipment will be sanitized between each use by DGSA coaches and/or board members include line chalk machine, rakes, shovels, groomer, scoreboard machines, and pitching machines
- Sanitizer will be available and encouraged for the players to use between each inning
- League policy will be modified to require all players to own their own helmet, glove and face guard (in leagues where required). It will be encouraged that each player owns their own bat, and catcher's equipment, however, if equipment is shared it will be sanitized between each use. DGSA will provide equipment for the season, per a check out process, for any player not able to acquire proper equipment
- Each team will be provided their own bucket of balls to use and required to not share between teams. Balls will be sanitized with provided spray before each practice/game by coaches and will include laying the balls on the tray provided, spraying them, allowing them to dry for 1-2 minutes, and rotating the balls, spraying them again, and letting them dry for 1-2 minutes.

Facilities

- The park bathrooms will be cleaned daily by park and rec.
- DGSA will assist with sanitation of park bathrooms during park usage
- Concession Stand will be sanitized as required during usage

Parents/Spectators

- DGSA recommends that parents wear masks when needing to talk to a coach or when a situation comes up where proper distancing may not be possible at that moment
- DGSA recommends spectators wear masks while in the concession stand line

Prompt identification and isolation of sick persons

A thermometer will be available in the med kit in the concession stand storage and will be utilized for any player, coach or parent who feels ill. If it is determined any player, coach, or parent has a fever or is ill, they will be separated from other individuals and required to leave immediately.

All individuals will be encouraged to stay home when sick, when household members are sick, or when required to by a health care provider/school to isolate or quarantine themselves or a member of their household. If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19, it will be mandatory to inform all players, parents, and coaches who could have encountered that individual. The individual testing positive and those considered close contacts will be required to follow all CDC quarantine guidelines. In addition, all team equipment will be sanitized an additional time after notification of an ill player before use again. The health status and health information of any individual will be protected and kept confidential.

Communications and training

This Risk Reduction Plan will be communicated to all players, coaches, and families participating in De Pere Girls Softball Association. Initial and continued training will be provided to all coaches to inform them of the proper procedures regarding all policies contained in this document. The plan, as well as signage with correct hand washing and respiratory etiquette will be posted throughout the park. The De Pere Girls Softball League President's and Commissioner's phone numbers will be posted in the dugouts to ensure any issues are immediately reported and questions are promptly answered.

Management and supervision

Coaches and board members are to monitor how effective the program has been implemented and work together to update the training as necessary. The Risk Reduction Plan will also be posted in each dugout and concession stand for reference.

DGSA will designate one person to be the lead for contact and enforcing the COVID-19 Risk Reduction Plan outlined above. This person will update the city of any issues with a weekly email report.

DGSA fully acknowledges that any deviations of the COVID-19 Risk Reduction Plan outlined above may allow the City of De Pere to terminate the use of City owned diamonds for the season.