Softball Fans,

Hoover Softball Association (HSA) would like to welcome everyone to our fall softball season. As we start practices, prepare for games, and try to get back into the normal swing of life, it is important for all of us to remember that Alabama is still in the grip of a global pandemic as a result of COVID-19. HSA has established certain guidelines for practice and play at the park that we want to remind everyone about to try to keep everyone safe and healthy during this fall season. It is important for all of us to do our part to protect not only the players, but the parents and other family members, coaches, workers, and other visitors to our park. Everyone has to do their part to make this a successful fall season. Set forth below is a summary of some of the steps that HSA is encouraging be taken at the park this fall.

**Teams:**

To minimize interaction between players of different teams, dugout use is required to be alternated on the following schedule:

Teams practicing weeknights at 5:30 pm and on Sundays at 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm shall utilize the first base side of the field to hang bags and equipment.

Teams practicing weeknights at 7:00 pm and on Sundays at 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm shall utilize the third base side of the field to hang bags and equipment.

Teams should spread their bags/equipment out along the fence line and maintain a 6 foot distance between player's equipment during practices. We have a lot of fence line on our fields, so please use it to try to spread out players and their equipment.

During team meetings and throughout practice, players and coaches are encouraged to maintain a 6ft distance between everyone on the field (coaches and players) when practical. We recognize that this may not be possible during play, drills or all physical activity, but when the possible, coaches should try to structure time on the field to minimize grouping multiple players inside of a 6 foot radius whenever possible.

Players should not be permitted to share equipment where feasible. If shared equipment is used it should be cleaned between each use of a different player. Of course it is not feasible to clean every softball each time it is touched, and that is not required, but catchers gear or bats can easily be cleaned between each use. The small amount of time that this takes between each use is worth it to try to prevent infection and slow the transmission of COVID-19.

Players should not go to the bathroom in groups, parents or a household member may accompany their child to the bathroom.

**Parents/guardians:**

If you or your player has any symptoms of COVID-19 or are sick for any reason, you should not come to the park and should not allow your player to participate in any games, practices or other softball related activities. Please notify your coach to let them know why you or your player will not be there and to allow your coach to be aware of any possible risks or additional steps that should be taken.

All players are encouraged to wash and sanitize their hands and equipment prior to entering the field and after leaving. Accordingly to the CDC, regular handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent infection and slow the transmission of COVID-19, and HSA is counting on all parents to ensure that their player thoroughly washes their hands and/or uses hand sanitizer. Coaches are unable to verify that this has taken place.

Parents are also encourage to bring hand sanitizer and other sanitizing products for their player and team use.

Please encourage your player to maintain a 6ft social distance when feasible on the field. Coaches are unfortunately unable to focus on all players at all times. We need parents to talk to your players about maintaining social distancing when not involved in active play or drills and when possible. We understand that players will want to talk to their friends and socialize, but please talk to them about and encourage them to do so in a safer and socially distanced way.

**Spectators:**

All spectators are encouraged to maintain a 6ft social distance between anyone of another household when at the park. If you are unable to do this, face mask should be worn. Everyone should wear a mask when a 6ft social distance cannot be maintained. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey on July 29, 2020 issued her fifteenth supplemental emergency proclamation containing an amended Safer at Home Order that includes a statewide mask requirement. Individuals are required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people, as described in the order. An exception exists for athletic participation on the field, but spectators are required to comply with this order when at the park when in close contact with other people.

Spectators are encouraged to bring your own chair and sit outside the fence down the foul lines or behind the outfield fence. A 6ft social distance should be maintained, and use of the bleachers is discouraged as we do not have the ability to regularly disinfect them like we would like.

HSA takes the safety of all of our players, parents, family members, coaches, workers, and other visitors to our park seriously and want all players to have fun and enjoy the game of softball this fall season. Taking these additional precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic will hopefully allow us to continue to do so and prevent infection and slow the transmission of COVID-19. If you are aware of any unsafe practices, please let us know so that we can investigate and take appropriate action where necessary.

Hoover Softball Association.