

**RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES  
2020 HTL BASEBALL SEASON  
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

**SANITIZING**

All dugouts will be sprayed with a sanitizing solution both before and after games and practices. There will be sanitizing agents in both dugouts. Hand sanitizer must also be available in both dugouts and use encouraged during the game or practice.

All shared equipment—bats, helmets, catching gear, etc—must be sanitized before and after each use. There will be no going to the mouth by any player especially pitchers.

There will be no chewing of tobacco, seeds, gum, etc as spitting is prohibited.

**PLAYERS/COACHES**

Wearing of a face mask is suggested except when playing or coaching a base. Each player and coach should social distance from other players (6 feet) as much as possible. Each player must do a self evaluation of symptoms and report to the coaches. (If sick, STAY HOME). All local and league guidelines must be followed at all times. Procedures may be different for each playing field. If player meetings are held the 6 foot rule must be respected.

Players should arrive and leave the venue alone as much as possible and not congregate by cars, in the parking lot or anywhere else.

**NO TOUCH RULE**

Players and coaches should refrain from high fives, fist bumps, elbow touches, handshake lines, etc at all times. No physical contact is to take place with teammates, opponents, umpires and fans. After a game a “Tip of the Cap” is acceptable between both teams.

**EQUIPMENT**

It is strongly encouraged that each player provides his own helmet, bat, batting gloves and does not share. Each player should bring a lawn chair to be used in social distancing procedure. Each player must bring his own hydration (water, gatorade, etc) and not share. There will be no shared water cooler.

**DUGOUTS**

The 6 foot rule must be observed in the dugout area. No doubt that would mean two or three in the dugout with the rest of the team in chairs outside the dugout and observing the 6 foot rule. The players can rotate from chairs to dugout as the batting order dictates.

**FANS AND CONCESSIONS**

Concessions will be dictated by local rules and regulations. Fans should observe social distancing in grandstands, bleachers and in lawn chairs. This should be conveyed by the game managers and by the use of signage. Fans should not set up by or behind the dugouts, leaving that area for players.

**BASEBALLS AND LINE-UPS**

Home team will supply the baseballs for the game. It is recommended that each team receives three baseballs before the game and keeps them until conclusion of the game. Pitchers take one ball with them to the mound when it is their turn to pitch with the other two balls placed on the ground near the home plate umpire. After each half inning the umpire will roll the balls toward the dugout of the team leaving the field.

Line-up exchange should use social distancing as much as possible to avoid touching. After the umpire accepts the line-ups, substituting should be done verbally as much as possible. For that reason subs should be listed on the line-up cards.

**THESE RULES ARE BEING INSTITUTED TO KEEP TEAMS PLAYING AND THE LEAGUE OPERATING. FAILURE TO ADHERE MAY CAUSE SPIKES AND RESULT IN ANOTHER SHUTDOWN. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR PLAYERS AND FANS UNDERSTAND THIS. HAVE A GOOD SEASON**