



**Taunton Girls Softball
Return to Fall Ball Competition**

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.

NOTE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS: USA Softball does not dictate when local, state and metro associations can start playing softball during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting play will be determined by local associations working with their local governmental agencies. Teams coming from other areas should respect and follow their local governmental agency restrictions (where they reside) before signing up for tournaments.

This manual is the Taunton Girls Softball League best practices for our league and complex, as developed by our TGSL eBoard to return to playing softball and direction from USA Softball of Massachusetts and the State of Massachusetts COVID-19 Task Force Team. These best practices are designed to help operate events and return players back to the field post COVID-19. They do not replace or supersede any protocols or restrictions outlined by state or local authorities. Taunton Girls Softball League will continue to follow all local or state guidelines.

For the USA Softball of Massachusetts full version of the safety guidelines:
[Return to Competition Safety Guidelines](#)

Our Complex

- **There are no dogs allowed at our complex.**
- **Face covering must be worn by everyone.**
- Spectator sections are located at the start of the outfield grass and all around the outfield fence. Rule of thumb if there's yellow fence topping you can view the game at that location.
- **Spectators are not allowed around the infield fence or behind the dugout.**
- Each field will be restricted to only 100 people. **Players are restricted to only 2 spectators at the field.** Coaches who have players on their team are not included.
- Pop-up tents may be used by spectators but all social distancing guidelines must be followed.
- All spectators need to practice social distancing while at the game.
- All dugouts and bathrooms will be disinfected before each set of doubleheaders.

Teams

- Teams should arrive no earlier than their scheduled time.
 - 10:00am game - Arrive at 9:00am & access field at 9:15am
 - 2:00pm game - Arrive at 1pm & access field at 1:15pm
- Teams will **NOT** be allowed to access fields any earlier.
- Spectators **should not arrive until 15 minutes** before game time.
- **There will be no area to warm up at the complex.** Teams will warm up on the field they will be playing on.
- Teams are responsible for supplying their own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes during play.
- Only active players (no injured players on the bench) and coaches are allowed on the softball field and extended bench area.
- Each team should designate one person to assist during the game to retrieve foul balls and sanitize them before they are put back into play.
- Players should wear batting gloves as much as possible.
- Players should refrain from sharing equipment. If equipment needs to be shared it should be disinfected before the next player uses it.
- No **team** coolers in the dugouts. Personal coolers are ok
- Tents can be set up in the extended dugout areas for players.
- At the end of the second game all players will line up on each foul line and acknowledge the other team and umpire with a tip of their cap, a hand in the air, or any other acceptable gesture of good sportsmanship.
- After the game, there will be no "team meeting" on the field.
- **After the second game players, parents, & coaches will need to leave the complex as soon as possible so we can prepare the fields, dugouts, and bathrooms for the next teams.**

Game Procedure

- **Batters and baserunners MUST wear masks when on the field of play.**
- Baserunner may pull their face covering down after they safely reach a base
- Game Balls
 - Competition Weekend Games - Teams will provide their own game balls for both games. The team on defense will be responsible for sanitizing all balls in play and any foul ball will be returned to the defensive team.
- Umpires will not handle any game balls.
- **Face covering will be worn by players when not actively engaged in the game.**
- Players may wear face covering during play if they choose so.
- **All adult coaches must wear a face covering at all times.**
- Coach pre-game meetings will have only one coach & no players.
- Mound visits will be for injuries or substitutions.
- No defensive or offensive conferences.
- No player huddles before, during, or after the game. Players are not allowed to leave the extended dugout area.
- Pitchers can't lick their fingers while on the mound at any time.
- Players should not leave the extended dugout area during the game.

Concession Stand

- Will be open at 10am & will serve a full lunch menu.
- We accept cash, credit, debit or Apple Pay.