**2020 Norristown Softball Covid-19 Proposed Safety Rules**

**1. Complex/League:**

a) Players, Coaches, Umpires, Fans etc. are asked to screen themselves at home prior to coming to the game. If they have a temperature exceeding 100, they should stay home. They should also not come to the ballpark if they are known to have been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19. **League officials reserve the right to modify these rules at any time as needed to protect the health and safety of all players, officials, and fans.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Fans are encouraged to wipe down the bleachers they sit on or bring their own chairs. **Every Person who is at the field complex MUST always have a face covering on.**

**2. Team/Player Responsibilities:**

a) Any player showing evidence of illness shall not participate and leave field area immediately upon instruction from Umpire or League Official. Managers/Coaches and League President are responsible to address this before the game also. If a player showing signs of illness refuses to leave, his team will forfeit the game.

b) Players and Coaches MUST always wear face coverings within the Heels Field Complex. Recommended to use hand sanitizer or bring their own sanitizing wipes for personal cleanliness. Each player needs to bring his own water/fluids. No sharing fluids, and no water will be available at field. NOTE: The Norristown Borough Department of Recreation says **participants** of Adult Sports must wear masks. We must follow their guidelines or risk losing the use of the field.

c) No spitting shall be allowed in the playing area or dugout. Do not use Chewing tobacco or sunflower seeds or even blowing bubbles with chewing gum. No one is permitted to lick fingers to improve grip. Use of a wet rag is permitted.

d) Players MAY NOT congregate inside dugouts. Minimal number of players only in dugout areas. Sit outside dugout and distance yourselves during the game. Try to spread out as much as possible. Bring your own chairs.

e) The lights will be turned out as soon as possible after the last game ends. Any gathering in the parking lot will be at your own risk.

f) The catcher shall NOT be required to adhere to the catcher’s box. He can stand deeper in order to maintain social distancing between him, the batter and the Umpire.

g) No player shall approach an Umpire for any reason. No arguing of any calls shall be tolerated. If a manager wishes to speak to an umpire, he may do so from 6’ or greater. ONLY Managers can talk to umpires.

h) All Bats must be outside of the dugout on fence outside field of play. It is recommended that a designated player be assigned by the offensive team, to be responsible for picking up the bat after it is used.

i) Handshakes/high fives/fist bumps/any other contact between players is prohibited before, during, and after

games.

j) Multiple softballs will be in use during games and should be switched out every inning for sanitizing. Balls should be supplied still in wrappers or box and use new balls each game. If used balls are to be used as a backup, a sanitized wipe down before going into game play would be required. This includes foul balls and home run balls. Any person retrieving a foul ball or HR ball should use gloves and sanitize the ball and wipe it down with a clean towel before he puts it in the ball feed tube. Or give to the League President to do so.

**3. Umpires:**

a) Umpires MUST wear masks. It is recommended they wear gloves as well.

b) Umpires should avoid contact with ball. The catcher will be the person to get a new “cleaned” ball from the ball drop tube on the backstop. This will keep the umpire from having to touch the ball.

c) Umpires shall have the right to stop games if any of the above responsibilities are not adhered to.

d) IF the Umpire wants to meet with a Rep from both teams before game. Only ONE Manager or Coach per team and the Umpire, 6 feet apart going over ground rules or any of these special rules.

**4. Penalties:**

a) Failure to adhere to all the above items shall constitute an immediate forfeiture of the game.

**5. Plan in the Event of Players/Officials Contract COVID-19:**

a) If a team has even just ONE member of that team contract the virus, it is up to that player to tell his manager and it is the manager’s responsibility to tell the league president. That team will have its games postponed for the next two weeks. It is also recommended that the team they played have their games postponed as well. All players who encountered a suspected case of Covid-19 should not come to the field for any reason and should consider total self-isolation for two weeks. The Montco Umpire Association MUST be informed and that umpire that did the game may want to sit out as well for two weeks.

b) The open time slots of these teams being “quarantined” can be filled in with make ups.

c) In the event that three or more teams in the league (combined in both A and B divisions) have players contract

COVID-19, the league will cease operation immediately. The league officers, managers, and umpires will meet to

discuss when/whether or not to resume after minimum 2-week suspension of play.

d) Games can only take place while Montgomery County is “Green.” In the event the State or County officials declare Yellow status, all games cease until further notice, irrespective of whether or not any individuals in the league have contracted COVID-19.

e) The schedule has been cut down for both divisions. Once all teams have played 12 games, IF cases in Montgomery County or Norristown start to spike up at an increased rate, The League President has the right to end the season and start the playoffs immediately – finishing as soon as possible, meaning multiple games in the same week. If it gets really bad and the managers, players and umpires become concerned, it would be advisable to end the season abruptly if need be. Safety comes first for EVERYBODY involved in this league.

f) IF the league finds out that a player was either exposed or sick and said player or manager did not disclose this information, that team will automatically be kicked out of the league. This virus is real, and it can make you very sick and can kill you, despite what some people think. So, we need all players and managers to have some integrity here. Even if people do not care about themselves, PLEASE care about the person next to you.