



Belgrade Youth Baseball

2020 Summer League COVID-19 - Opening Plan

Belgrade Youth Baseball (BYB) presents this comprehensive league opening plan, to reduce risk to players, coaches and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Youth baseball benefits the health and wellbeing of over 400 Belgrade kids between the ages of 5-15 each year. BYB believes it is critical to provide this important outlet to our community.

BYB is required to follow the safeguards for teams and players set forth by Montana, Gallatin City-County Health, Belgrade Parks and Recreation Department and Belgrade School District. These guidelines reduce community spread of COVID-19. As BYB is a community-run organization, care and protection of players, umpires, and volunteers is of the utmost importance and a shared responsibility of us all.

In past seasons, players and teams assume liability and risk when playing; teams and players are assuming additional risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. If community spread of COVID-19 occurs as a result of playing baseball, BYB will not be held legally or financially responsible.

The guidelines below allow us to use the Lions Park Complex (a City of Belgrade park) and Belgrade Middle School fields for practice and league play. If any teams or players are unable to meet these guidelines, then do not participate in BYB until you are either able to or COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. We can take the responsible steps below to reduce COVID-19 spread, and play a sport we love, keep active, and be part of a community we value.

Some guidelines vary by phase, and teams and players are expected to follow the safeguards as outlined below. These guidelines are also posted at the Lion's Park Complex, the Belgrade Middle School fields and at www.belgradebaseball.org. All the rules and regulations in this document are subject to change.

Safeguards for ALL phases

- Social distancing of 6' for all players and spectators when in groups larger than the current phase allows
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items
- Avoid touching your face
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces, as much as possible
- Face coverings are strongly urged by players and spectators
- People who feel sick, have a fever of 100.4 or greater, or have other COVID-19 symptoms should stay home

Phase 1

- Lion's Park Baseball Complex and the Middle School fields are open, and can be used for practices. Baseball instruction or activities will be held using social distancing of 6' for all players and coaches when groups are larger than 10 people.
- Where it's not possible to distance players and coaches by 6', groups will be kept to 10 people or less.
- Garbage bins are at the Complex - please help to keep your park clean.
- No restrooms are provided by the City of Belgrade or Belgrade Schools. BYB will provide porta-potties.
- These same social distancing guidelines will be required for all common areas.
- After an appropriate amount of practice, BYB will begin game play between local teams under the following limitations.
 - Players parents are required to sign a waiver form before being able to play.
 - Social distancing for players and spectators when in groups larger than 10 people...
 - No more than 10 players and coaches are allowed in the dugout. Reserve players will be outside the dugout in the bull-pen or on fence lines no less than 6' apart.
 - Every other row of bleachers will be taped off and not used.
 - Fans can bring chairs if they want.
 - All food related garbage must be discarded in garbage cans only! No sunflower seeds will be allowed.
 - Please refrain from spitting.
 - No post-game handshakes.
 - Teams are responsible for sanitizing shared equipment and the dugout.
 - Coaches will keep a record of player names in case contact tracing is required (normal roster/scorebook is sufficient).
 - New baseballs will be supplied to teams by the league. When a ball is hit out of play, a new ball or a sanitized ball will be used to resume play.

Phase 2

- BYB will begin game play between local teams under the following limitations.
 - Players parents are required to sign a waiver form before being able to play.
 - Social distancing for players and spectators when in groups larger than 50 people.
 - Every other row of bleachers will be taped off and not used.
 - Fans can bring chairs if they want.
 - All food related garbage must be discarded in garbage cans only! No sunflower seeds or tobacco products.
 - Please refrain from spitting.
 - No post-game handshakes.
 - Teams are responsible for sanitizing shared equipment and the dugout.
 - Coaches will keep a record of player names in case contact tracing is required (normal roster/scorebook is sufficient).
 - New baseballs will be supplied to teams by the league. When a ball is hit out of play, a new ball or a sanitized ball will be used to resume play.
 - BYB will provide hand sanitizing stations at common areas.
 - BYB will display signage around the park reminding players and spectators to practice social distancing.

Phase 3

- Tournaments are allowed during Phase 3
- Proper sanitation and social distancing guidelines are still recommended