

**Palouse Summer Series COVID-19 Guidelines**

# Introduction

In these unprecedented times, Palouse Summer Series strives to protect the integrity of the game while also providing a safe environment for all involved. We will continue our mission to administer and promote the sport of baseball to provide opportunities for participation and the best possible experience for those involved.

The current coronavirus (also known as “COVID-19”) pandemic has changed how industries across the United States and the world are conducting business. It has cast uncertainty and apprehension into even the most routine commercial interactions. Despite these circumstances, many industries continue to provide their customers with services necessary for continued economic stability and public safety. On one hand, continuing operations means Palouse Summer Series is supplying integral services and helping prop up the American economy during a time of economic downturn. On the other hand, Palouse Summer Series is operating in uncharted territory, which carries costs and risks of its own.

In the ever-changing landscape of this pandemic, Palouse Summer Series will be proactive in trying to limit these risks. The tournament administrative staff will monitor and comply with government rules and guidelines. Also, participants must recognize and acknowledge that, while participating in a sport, there are inherent risks to certain activities and, in many situations, social distancing of 6 feet per person among fellow participants or others is not always possible.

Personal feelings on how the government is handling our state’s re-opening plan vary greatly in our society. In developing these guidelines, Palouse Summer Series is simply following government mandated requirements and will be held to those standards as we create a safe tournament based on the direction we have been given.

Our current tournament guidelines are a living document. Palouse Sumer Series will make adjustments to the guidelines as necessary to accommodate any suggestions and/or mandates made by field vendors or government officials. We acknowledge that the environment surrounding COVID-19 is evolutionary in nature, as a result, these guidelines are subject to change throughout the summer.

# Guidelines for Palouse Summer Series Tournaments

DISCLAIMER: Participants, parents, family, and spectators engaging in baseball and activities related to baseball do so with knowledge of the risk and potential exposure involved and agree to accept any and all inherent risks to their personal health.

## STAFF REQUIREMENTS:

* 1. Personal Protection Equipment
     1. All staff are to wear face masks for general interactions with players, coaches, and fans, and when social distancing cannot be accomplished
     2. While sanitizing the facility, staff are to wear proper PPE including gloves and face masks
     3. Fans (when allowed), coaches, and players must wear face masks according to our governors state ordered mandate
  2. All staff will be screened with the Washington Department of Health screening questions prior to working the event each day. A response of “Yes” to any of the four questions will result in the staff member being sent home and unable to work the duration of the tournament.
     1. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
     2. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
     3. Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
     4. Have you had a loss of taste or smell?
     5. Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
  3. Staff will be asked to take their temperature at home prior to arriving at a site. Any staff member with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher is considered to have a fever and will be sent home and unable to work the duration of the tournament.
  4. Staff will be sent home if they are sick or feel sick. If a staff member reports feeling sick and goes home, the area where the person worked will be immediately disinfected.
  5. Staff will wash hands frequently with soap and water and use hand sanitizer.
  6. Staff meetings will be held virtually prior the event.
  7. All interactions with staff will occur digitally whenever possible.
  8. If a staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, tournament administrative staff will inform all staff and coaches of their possible exposure but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Palouse Summer Series will instruct staff and coaches on how to proceed based on the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community-related Exposure.

## EVENT PROCEDURES:

* 1. All Palouse Summer Series events will follow local and state health guidelines.
  2. Prior to all events, an email will be sent to all teams, managers, coaches, players/parents, event staff outlining event protocols, procedures, and expectations of how to best stay safe. The email will encourage everyone to practice social distancing and remind people that anybody who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be prohibited from attending our event. We will also make it clear that there are no interpretations of our rules and guidelines other than what is directly posted.
  3. Notices on measures that apply to attendees will be posted at all entrances.
  4. Owner or appropriate official should use all means of communication currently in practice, such as social media, email, and website notices to share measures with parents and players.
     1. Alert players and families that anyone feeling sick **SHOULD STAY HOME**
  5. We will never put the integrity of the event above the importance of our communities’ health.
  6. All participants will be requested to take their own temperature prior to arriving on site for their game. Any participant with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher is considered to have a fever and will be unable to enter the facility.
  7. Coaches will be expected to ask all players and personnel to verbally attest “no” to all the following questions (any answer of “yes” will result in that person not being able to enter the facility):
     1. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
     2. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
     3. Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
     4. Have you had a loss of taste or smell?
     5. Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
  8. All people entering the facility will be instructed to wash/sanitize their hands immediately at either a sanitization station set up by the tournament or the bathrooms provided in the facility.
  9. Palouse Summer Series will be proactive in creating social distancing at all times. Specific guidelines are listed in each section corresponding to the event/participants. Any additional guidelines we find necessary can be enforced during the tournament as we see fit.
  10. Cones will be set up to designate entrance and exit pathways to incoming and outgoing players and families to maintain social distance regulations.
  11. No more than 50 people (participants, coaches, umpires, and fans) will be allowed inside a facility based on the phase 3 guidelines from the department of health. Teams and umpires will be given priority and any additional space in the cap will be provided to fans on a first come, first served basis.
      1. If the facility has viewing areas outside of the gated facility, fans may watch from those areas and not count towards the 50 person cap, while still maintaining social distancing. This will be communicated to all team representatives prior to the tournament and reinforced at each facility.
  12. Palouse Summer Series staff will increase the frequency of cleaning and sanitization of all high traffic areas at each of the facilities.

## EVENT FORMATING AND SCHEDULING:

* 1. Games will be scheduled to limit the amount of different teams in a given facility over a set period of time.
  2. Teams will play back to back games with the other teams when feasible.
  3. Only one team will switch dugouts between games when a team is playing a back to back.
  4. There will be an adequate amount of time between games to ensure proper cleaning of shared spaces.
  5. We will shorten game times and add time between games so teams and tournament staff can make sure the following is completed:
     1. All equipment and high use areas will be wiped down.
     2. All garbage will be picked up and removed from the dugout.
     3. All players have exited the field prior to another team entering.

## PRE/POST-GAME ROUTINES AND PROCESSES:

* 1. Teams will not be permitted to enter the facility more than 60 minutes prior to their scheduled event.
  2. No team will enter a field until all players from the previous game have exited and staff have completed all cleaning requirements.
  3. Coaches/team rep are also encouraged to wipe down all surfaces prior to their team entering the field.
  4. Coaches/team rep will be responsible to ensure all players/coaches wash or sanitize their hands
  5. Social distancing will be practiced during all warmups (players should stay 6 feet apart)
     1. Playing catch - should be OK
     2. Ground ball / fly ball lines - players 6 feet apart
     3. Pre-game wiffles/BP - players 6 feet apart
  6. Pre-game plate meeting:
     1. Coaches and umpires stay 6+ feet apart to discuss:
        1. Rules
        2. Tournament expectations and guidelines for social distancing
        3. Ask coaches if they are clear on guidelines, similar to current question of “are players properly equipped”
  7. Post-Game, all Coaches/team rep will be requested to wipe down all surfaces once their team exits the field.
     1. Tournament staff will assist in the sanitization of the dugout while maintaining social distance.
  8. Coaches/admin will be required to text in their scores/game reports within 90 minutes of their games.
  9. Umpires/staff will not keep hard copies of scores and reports.
     1. Substitutions and line up changes should be announced to opposing team and umpire.
  10. No postgame handshakes.
  11. No postgame meetings for teams.
  12. If another game follows at the same site, exit the facility quickly:
      1. New teams must wait until all players have exited to enter facility
      2. Coaches for next game follow pre-game sanitization protocol

## Umpires:

* 1. Remain 6 feet from players when possible.
  2. Plate umpire – required to wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth
  3. Umpires do not handle equipment on the field during play.
  4. Umpire to umpire and umpire to coach interactions must be 6 feet apart.
  5. Umpire Changing Room:
     1. Umpires are encouraged to change at their vehicles or come pre-dressed whenever possible.
     2. For Moscow Playfields, LCSC, and Colfax, umpire rooms will be set up for umpires to be at least 10 feet apart. We suggest that each umpire change at his or her vehicle.
        1. Umpires are encouraged to wear masks in between games when changing.
     3. Only umpires changing for the next game should be in the room and be done dressing and exit prior to the umpires on the field coming in to change out of their gear.
  6. Umpires should bring disinfecting spray to spray their uniform and or gear after each game.

## 7. GUIDELINES FOR GAMEPLAY:

* 1. Each team will provide their own baseballs for when their team is in the field. Teams will not share baseballs when on defense.
     1. After the last out the team will bring their baseball into the dugout.
     2. All teams in the field will replace foul balls
     3. Only the team in the field will chase foul balls
  2. There will be no sunflower seeds or gum allowed for players, coaches, umpires, or any fans.
  3. All players will be required to provide their own, clearly marked water or Gatorade bottles
  4. Players are encouraged not to share equipment, including but not limited to:
     1. Gloves
     2. Bats
     3. Batting gloves
     4. Helmets
     5. All equipment will stay in the player’s bag unless currently being used
  5. There will never be more than 5 players/coaches in the dugout at a given time. Each facility will have a designated area/bench/bleacher set for additional dugout seating. Players must sit six feet apart and must have their masks on at all times in the dugout.
     1. On offense - current batter, on deck batter & player in the hole use the dugout to prepare for their AB (grab bats, helmets, batting gloves from their bag)
     2. On defense - players can be in dugout unless there are more than 5
     3. Players not in the dugout congregate outside of dugout - remaining 6 feet apart
        1. Suggested spots include bleachers behind or next to dugout (or area where bleachers would be), lined up outside fence along foul line, bullpen area; all based on field configuration to not impact player safety or the integrity of the game.
  6. Players should wash/sanitize hands when coming off the field between innings.
  7. Offensive team should not take the field until the defense has fully left the field
  8. Players will be encouraged to refrain from celebrations
  9. No mound visits.
  10. No arguing calls – coaches will be immediately ejected.
  11. Players and coaches will need to have masks/gaiters/buff (face coverings) readily available and must be worn at any time that 6’ of distancing cannot occur. Catchers do not have to wear a face mask under their catcher’s mask. Please make sure to adhere to the mask guidelines. Mask must be worn in the dugouts at all facilities.

## 8. PARENT/FAN POLICY (Unless fans are not allowed at all)

* 1. Parents/fans are recommended to wear masks. (Each site may have different guidelines each weekend)
  2. Parents/Fans who choose to stay for games will be required to adhere to the following guidelines:
     1. No sitting in the bleachers or bleacher area that is designated for players
     2. Fan area will be as followed for each facility
        1. McDonald Park (Colfax)
           1. Outside the fence down the foul lines past the bullpens and beyond the outfield fence which is recommended. Fans are not permitted to sit in the bleachers (Each event may have different guidelines as well)

Must sanitize area before sitting and prior to leaving the facility, if bleachers are available.

* + - * 1. All players, coaches, fans and employees need to wear a mask as they come to and from the facility.
      1. Moscow Playfield
         1. Behind home plate in bleachers or seats avoiding area right behind dugouts and maintaining social distancing.

Must sanitize area before sitting and prior to leaving the facility.

* + - * 1. All fans must wear face masks at all times when attending/watching games at the Moscow School District Playfields
      1. Pullman Quann Field
         1. No fans will be allowed inside the seating area of Quann Field. Fans must space out around the outside of the facility in groups with members of their household only.
         2. Behind outfield fence. If sitting in the parking lot, no gathering outside of the same household and no more than 50 people can be seated in the parking lot. THIS MUST BE ADHERED TO.
         3. Any spaces outside the facility fences where the game can be viewed. No gathering outside the same house hold and masks are highly recommended.
      2. Church Field in Lewiston
         1. No seating in the bleachers will be offered. Fans can view the game with same household family members outside of the facility where viewing is available.
    1. Required to bring their own chairs or be 6 feet apart - practice social distancing guidelines
       1. Exception for those that live in the same household

## 9. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

* 1. All players who participate in PSS Tournaments events will be required to sign liability waivers that will include verbiage surrounding COVID-19.
  2. All parents who wish to attend games will also be asked to sign a waiver and code of conduct, agreeing to adhere to the parent/fan policy above.
  3. Parents/players should proactively monitor their own and anyone in their household’s heath status. If anyone is not feeling well in household or has a temperature exceeding 100.4, they should reconsider attending the Palouse Summer Series tournament.
  4. Parents/players should consider limiting the number of family members attending the tournament.

\*\*\*WITH STATE AND COUNTY GUIDELINES CHANGING REGULARLY, EACH TOURNAMENT WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL, NEW OR MORE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR EACH EVENT. THOSE WILL BE SENT TO EACH TEAM CONTACT AS AN ADDITIONAL LIST OF RULES AND WILL NEED TO BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED AS WELL.